

Margaret Mead, Coming of Age in Samoa. (1928)

A major text in social anthropology; a study of adolescent girls in a noncompetitive, permissive culture.

Mitchell, Margaret. Gone with the Wind. (1936)
Historical novel depicting the years of the Civil War and Reconstruction from a Southern point of view.

Morrison, Toni. Beloved. (1987)
Novel about a woman who is an escaped slave, set in Ohio in the years following the Civil War; the author won the Nobel Prize for literature.

Murasaki, Lady Shikibu. The Tale of Genji. (c. 1000)
World's first novel; great work of Japanese literature.

O'Connor, Flannery. Everything That Rises Must Converge. (1965)
An encounter on a bus reflects different views on race issues and social class in the South.

Plath, Sylvia. The Bell Jar. (1963)
Semi-autobiographical novel about a creative young woman who suffers a mental breakdown and her tentative recovery.

Potter, Beatrix. Tale of Peter Rabbit. (1902)
Stories for children by an English writer and illustrator.

Rand, Ayn. The Fountainhead. (1943)
Russian-born novelist who became an American citizen depicts an architect whose genius prevails over social conformity.

Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus. (1818)
A young student animates a monster and suffers the ensuing retribution; one of the most popular gothic novels.

Silko. Leslie Marmon. Ceremony. (1977)
One of the first great Native American novels,

with both German and French translations.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom's Cabin. (1852)

A novel which changed the course of American history and helped lead to the Civil War; features characters whose names became part of the language.

Tuchman, Barbara. The Guns of August. (1962)
Historical account of the first month of the First World War.

Undset, Sigrid. Kristin Lavransdatter. (1920-1922)
Trilogy set in medieval Norway by the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1928.

Walker, Alice. The Color Purple. (1983)
Winner of the American Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in fiction, novel explores relationships, change, and ultimately the triumph of black women.

Welty, Eudora. Collected Stories. (1980)
This collection helped establish Welty's reputation as more than a regional writer.

Wharton, Edith. Age of Innocence. (1920)
Satirical picture of social life in New York during the 1870's; winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1921.

Wheatley, Phyllis. Poems on Various Subjects. (1773)
Poetry by a slave, the first important African-American writer.

Wollstonecraft, Mary. Vindication of the Rights of Women. (1792)
First great feminist manifesto in English.

Woolf, Virginia. Mrs. Dalloway. (1925)
Stream of consciousness novel depicting one day in the life of a middle-aged English society woman.

Jackson Library

GREAT BOOKS BY GREAT WOMEN

Great Books by Great Women

**Fifty Selections in Honor of
Women's History Month**

Walter Clinton Jackson Library
UNC Greensboro
P.O. Box 26175
Greensboro, NC 27402-6175

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

The following list is by its nature subjective. A committee of Jackson Library faculty and staff considered nominations solicited from the University and the community, a process which produced over 125 nominations. We wish to thank everyone who submitted a nomination, a group which included UNCG faculty, staff, students, Friends of the Library and community members from Greensboro and beyond.

Among the deciding factors in our final selections were literary merit, the historical significance and prominence of the author, and the historical impact of the book. An effort was made to provide representation from a variety of time periods, genres, disciplines and themes. In several cases, the committee found it difficult to select a particular work by a given author, but each author is represented only once.

The purpose of this list is not to classify and rank a limited number of books by women as great, nor is it to exclude many additional works of merit. It is intended to stimulate interest in books written by women and to encourage readers to read them.

Enjoy.

Addams, Jane. Twenty Years at Hull House. (1910)
Autobiography of social reformer, suffragette, and pacifist – winner of Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women, or Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. (1868)
An important book in American women's history; influenced generations of young girls to think for themselves.

Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. (1969)
Autobiographical book that celebrates in the African American experience the capacity to grow and triumph over adversity.

Anthony, Susan B., et al. History of Woman Suffrage. (1881-1922)
A six-volume work that documents the struggle for women's suffrage 1881-1920, authored by the great advocate for women's suffrage and others.

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. (1813)
Nineteenth century domestic romance which focuses on contemporary notions of courtship and marriage.

Bronte, Charlotte. Jane Eyre. (1847)
Novel which, in its hero and heroine, introduced two types new to English fiction: the shy, intense orphan/governess and the rough and moody Mr. Rochester.

Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights. (1847)
Passionate love-story set on the moors of West England; a work of genius and mysticism.

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. Sonnets from the Portuguese. (1850)
A sequence of love poems addressed to her husband and fellow poet Robert Browning.

Buck, Pearl S. The Good Earth. (1931)
Window on Chinese culture.

Carson, Rachel. Silent Spring. (1962)
Science as personal; an argument for the

preservation of the earth.

Cather, Willa. My Antonia. (1918)
Lucid depiction of the life of Bohemian immigrants and other settlers on the frontier farmlands of Nebraska.

Chopin, Kate. The Awakening. (1899)
Controversial tale of extramarital love and a woman's search for self-understanding.

Christie, Agatha. Murder on the Orient Express. (1933)
Hercule Poirot solves a complex murder on a train trip across Europe.

Curie, Marie. Radioactive Substances. (1910)
Fundamental treatise on radioactivity by the Nobel Prize winner for chemistry in 1911.

De Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex. (1949, tr. 1953)
A thorough analysis of women's secondary status in society.

Dickinson, Emily. Poems. (1890)
Terse, aphoristic poems by 19th century New England poet.

Dillard, Annie. Pilgrim at Tinker Creek. (1974)
Theological and philosophical observations based on the contemplation of nature.

Dinesen, Isak. Out of Africa. (1937)
Danish woman's experiences on a coffee plantation in British East Africa.

Eddy, Mary Baker. Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. (1875)
Seminal work by the founder of the Christian Science movement.

Eliot, George. Middlemarch. (1871-72)
Considered not only Eliot's finest work but also one of the greatest novels to come out of 19th-century England; the story of the idealistic Dorothea Brooke.

Frank, Anne. Diary of a Young Girl. (1947)
Diary of a young Jewish girl whose family spent

two years in hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Friedan, Betty. The Feminine Mystique. (1963)
Key work of 60's feminism; ushered in a new consciousness and activism on the part of women around the world.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. The Yellow Wallpaper. (1890)
Semi-autobiographical book by feminist and social reformer.

Goldman, Emma. Living My Life. (1931)
Autobiography of Russian-born American anarchist jailed repeatedly for her advocacy of birth control and opposition to military conscription.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. No Ordinary Time. (1994)
Eloquent historical and biographical treatment of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Hurston, Zora Neale. Their Eyes Were Watching God. (1937)
Written by a significant writer of the Harlem Renaissance; considered by some to be the first black feminist novel of the 20th century.

Jong, Erica. Fear of Flying. (1973)
A comic novel of sex and psychiatry that challenged conventional views of women.

Keller, Helen. The Story of My Life. (1902)
Deaf and blind woman's life story is a testimony to the power of the human spirit.

Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird. (1960)
A young woman's accusation rocks a small Southern town during the Depression.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time. (1962)
Powerful science fiction literature for children from an American philosopher and mystic.

McCullers, Carson. The Member of the Wedding. (1946)
The issues of isolation and loneliness are viewed from the perspective of a twelve-year-old girl growing up in 1945 Georgia.