

**INDEPENDENT READING LIST
ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
2009 - 2010**

Your independent reading selections must be made from the list below, unless you receive approval directly from your teacher. Feel free to select other titles by the authors listed.

For the list below, the accompanying numbers indicate the relative complexity of language and maturity of content.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3
Most accessible Most Challenging

Short Stories – Choose Short Stories from any of the following writers:

Anderson, Sherwood - An American writer, mainly of short stories, most notably the collection *Winesburg, Ohio*.

Baldwin, James - Most of Baldwin's work deals with racial and sexual issues in the mid-20th century United States. Popular works include *Sonny's Blues*, "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "Outing."

Boyle, T.C. - Many of Boyle's short stories explore the Baby Boom generation, its appetites, joys, and addictions. Short story collections include the *Descent of Man*, *Without a Hero*, *T.C. Boyle Stories*, *After the Plague*, *Tooth and Claw*, and *The Human Fly*.

Carver, Raymond - An American short story writer. Carver is considered a major American writer of the late 20th century and also a major force in the revitalization of the short story in the 1980s. His notable works include *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?*, *Furious Seasons*, *Cathedral* and *Elephant*.

Cheever, John – His short story fiction is mostly set in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, the Westchester suburbs, and old New England villages. Cheever is perhaps best remembered for his short stories (including "The Enormous Radio," "Goodbye, My Brother," "The Five-Forty-Eight," "The Country Husband," and "The Swimmer").

Chopin, Kate - She is now considered to have been a forerunner of feminist authors of the 20th century. Her important short stories included "Desiree's Baby", a tale of miscegenation in antebellum Louisiana; "The Story of an Hour" and "The Storm."

Faulkner, William – American short story writer and novelist. Some works include "Barn Burning,"

"A Rose for Emily," "Dry September," "Race at Morning," "Beyond," "Honor," "LO!" and "Two Soldiers."

Fitzgerald, F. Scott - Wrote dozens of short stories that treat themes of youth and promise.

Gordimer, Nadine - Her writing has long dealt with moral and racial issues, particularly apartheid in South Africa.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel - He is seen as a key figure in the development of American literature for his tales of the nation's colonial history. Works include "Rappaccini's Daughter," "The Minister's Black Veil," "The Ambitious Guest," and "Egotism."

Hemingway, Ernest - He was an American novelist and short story writer. "The Gambler, the Nun, and the Radio," "Soldier's Home," "The Killers," "The Porter," and "A Train Trip," are especially popular.

Hurston, Zora Neal - Short story writer during the time of the Harlem Renaissance.

Irving, Washington - He was best known for his short stories "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle", both of which appear in his book *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*

King, Steven - King is best known for his horror fiction. His short story collections include "Night Shift," "Skeleton Crew," "Nightmares & Dreamscapes," "Everything's Eventual," and "Just After Sunset" and in the three novella collections: "Different Seasons," "Four Past Midnight," and "Hearts in Atlantis."

Lardner, Ring - Short story writer best known for his satirical takes on the sports world, marriage, and the theatre.

Melville, Herman - was an American novelist, short story writer, essayist and poet. Works include, "Bartleby the Scrivener," "The Encantadas," "The Bell Tower," "I am my Chimney" and "The Happy Failure."

Munro, Alice - Canadian short-story writer who focuses her stories on human relationships looked at through the lens of daily life.

Oates, Joyce Carol - Her frequently anthologized short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" was dedicated to Bob Dylan. Oates said she wrote the story after listening to a Dylan song.

O'Connor, Flannery - However, several stories reveal that O'Connor was familiar with some of the most sensitive contemporary issues that her liberal and fundamentalist characters might encounter, including "Why Do the Heathen Rage?" "The Enduring Chill," and "The Partridge Festival."

Porter, Katherine Ann - She was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, essayist and short story writer. Her works include "The Leaning Tower," "The Journey," "The Witness," "The Last Leaf," "A Day's Work," "The Circus," "The Fig Tree" and "Holiday."

Updike, John - Hundreds of his stories, reviews, and poems have appeared in *The New Yorker* since 1954. One of his most famous is "A&P."

Vonnegut, Kurt – Several short stories have become quite popular including "Harrison Bergeron," "Report on the Barnhouse Effect," "Who Am I This Time?" and "Welcome to the Monkey House."

Wharton, Edith – Familiar themes of Wharton's are the pursuit of happiness and the conflict of societal mores. Short stories include, "Roman Fever," "The Other Two," "Souls Belated," "The Pelican," "The Muse's Tragedy," "Expiation," "The Dilettante" and "Xingu."

Wright, Richard - Much of his short story literature concerned racial themes. His work helped redefine discussions of race relations in America in the mid-20th century.