

12 American Novels

Emma D.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

New Orleans, Louisiana

Edna Pontellier and husband, Leonce (sons not important)

The Pontelliers often vacation to the Grand Isle on the Gulf of Mexico with the Lebruns

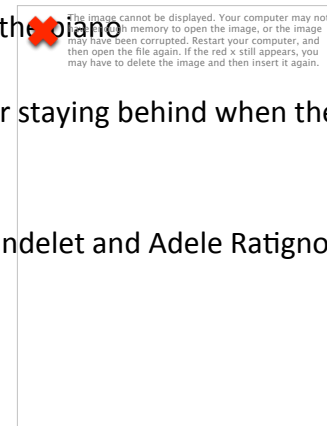
Edna and Robert Lebrun fall in love, but Robert rejects her and moves to Mexico

Edna ignores her family and “hangs” with Mademoiselle Riesz, who reads her letters and plays her the piano

Leonce goes to Dr. Mandelet for advice. He tells Leonce to leave his wife alone. Which results in her staying behind when the rest of her family goes to NY for her sister’s wedding.

While they are gone, she moves to the “Pigeon House”, and has an affair with Alcee Arbion. Dr. Mandelet and Adele Ratignolle worry about her.

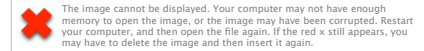
Robert moves back to NO, but he no longer wants a relationship with Edna.



The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Common Clues-

- Opens with Madame Lebrun's parrot and mockingbird making noise
- Metaphorical characters known as the "Lady in Black" and the "Two Lovers" that Edna sees walking on the beach
- Farival twins play the piano for people to come listen to
- They often eat bonbons
- A bird with a broken wing flies into the gulf with Edna



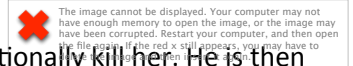
An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser

Clyde Griffiths is a Kansas City Hotel Bellhop

Clyde is in a car with Tom Raterer Tom hits and kills a child. This causes Clyde to leaves town and runs to Chicago, before going to his Uncle Samuel in NYC and getting a job working at a Men's Collar Factory.

He dates poor Roberta Alden, but he really wants to date rich Sandra Finchley. Roberta gets pregnant and wants to marry Clyde. Later, he takes her on a date to Bit Bittern Lake, and accidently knocks her into the lake when he goes to take a camera off from around his neck. He flips the boat and makes it look like the boat capsizes. Clyde is arrested for her murder, even though he did not intentionally kill her. He is then sentenced to death.

Common clues- he meets Hortense Briggs when he is a bellhop



Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

Starkfield, New England (it is made up)


Zeena is sick, so Ethan hires Mattie to come live with them and take care of Zeena. One day Mattie goes to a dance and, when Ethan comes to pick her up, he realizes he is in love with her. A while after this, Zeena leaves to see a doctor a while away; while she is gone, she asks only that they do not break anything. When Zeena gets back, Mattie and Ethan decide to run away together. When Ethan goes to ask one of his clients for money, Andrew is not home, but his wife. Mrs. Hale tells him how good of a man he is for staying with his sick wife and not leaving her behind for a younger, prettier woman. This fills Ethan with grief, so he and Mattie decide that killing themselves in a sledding accident is the better option. So Ethan and Mattie are about to hit a tree, when Ethan decides that he no longer wants to die, so he veers the sled off course, but they still hit the tree; Ethan and Mattie live. And now, 24 years later, Zeena is looking after the paralyzed Ethan and Mattie.

Common clues-

Mattie is wearing a red, unusual ribbon when Ethan decides he loves her.

While Zeena is away, her cat breaks her favorite pickle dish.

The Pickle and the Donut

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Nick Carraway rents a house in West Egg next to Jay Gatsby's house. West Egg is "new money", East Egg is "old money". Daisy Buchanan lives in East Egg with her husband Tom (Nick dates Jordan Baker).

Jay throws wild parties, so Nick goes, and eventually meets Jay. The only reason that Jay lives in West Egg is to get Daisy back; he went to the war, and when he came back, Daisy was married to Tom.


Daisy and Gatsby try to get back together, now that he has money; Tom is also cheating on Daisy with Myrtle Wilson, who lives in the Valley of

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

Ashes.

Jay and Daisy get in a fight while drunk; Daisy storms off and hits Myrtle with a car, Gatsby says that he did it, to spare Daisy. George (Myrtle's husband) shoots Gatsby because he thinks Jay has having an affair with Myrtle, then he shoots himself.

Drunk Owl Eyes, Nick, and Jay's dad are the only people to show up to Jay's funeral. Tom and Daisy continue to live unaffected and rich.

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Common Clues-

- At the end of the novel, Klipspringer calls to see if his shoes are at Gatsby's house.
- Meyer Wolfsheim (Jewish businessman) fixed the World Series wears molars as cuff links (it is said that he and Gatsby were in the mob together, which is how Gatsby got his money so fast).
- When entering the Valley of Ashes, there is a billboard that has TJ Eckleburg (big eyes)
- Dan Cody was Gatsby's mentor at St. Olaf's College
- Gatsby always had oranges delivered to his house before a party to make orange juice.
- There is a green light at the end of the harbor in West Egg that signifies endings or beginnings, or something
- At a party, Gatsby shows Daisy his collection of colored silk shirts and she cries

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

Frederic Henry is an American driving an Italian ambulance in WWI.

Friend Lt. Rinaldi introduces him to Catherine Barkley, even though Rinaldi likes her. Henry is injured by an exploding vat of mac 'n' cheese (a grenade blew it up and he was hit by shrapnel), and stays at a hospital that Catherine is transferred to. Henry and Catherine fall in love, and want to escape to Switzerland because Catherine is pregnant. In the Alps, Catherine gives birth, but the child is stillborn (umbilical cord around it's neck) and she dies of bloodloss. He walks back to the hotel alone.

