

**Jamesville-DeWitt High School**  
**Summer '09 Readings Suggestions – for AP Students**

**Biography**

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce

An autobiographical novel depicting the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Dedalus.

**Fiction**

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

First published in 1929, Faulkner created his "heart's darling," the beautiful and tragic Caddy Compson, whose story Faulkner told through separate monologues by her three brothers--the idiot Benjy, the neurotic suicidal Quentin and the monstrous Jason.

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

At the heart of this 1930 novel is the Bundren family's bizarre journey to Jefferson to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Faulkner lets each family member--including Addie--and others along the way tell their private responses to Addie's life. As I Lay Dying is the harrowing, darkly comic tale of the Bundren family's trek across Mississippi to bury Addie, their wife and mother, as told by each of the family members--including Addie herself.

Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

Presents the most important 20th-century criticism on major works from The Odyssey through modern literature.

The Stranger by Albert Camus

Story of a man who commits a pointless murder, in which the author asks if there is a God or just a cold indifferent universe. Copyright Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Crime and Punishment is one of the most important novels of the nineteenth century. It is the story of a murder committed on principle, of a killer who wishes to set himself outside and above society. The novel is marked by Dostoevsky's own harrowing experience in penal servitude, and yet contains moments of wild humor.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

The Awakening tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a young wife and mother who, determined to control her own life, flouts convention by moving out of her husband's house, having an adulterous affair, and becoming an artist. Beautifully written, with sensuous imagery and vivid local descriptions.

Three Novels: Hordubal, Meteor, and An Ordinary Life by Karel Capek

This trilogy of novels was the culmination of Karel Capek's career. The novels share neither characters nor events; instead, they approach the problem of knowing people—of mutual understanding—in a variety of ways. Detectives faced with a murder reconstruct the crime, but not the character of the man who was murdered. Three people tell stories about a dying pilot they know almost nothing about; each story is as full of truth as it is devoid of facts. And one man looks back on his life and discovers all the people he might have been. Together, these three short novels form a readable philosophical novel unique in world literature.