



VILLE DE MARIE ACADEMY

Core Reading List in the Humane Letters

Ancient Greece (5000 BC - 300 BC)

Old Testament (Selections)
Epic of Gilgamesh - Shin-eqi-unninni
Mythology – Hamilton
The Iliad - Homer
The Odyssey - Homer
Theban Plays - Sophocles
Oresteia - Aeschylus
Medea - Euripides
The Birds - Aristophanes
On Poetics – Aristotle
On Rhetoric - Aristotle
The Histories - Herodotus
History of the Peloponnesian War – Thucydides
Greek Lives - Plutarch
Trial and Death of Socrates – Plato
Euthyphro - Plato
Republic – Plato
Nicomachean Ethics – Aristotle

Ancient Rome (300 BC – 500 AD)

Aeneid - Virgil
History of Rome From its Foundations - Livy
Makers of Rome - Plutarch
Selected Works – Cicero
Metamorphoses - Ovid
De Rerum Naturam - Lucretius
Julius Caesar - Shakespeare
Coriolanus - Shakespeare
Antony and Cleopatra - Shakespeare
History of the Gaelic Wars - Caesar
The Annals of Imperial Rome - Tacitus
Meditations - Marcus Aurelius
Roman Lives - Plutarch
History of the Church - Eusebius
Early Christian Writings – trans. Staniforth
On the Incarnation – Athanasius
Life of St. Antony - Athanasius

On Christian Doctrine – St. Augustine
City of God (Selections) – St. Augustine
Confessions – St. Augustine

Middle Ages and Renaissance (500 AD – 1650 AD)

The Rule of St. Benedict – St. Benedict
The Consolation of Philosophy - Boethius
The Gothic Wars – Procopius
History of the Franks - St. Gregory of Tours
Cur Deus Homo – St. Anselm
Life of Charlemagne – Einhard
History of the English Church and People – Bede
Beowulf - trans. Heaney
The Song of Roland – trans. Sayers
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight – trans. Armitage
Canterbury Tales (Selections) - Chaucer
The Ballad of the White Horse - Chesterton
Lepanto - Chesterton
Henry V - Shakespeare
Ninety-Five Theses and Freedom of the Christian
(Selections) - Luther
Council of Trent (Selections)
A Man for All Seasons – Bolt
Hamlet - Shakespeare
Macbeth - Shakespeare
Romeo and Juliet – Shakespeare
King Lear – Shakespeare
The Prince - Machiavelli
Summa Theologiae - Aquinas
The Divine Comedy (Selections) - Dante
Don Quixote (Abridged) – Cervantes
Paradise Lost - Milton

Modern and American (1650-Present)

The Prince - Machiavelli
Discourse on Method and Meditations - Descartes
Leviathan - Hobbes
Second Treatise on Government - Locke

Social Contract – Rousseau
“Farewell Address” – George Washington
The Declaration of Independence – Jefferson
The Federalist Papers – Madison and Hamilton
Inaugural Address – Thomas Jefferson
Constitution of the United States
The Autobiography – Benjamin Franklin
“The Rights of Man” – Thomas Paine
“Gettysburg Address” – Abraham Lincoln
The Lincoln-Douglas Debates
Narrative of the Life of an American Slave -
Frederick Douglass
Walden - Thoreau
“Self-Reliance” - Emerson
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Twain
Billy Budd - Melville
The Scarlet Letter – Hawthorne
Democracy in America (Abridged) - de Tocqueville
Short Stories - O’Connor
Letter from the Birmingham Jail – King, Jr.
My Antonia - Cather
The Great Gatsby - Fitzgerald
Grapes of Wrath - Steinbeck
Our Town – Wilder
The Declaration of the Rights of Man
Reflections on the Revolution in France - Burke
Tale of Two Cities - Dickens
Gulliver’s Travels - Swift
Pride and Prejudice – Austen
Frankenstein – Shelley
Brideshead Revisited - Evelyn Waugh
The Wasteland - T.S. Eliot
Beyond Good and Evil - Nietzsche
Crime and Punishment - Dostoevsky
The Death of Ivan Illych – Tolstoy
Heart of Darkness – Conrad
On the Origin of Species - Darwin
Humani Generis – Pope Pius XII
Communist Manifesto – Marx and Engels
Rerum Novarum – Pope Leo XIII
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich –
Solzhenitsyn