Common Clues-


- This is semi-autobiographical.
- While Henry is at the hospital, Nurse Von Campen hates him and thinks his Jaundice is due to alcohol, even though he does not have access to alcohol.

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

Robert Jordan is fighting in the Spanish Civil War (right before WW2 happens- in the 1930's), in a Guerilla troop lead by Pablo and his wife, Pilar.

Jordan falls in love with Maria. Later, Pablo is tasked with blowing up a bridge with another troop lead by El Sordo. Jordan doesn't want to blow up the bridge because the death probability is high. In the end, they blow it up, but Jordan is hurt. He tells Maria to leave him behind so he will buy the rest of them time by shooting Fascists.

Common Clues- The title comes from John Donne's "Meditation 17"

 The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

Jake Barnes (WWI Vet) and his girlfriend, Lady Brett Ashley

In Pamplona, they go see the “Running of the Bulls”, where Ashley has an affair with matador Pedro Romero. After a wild night of partying, they are all drunk and fighting with each other. Jake breaks up with Lady Brett and they both leave Spain, drunk and fighting fools.

Common Clues-

- Lady Brett has an affair with ex-boxer Robert Cohn.
- “Isn’t it pretty to think so?” Says Jake at the end of the book.



The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Fisherman Santiago and apprentice Manolin live in Cuba. Santiago has not caught a fish in three months and is becoming very aggravated. One day, he catches a huge fish (I believe it was a Marlin), and drags it behind his boat because it does not fit in the boat. Only, when he gets to shore, the bones are all that is left (sharks ate the fish as it was being dragged in the water). Manolin tells him not to worry, he will find another fish, another day.

Common Clues-

- Santiago's favorite baseball player is Joe DiMaggio.
- He often tells people about his all-day-arm-wrestling match with a black man from Cienfuegos.



The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

Tobacco Road by Erskine Caldwell

Lester Family- Jeeter and Ada Lester, kids- Elle May (20-year-old, with a cleft palate), Pearl (9, married off to 40-year-old, Lov Bensey), Dude (16).

Traveling preacher Bessie tells them they are all going to Hell, before she asks Jeeter if she can marry Dude. Dude says he will marry her if he can drive her truck . Bessie said she was 30, but she is really 39. They get married. Dude hits everything in town as he is driving the truck. In the driveway, he runs over his grandmother; when he hits her, he backs over her, this time, he gets out of the truck and runs, telling no one. Jeeter then decides to burn down his barn/farm to collect insurance money. But the house also catches on fire and burns down, killing everyone but Dude and Bessie .

Common Clues- When they find Grandma, she has tire tracks on her.

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

Compson brothers, Quentin (youngest, a student at Harvard), Jason (farm supply worker), and Benjy (mentally disabled), and their sister, Cady live in the south, with their black cook, Dilsey.

Caddy becomes pregnant and doesn't tell who did it. She tries to marry herbert Head to cover it up, but once he finds out, he no longer wants to marry her. Once the news comes out, Quentin drowns himself in the Charles River after one year of schooling. The baby girl is named, Miss Quentin in honor of Quentin; she has a habit of running away.

Common Clues-

Title comes from Macbeth

Miss. Quentin runs away with a carnival worker at the end of the novel

Dilsey takes everyone to Rev. Shegog's Easter sermon

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Joad family (Okies)- Tom Joad, Rose of Sharon (Tom's sister) and husband Connie. Tom just got out of jail for killing a man in a bar fight, but when he gets home, he finds his family packing up to move out of Oklahoma to California. They live in Hoovervilles on the way there, and pick up ex-preacher Jim Casey. Connie leaves Rose when he finds out she is pregnant; the child is stillborn. Once they get to California, they work on a grape farm, and Casey leads a strike (which ends in a riot and Casey being killed).

Common Clues-

Rose breast-feeds a dying old man on the grape farm.

Muley Graves gets the Joad's dog when they leave Oklahoma.

Odd chapters are plot chapters and even chapters are auxiliary chapters (they tell an independent story, in one chapter). The first auxiliary chapter is about a turtle crossing the road. There are two types of people, those who hit the turtle and those who don't; the turtle gets hit. Another one is about kids who look at candy in a gas station, and some truck drivers buy them \$20 of candy.

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

Holden Caulfield is expelled from Pencey Prep for losing fencing equipment on the subway. When he is moving out, he gets in an argument with his roommate, Stradlater, who is going on a date with Jane Gallagher. Holden tells him to be nice with Jane because they are best friends.

He meets pimp Maurice, who gives him Sunny to take to his room (at a hotel). Holden makes her talk instead of her normal duties, which makes her mad. She asks for \$20 instead of the \$10 Holden was said he owed her; Maurice beats up Holden the next day.

He has a date with Sally, but all she does is talk. He buys Phoebe (his sister) a “Little Shirley Beans” CD, and takes her to Central Park to ride the carousel in the rain.

Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

Common Clues-

- His other roommate is named Ackley
- When Holden and Jane were little, Jane would keep all her kings (in checkers) in the back row.
- Holden talks to nuns on the Subway about Romeo and Juliet.
- He talks to a cab driver about where the ducks in Central Park go during the winter (and does not get an answer).
- He dances with three women at the hotel.
- There are three other Caulfield children; Allie, Deby, and Phoebe. Allie died, but before that, he gave Holden his baseball glove.
- Holden stays with his English teacher, Mr. Antolini. When he wakes up, Mr. A is above him, rubbing his hair.
- He calls everything and everyone “phony”.

Marble Fawns, Das Ende!!
