

*A personal and non-comprehensive list of the authors and books Johnny Worthen thinks all writers should be familiar with. Here's the conversation... join in.*

The classics

Greek Mythology  
Homer  
    The Odyssey  
Aesop's Fables  
The Bible  
Shakespeare  
    Hamlet  
    Macbeth  
    Romeo and Juliet  
Mark Twain  
    Huckleberry Finn  
Mary Shelly  
    Frankenstein  
Edgar Allan Poe  
    Raven  
    Tell Tale Heart  
Herman Melville  
    Moby Dick  
Jane Austen  
    Pride and Prejudice  
Emily Bronte  
    Wuthering Heights  
Charles Dickens (any)  
    A Christmas Carol  
Ernest Hemingway (for style, ie - anything is good)  
    The Snows of Kilimanjaro  
    Farewell to Arms  
Flannery O'Connor  
    A Good Man in Hard to Find  
William Faulkner (for style, ie - anything is good)  
    The Sound and The Fury?  
Harper Lee  
    To Kill a Mockingbird  
F. Scott Fitzgerald  
    The Great Gatsby  
Alexandre Dumas  
    The Count of Monte Cristo  
Vladimir Nabokov  
    Lolita  
Ken Kesey (advanced - for language)  
    Sometimes a Great Notion, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest  
John Steinbeck  
    Of Mice and Men, Grapes of Wrath

**Books You Should Know**  
(Johnny Worthen's Suggestions)

Milan Kundera  
    The Unbearable Lightness of Being  
Cormac McCarthy  
    The Road  
Toni Morrison  
    Beloved  
J.D. Salinger  
    Catcher in the Rye  
Richard Adams  
    Watership Down  
Joseph Heller  
    Catch 22

Poets

Edgar Allan Poe  
Robert Frost  
Lord George Gordon Byron  
Percy Bysshe Shelley  
Shel Silverstein  
Theodore Roethke  
Elizabeth Bishop

Genre Specific

Science Fiction  
    Jules Verne  
        20,000 Leagues Under the Sea  
    Isaac Asimov  
        I Robot  
        Foundation Trilogy?  
    Arthur C. Clark  
        Childhood's End  
    Ray Bradbury  
        Fahrenheit 451  
    Robert Heinlein (?)  
        Starship Troopers  
    Frank Herbert  
        Dune  
    Douglas Adams  
        Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy  
    Dan Simmons  
        Hyperion  
    William Gibson  
        Neuromancer

Fantasy

J.R.R. Tolkien  
    The Hobbit  
    Lord of the Rings  
Lewis Carroll  
    Alice in Wonderland  
C.S. Lewis  
    Narnia  
    Lion Witch and the Wardrobe  
J.K. Rowling  
    Harry Potter  
Philip Pullman  
    The Golden Compass: (His Dark Materials)

Horror

Bram Stoker  
    Dracula  
Mary Shelly  
    Frankenstein  
Robert Louis Stevensen  
    Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde  
Johnny Worthen (personal fondness)  
    Beatrysel, What Immortal Hand  
Edgar Allan Poe  
    Black Cat  
    Tell Tale Heart  
H.P. Lovecraft  
    Call of Cthulhu  
Stephen King  
    Carrie  
    The Stand (?)  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
    The Yellow Wallpaper

Romance

Jane Austen  
    Pride and Prejudice  
Charlotte Bronte  
    Jane Eyre  
Emily Bronte  
    Wuthering Heights  
Margaret Mitchell  
    Gone With the Wind

**Books You Should Know**  
(Johnny Worthen's Suggestions)

Young Adult

J.K. Rowling  
Harry Potter  
Suzanne Collins  
The Hunger Games  
Robert Louis Stevensen  
Treasure Island  
Lucy Maud Montgomery  
Anne of Green Gables  
Wilson Rawls  
Where the Red Fern Grows  
Mark Twain  
Tom Sawyer  
John Green  
The Fault in our Stars  
Johnny Worthen (personal favorite)  
The Unseen Trilogy

Children

Dr. Seuss  
Green Eggs and Ham  
Cat in the Hat  
E. B. White  
Charlotte's Web  
Maurice Sendak  
Where the Wild Things Are  
Margaret Wise Brown  
Goodnight Moon  
Shel Silverstein  
The Giving Tree

Crime

Elmore Leonard  
Get Shorty  
The Big Bounce  
Tim Dorsey (any) (personal favorite)  
Atomic Lobster

Mystery

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
Sherlock Holmes  
Hound of the Baskervilles  
Agatha Christie  
And then there were None (10 Little Indians)  
Hercule Poirot  
Death on the Nile

**Books You Should Know**  
(Johnny Worthen's Suggestions)

Raymond Chandler  
    The Big Sleep  
Dashiell Hammett  
    The Maltese Falcon

Historic

James Michener  
    Centennial, The Source, or Hawaii  
James Clavell  
    Shogun, King Rat, or Nobel House

Western

Louis L'Amour (for style, ie - anything is good)  
    Sackett  
Jack Schaefer  
    Shane  
Walter Van Tilburg Clark  
    The Ox Bow Incident