

SAT & ACT Recommended Reading List

Students who read regularly tend to have the easiest time with the Reading sections of the SAT and ACT. Reading a little every day can go a long way toward boosting your verbal skills by building your fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.

The reading list below is a great place to start. Exploring the resources on this list, curated by the ArborBridge Instruction Team, will prepare you for the types of passages you'll encounter on the SAT and ACT Reading sections.

Natural Science

Find and read scientific journal articles exploring a wide array of scientific fields, including biology, chemistry, Earth science, and physics.

Recommended sources:

- [*American Scientist*](#)
- [*National Geographic*](#)
- [*Smithsonian*](#)
- [*Science Magazine*](#)
- [*Advances in Biology and Earth Sciences*](#)
- [*Journal of Proteins and Proteomics*](#)

Social Science

Find and read contemporary social science journal articles and long-form newspaper articles exploring the fields of psychology, political science, economics, and sociology.

Recommended sources:

- [*Open Access Social Sciences Journal*](#)
- [*International Journal of Anthropology and Ethnology*](#)
- [*Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications*](#)
- [*Comparative Migration Studies*](#)
- [*Open Journal of Political Science*](#)
- [*Political Science News*](#)
- [*The Economist*](#)
- [*The Guardian*](#)
- [*The New York Times*](#)
- [*The Wall Street Journal*](#)
- [*Newsela*](#) (highly recommended for English Language learners)

Poetry (SAT Only)

Find and read poems by classic and contemporary poets.

Recommended sources:

- [*The Poetry Foundation*](#)
- [*Poets.org*](#)
- [*Folger Shakespeare Library*](#)

Recommended poets:

- *Amy Lowell*
- *Charlotte Forten Grimké*
- *Claude McKay*
- *D'Arcy McNickle*
- *Langston Hughes*
- *James Weldon Johnson*
- *Maggie Pogue Johnson*
- *Walt Whitman*

Literary Fiction

Find and read short stories and novels. In many cases, you can find great books available for free on your Kindle, iPad, iPhone, computer, or eReader.

Recommended books:

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mark Haddon)
- *Exit West* (Mosin Hamid)
- *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* (Alice Hoffman)
- *Kite Runner* (Khaled Hosseini)
- *Never Let Me Go* (Kazuo Ishiguro)
- *The Remains of the Day* (Kazuo Ishiguro)
- *The Namesake* (Jhumpa Lahiri)
- *Pachinko* (Min Jin Lee)
- *O Pioneers!* (Willa Cather)
- *Life of Pi* (Yann Martel)
- *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (Amy Tan)
- *The Goldfinch* (Donna Tartt)
- *The Color Purple* (Alice Walker)
- *House of Mirth* (Edith Wharton)
- *The Age of Innocence* (Edith Wharton)
- *The Book Thief* (Markus Zusak)

Recommended short stories:

- *The Veldt* (Ray Bradbury)
- *The Dead* (James Joyce)
- *Interpreter of Maladies* (Jhumpa Lahiri)
- *Nine Stories* (J.D. Salinger)
- *To Build a Fire* (Jack London)
- *The Young Girl* (Katherine Mansfield)

Recommended authors:

- Jane Austen
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Charlotte Brontë
- Emily Brontë
- Albert Camus
- Sui Sin Far
- Amit Chaudhuri
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Aldous Huxley
- Henry James
- Henrik Ibsen
- María Cristina Mena
- Dinaw Mengestu
- Daniyal Mueenuddin
- George Orwell
- Philip Roth
- Mark Twain
- Charles W. Chesnutt
- Lewis Carroll
- Nathaniel Hawthorne

Recommended sources:

- [Free eBooks](#)
- [Project Gutenberg](#)