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Recommended Reading HSE+ Level
Compiled Spring 2021
by Anne Arundel County Literacy Council staff & tutors

All of these are available at [AACPL](#), in local bookstores, and on [Amazon](#), where readers can “take a look inside,” read reviews, and see author bios. Some are great on audio.

See the Barbara Bush Foundation’s list of Recommended Reading Resources for Educators and Adult Learners: <https://www.barbarabush.org/reading-resource-library/>.

Tutor Pat Baker has read more than 25 books to date with her student for pleasure and enrichment. The student’s favorite so far: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
Pat’s personal recommendation: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston.

Pat also recommends:

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison
Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr
Lord of the Flies, William Golding
House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
Educated, Tara Westover (this is a memoir)
Infidel, Ayaan Hirsi Ali (this is an memoir/autobiography)
Water for Elephants, Sara Gruen
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Lisa See
If Beale Street Could Talk, James Baldwin
The Library Book, Susan Orlean (nonfiction)
Beloved, Tony Morrison

Some staff ideas:

Best American Short Stories

Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson

National Book Award and Newbery Honor winner, a powerful memoir that tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.

Between the World and Me, Ta Nehisi Coates

A Pulitzer finalist, Time's Best Nonfiction of the Decade selection. The author is from Baltimore.

The Secret Life of Bees & *The Invention of Wings*, both by Sue Monk Kidd

Enjoyable and meaningful reads, especially if you liked *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Series of Unfortunate Events Books, Lemony Snicket

They are for children/teens but are written at a higher level. Sarcastic, cynical, and quite funny.

The Maryland One Book for 2021 (recommended by Maryland Humanities)

The Book of Delights: Essays, Ross Gay

The theme this year is hope, and for this collection, the author wrote a short piece every day about something that delighted him.