**Mr. Pierson’s Picks**

Contemporary Reads:

***World War Z****:* No, not the crappy movie but the awesome novel that Brad Pitt ruined. Max Brook’s tale of how the entire world would respond to a full blown zombie apocalypse is both wildly entertaining and terrifying at the same time. I would also recommend reading his previous book ***The Zombie Survival Guide****.*

***Ready Player One:*** Yes, I know you weren’t alive in the 1980’s; however that will not stop you from enjoying this awesome electronic adventure set in a futuristic dystopia that is obsessed with 80’s pop culture. Why? Because the designer of this virtual online world has just died and is leaving his vast fortune to whoever can solve the treasure hunt that he left behind. Knowledge of everything 80’s will be needed to follow these totally rad clues.

***The Watchmen:*** Best graphic novel ever, period. Also recommended are ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen***and ***V for Vendetta****.*

***The Da Vinci Code***: Despite a few glaring historical inaccuracies, Dan Brown’s adventure through modern Europe is a gripping and suspenseful page turner. You will not be able to put this book down. Also check out ***Angels and Demons****,* ***Inferno****,* and ***The Lost Symbol.***

***John Dies at the End***: Editor of Cracked.com David Wong’s New York Times bestselling novel is both mind blowing and laugh out loud funny. One of the least heroic characters to ever grace an adventure story accidentally eats something at party and his mind becomes open to the presence of aliens, monsters, and a host of other absurd and ridiculous events. Also recommended: ***The Great Abraham Lincoln Pocket Watch Conspiracy*, *The Hitchhiker’s guide to the Galaxy***

***A Song of Ice and Fire:*** Story telling at its finest. George RR Martin book series weaves an epic fantasy tale about the deadly politics of the fictional worlds of Westeros and Essos. Relationship drama? Check Epic fight scenes? Check. Zombies? Check Dragons? Check. This is what happens when the Lord of the Rings meets the History Channel’s Vikings during a medieval Walking Dead. Also recommended ***The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, The Princess Bride.***

**The L.A. Quartet*: The Black Dahlia, The Big Nowhere, L.A. Confidential, White Jazz:*** James Ellroy’s gritty tales of the dark underside of Hollywood and 1940’s Los Angeles are totally addicting and nearly impossible to put down. Two of them have been made in movies; however, his hard boiled writing style is a true work art. Also recommended: ***The Big Sleep, The Maltese Falcon, I the Jury, Kiss me Deadly, Farewell my Lovely,*** and ***Spade and Archer***

Classic Reads

***Dracula:*** Bram Stoker’s vampire novel is not a love story. It’s a terrifying tale of a nearly indestructible being who is as cool and cunning as he is vicious and bloodthirsty (get it?). Read a vampire story as it was intended to be written. Creepy Carpathian lord? You got it. Wolf attacks? For sure. High body count? Absolutely. The first appearance of Abraham van Helsing? Yes sir. No sparkling vampires in this story, just creepy story telling at its best.

***The Count of Monte Cristo:*** One of the best revenge stories of all time. Robbed of everything, framed and imprisoned, Edmond Dantes escapes from prison and spends years perfecting the ultimate revenge.

***All Quiet on the Western Front:*** Spellbinding account of the First World War from the perspective of a man who experienced it all. One of the greatest war novels of all time. Also Recommended: ***Panzer Commander (non-fiction) Band of Brothers (Non-Fiction) Soldat (non-fiction), Through Hell for Hitler (non-fiction)***

***The Necronomicon:*** A series of short stories from H.P. Lovecraft that are guaranteed to terrify. Also, you will be able to understand all of those Cthulhu memes!

***War of the Worlds***: The original alien invasion story from the father of science fiction.

***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***: Even though you know the secret of Henry Jekyll, it won’t stop you from enjoying the story in its original format. Plus it’s only like 80 pages (Score!)

***The Iliad:*** Homer’s epic poem about the greatest battle of the ancient world. Gods, Goddesses, Ajax, Odysseus, Achilles, Paris, and Hector! See what happens when ancient warfare is fought with the intervention of the gods. Also Recommended: **The Percy Jackson Series**

***Treasure Island:*** Arrrrgh Matey! Read the original swashbuckling pirate adventure, featuring everyone’s favorite “cook,” Long John Silver. Experience the first novel to involve the search for buried pirate treasure and the trend setter for ALL pirate stories to follow. Also read: ***Under the Black Flag*** (non-fiction)

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame***: Read the horrifying exploration of medieval Paris and experience the non-Disney version of this chilling tale. The end is least Disney way to end a book, ever. Also read: ***The Three Musketeers, A Tale of Two Cities, Candide, The Debacle (the non-WWII version of France getting its butt kicked by Germany)***