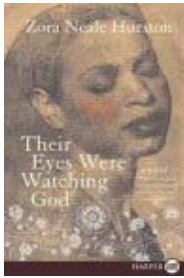


Southern Life Booklist

Fiction:

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

Using the “stream of consciousness” narrative technique, Faulkner explores the decline of the Compsons, an early 20th Century Southern family. The book includes both Biblical themes and modern existentialist angst.



Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The novel’s main character, Janie Crawford, is an African-American woman who tells the story of her life through a series of extended flashbacks. Her life consists of three main periods which correspond to the three different men she marries. The story is set in early 20th Century Florida.

Nashville 1864: The Dying of the Light: A Novel by Madison Jones

During the Battle of Nashville, a young Southern boy and his slave companion set off to find his father in the Confederate Army. The events described are recounted after the young boy becomes a man. The novel strongly reflects a 19th Century Southern point of view concerning the Civil War and its aftermath.

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Using the life of the novel’s heroine, Scarlett O’Hara, Mitchell examines the effect the Civil War had on the aristocratic class of the Old South. Survival in the face of adversity is a strong theme throughout the book.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

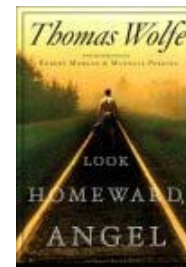
Considered one of the first Great American Novels, Twain captures the language and culture of 19th Century Southern society. Taking place along the Mississippi River, this is an enduring story of friendship and the search for freedom.

All the King’s Men by Robert Penn Warren

Loosely based on Louisiana’s Depression Era politician Huey Long, this novel won the 1947 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Class antagonism, in the form of the aristocratic Old South versus the modern populist “share the wealth” New South, is clearly visible. Corruption and power are also strong themes here.

Look Homeward Angel by Thomas Wolfe

Set in the early 20th Century American South, this coming of age story is a thinly disguised autobiography of Wolfe and his hometown of Asheville, North Carolina. Because the book’s less than perfect characters were easily identifiable citizens of Asheville, its publication infuriated local members of the community. It was even banned from the public library. Because of death threats, