



SAT & ACT Reading List

Version 1.0

1 Introduction

This is a suggested reading list for students who want to become *powerful readers*. All URLs are clickable in this PDF. Remember the best practices:

1. Read at least 20-30 minutes every day.
2. Read stuff you enjoy.
3. Read a mix of non-fiction and fiction.
4. Read a mix of short and long works.
5. Read good stuff.

Don't be overwhelmed! You absolutely do not have to read everything on this list, and you don't have to limit yourself to the titles presented here list either. The point is to inspire you to pursue reading that will prepare you not only for the SAT or ACT but also for a lifetime of academic and intellectual development.

NOTE: This resources on this list are mostly drawn from American and other Western sources. Not much of a surprise given the background of the author. ☺ If you know of some international titles (in English) that should be added to this list, let me know.

2 Newspapers

Read any of the articles and opinion pieces, but seek out long-form content. A good place to start is with your local newspaper; you can read the others on this list online. For publications behind a paywall, you might be able to read them for free through your school.

The New York Times	http://www.nytimes.com/
The Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/
The Wall Street Journal	http://www.wsj.com/
The Los Angeles Times	http://www.latimes.com/
The Chicago Tribune	http://www.chicagotribune.com/
The Guardian	https://www.theguardian.com/uk

3 Magazines & Blogs

In this list, I tried to curate a diverse selection of topics (current events, politics, sports, business, music, culture) and political perspectives. A good rule of thumb: the longer the article, the more challenging the read, so don't just read the short ones!

The New Yorker	http://www.newyorker.com/
The Atlantic	https://www.theatlantic.com/
New Republic	https://newrepublic.com/
National Review	http://www.nationalreview.com/
Popular Mechanics	http://www.popularmechanics.com/
Vanity Fair	http://www.vanityfair.com/
Forbes	http://www.forbes.com/
Smithsonian	http://www.smithsonianmag.com/
Fast Company	https://www.fastcompany.com/
The Economist	http://www.economist.com/
The Intercept	https://theintercept.com/
Sports Illustrated	http://www.si.com/
Real Clear Politics	http://www.realclearpolitics.com/
National Geographic	http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/
Time	http://time.com/
The Nation	https://www.thenation.com/
Townhall	http://townhall.com/
Rolling Stone	http://www.rollingstone.com/
Vogue	http://www.vogue.com/
Esquire	http://www.esquire.com/
Wired	https://www.wired.com/
Popular Science	http://www.popsci.com/
Vox	http://www.vox.com/
The Verge	http://www.theverge.com/
Buzzfeed	https://www.buzzfeed.com/
Deadspin	http://deadspin.com/

4 Books

I split this into non-fiction and fiction titles. If you have any books that you enjoyed and think should be added to the list, let me know!

4.1 Non-Fiction

At least half of your reading should be non-fiction. Most of the resources above cover this requirement, though you should supplement with non-fiction books as well. This is only a partial list, and don't feel that you have to read anything on it! As I've stated earlier, this list is meant to give you a sense of what's out there, and I encourage you to find books that suit your tastes and interests. I also provided a short description of the book's topic for your convenience.

TITLE & AUTHOR	TOPIC
<i>Admissions Confidential: An Insider's Account...</i> , Rachel Toor	Education
<i>American Earth: Environmental Writing Sicne Thoreau</i> , Bill McKibben	Environment
<i>Eyes Wide Open</i> , Paul Fleischman	Environment
<i>An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming</i> , Al Gore	Environment
<i>The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History...</i> , Carol Strickland	Art
<i>The Brilliant History of Color in Art</i> , Victoria Finlay	Art
<i>A Passion for Victory: The Story of the Olympics...</i> , Benson Bobrick	Sports
<i>Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes...</i> , Aron Ralston	Sports
<i>Friday Night Lights: a Town, a Team, and a Dream</i> , H. G. Bissinger	Sports
<i>The Boys of Summer</i> , Roger Kahn	Sports
<i>Lebron's Dream Team: How Five Freinds Made History</i> , Lebron James	Sports
<i>Bloody Sundays: Inside the Rough-and-Tumble World of the NFL</i> , Mike Freeman	Sports
<i>In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle</i> , Madeleine Blais	Sports
<i>"21": The Story of Roberto Clemente</i> , Wilfred Santiago	Sports
<i>Hot Pink: The Life & Fashions of Elsa Schiaparelli</i> , Susan Goldman Rubin	Fashion
<i>Why'd They Wear That? Fashion as the Mirror of History</i> , Sarah Albee	Fashion
<i>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal</i> , Eric Schlosser	Food
<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat</i> , Michael Pollan	Food
<i>Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us</i> , Michael Moss	Food
<i>Candyfreak: A Journey through the Chocolate Underbelly of America</i> , Steve Almond	Food
<i>Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat</i> , Gail Jarrow	Health

<i>Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary</i> , Gail Jarro	Health
<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i> , Beah Ishmael	History
<i>Charles and Emma: the Darwins' Leap of Faith</i> , Deborah Heiligman	History
<i>The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr</i>	History
<i>Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage</i> , Alfred Lansing	History
<i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow</i> , Susan Campbell Bartoletti	History
<i>The March on Washington</i> , James Haskins	History
<i>The Story of Mankind</i> , Hendrik Willem van Loon	History
<i>The War to End All Wars: World War I</i> , Russell Freedman	History
<i>The Eleventh Day: The Full Story of 9/11</i> , Anthony Summers	History
<i>Students on Strike: A Landmark Struggle for Equality...</i> , John A. Stokes	History
<i>With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote</i> , Ann Bausum	History
<i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> , Jared Diamond	History
<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> , James L. Swanson	History
<i>Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem</i> , Rosalyn Schanzer	History
<i>Bringing Down the House, The Inside Story of Six MIT Students...</i> , Ben Mezrich	Math
<i>Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth</i> , by Apostolos Doxiadis, et al.	Math
<i>The Anthology of Rap</i> , Adam Bradley, et al.	Music
<i>Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana</i> , Michael Azerrad	Music
<i>This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession</i> , Daniel J. Levitin	Music
<i>Legends, Icons, & Rebels: Music that Changed the World</i> , Robbie Roberston	Music
<i>Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals</i> , Temple Grandin	Animals
<i>Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916</i> , Michael Capuzzo	Animals
<i>A Dog Year: Twelve Months, Four Dogs, and Me</i> , Jon Katz	Animals
<i>The Man Who Listens to Horses</i> , Monty Roberts	Animals
<i>The Race to Save the Lord God Bird</i> , Phillip Hoose	Animals
<i>An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments</i> , Ali Almossawi	Philosophy
<i>Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar</i> , Thomas Clathcart	Philosophy
<i>Talent is Overrated</i> , Geoffrey Colvin	Business & Self-Help
<i>The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More</i> , Chris Anderson	Business & Self-Help
<i>The Search: How Google and Its Rivals Rewrote the Rules of Business</i> , John Battelle	Business & Self-Help
<i>Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World</i> , Cal Newport	Business & Self-Help
<i>Freakonomics</i> , Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner	Economics
<i>Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science</i> , by Charles Wheelan	Economics

<i>The Big Switch: Rewiring the World, from Edison to Google</i> , Nicholas Carr	Science
<i>Feynman</i> , Jim Ottaviani	Science
<i>Packing for Mars: the Curious Science of Live in the Void</i> , Mary Roach	Science
<i>Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science</i> , John Fleischman	Science
<i>Rocket Boys: A Memoir</i> , Homer H. Hickam, Jr.	Science
<i>The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains</i> , Nicholas Carr	Science
<i>Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i> , Mary Roach	Science
<i>The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring</i> , Richard Preston	Science
<i>The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark</i> , Carl Sagan	Science
<i>Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination...</i> , Stuart Brown	Science
<i>Black Like Me</i> , John Howard Griffin	Sociology
<i>The Courage to Be Yourself</i> , Al Desetta et al.	Sociology
<i>Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids</i> , Deborah Ellis	Sociology
<i>Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging</i> , Sebastian Junger	Sociology
<i>The Normal One: Life With a Difficult or Damaged Sibling</i> , Jeanee Safer	Sociology
<i>Everything Bad is Good for You</i> , Steven Johnson	Sociology
<i>We Are Americans: Undocumented Students ... American Dream</i> , William Pérez	Sociology
<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> , Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Sociology
<i>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America</i> , Ehrenreich, Barbara	Sociology
<i>How We Beat the Street</i> , Sampson Davis	Sociology
<i>Why Do We Fight? Conflict, War, and Peace</i> , Niki Walker	Sociology
<i>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster</i> , Jon Krakauer	Travel
<i>Rite of Passage: Tales of Backpacking 'Round Europe</i> , Lisa Johnson	Travel
<i>To Timbuktu: Nine Countries, Two People, One True Story</i> , Case Scieszka	Travel
<i>Bad Boy: A Memoir</i> , Walter Dean Myers	Writing & Memoir
<i>Hole In My Life</i> , Jack Gantos	Writing & Memoir
<i>Letters to a Bullied Girl: Messages of Healing and Hope</i> , Olivia Gardner	Writing & Memoir
<i>King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography</i> , Chris Crutcher	Writing & Memoir

4.2 Fiction

This list is based mostly on the College Board's recommended reading for college-bound students. I also added a few of my own favorites. You can absolutely read more popular stuff like the *Harry Potter* series or your favorite genre fiction (mystery, sci-fi, etc.), but try to push yourself to mix in some literary fiction as well for extra challenge.

Achebe, Chinua	Things Fall Apart
Agee, James	A Death in the Family
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
Baldwin, James	Go Tell It on the Mountain
Beckett, Samuel	Waiting for Godot
Bellow, Saul	The Adventures of Augie March
Bronte, Charlotte	Jane Eyre
Bronte, Emily	Wuthering Heights
Camus, Albert	The Stranger
Cather, Willa	Death Comes for the Archbishop
Chaucer, Geoffrey	The Canterbury Tales
Chekhov, Anton	The Cherry Orchard
Chopin, Kate	The Awakening
Conrad, Joseph	Heart of Darkness
Cooper, James Fenimore	The Last of the Mohicans
Crane, Stephen	The Red Badge of Courage
Dante	Inferno
de Cervantes, Miguel	Don Quixote
Defoe, Daniel	Robinson Crusoe
Dickens, Charles	A Tale of Two Cities
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor	Crime and Punishment
Douglass, Frederick	Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Dreiser, Theodore	An American Tragedy
Dumas, Alexandre	The Three Musketeers
Eliot, George	The Mill on the Floss

Ellison, Ralph	Invisible Man
Emerson, Ralph Waldo	Selected Essays
Faulkner, William	As I Lay Dying
Faulkner, William	The Sound and the Fury
Fielding, Henry	Tom Jones
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	The Great Gatsby
Flaubert, Gustave	Madame Bovary
Ford, Ford Madox	The Good Soldier
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von	Faust
Golding, William	Lord of the Flies
Hardy, Thomas	Tess of the d'Urbervilles
Hawthorne, Nathaniel	The Scarlet Letter
Heller, Joseph	Catch 22
Hemingway, Ernest	A Farewell to Arms
Homer	The Iliad
Homer	The Odyssey
Hugo, Victor	The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Hurston, Zora Neale	Their Eyes Were Watching God
Huxley, Aldous	Brave New World
Ibsen, Henrik	A Doll's House
James, Henry	The Portrait of a Lady
James, Henry	The Turn of the Screw
Joyce, James	A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
Kafka, Franz	The Metamorphosis
Kingston, Maxine Hong	The Woman Warrior
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird
Lewis, Sinclair	Babbitt
London, Jack	The Call of the Wild
Mann, Thomas	The Magic Mountain
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia	One Hundred Years of Solitude

McCarthy, Cormac	The Road
Melville, Herman	Bartleby the Scrivener
Melville, Herman	Moby Dick
Miller, Arthur	The Crucible
Morrison, Toni	Beloved
O'Connor, Flannery	A Good Man is Hard to Find
O'Neill, Eugene	Long Day's Journey into Night
Orwell, George	Animal Farm
Orwell, George	1984
Pasternak, Boris	Doctor Zhivago
Plath, Sylvia	The Bell Jar
Poe, Edgar Allan	Selected Tales
Pynchon, Thomas	The Crying of Lot 49
Remarque, Erich Maria	All Quiet on the Western Front
Rostand, Edmond	Cyrano de Bergerac
Roth, Henry	Call It Sleep
Salinger, J. D.	The Catcher in the Rye
Shakespeare, William	Hamlet
Shakespeare, William	Macbeth
Shakespeare, William	A Midsummer Night's Dream
Shakespeare, William	Romeo and Juliet
Shaw, George Bernard	Pygmalion
Shelley, Mary	Frankenstein
Silko, Leslie Marmon	Ceremony
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander	One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
Sophocles	Antigone
Sophocles	Oedipus Rex
Steinbeck, John	The Grapes of Wrath
Stephenson, Neal	Anthem
Stevenson, Robert Louis	Treasure Island

Stowe, Harriet Beecher	Uncle Tom's Cabin
Swift, Jonathan	Gulliver's Travels
Thackeray, William Makepeace	Vanity Fair
Thoreau, Henry David	Walden
Tolstoy, Leo	War and Peace
Turgenev, Ivan	Fathers and Sons
Twain, Mark	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Voltaire	Candide
Vonnegut, Kurt, Jr.	Slaughterhouse Five
Walker, Alice	The Color Purple
Wharton, Edith	The House of Mirth
Welty, Eudora	Collected Stories
Whitman, Walt	Leaves of Grass
Wilde, Oscar	The Picture of Dorian Gray
Williams, Tennessee	The Glass Menagerie
Woolf, Virginia	To the Lighthouse
Wright, Richard	Native Son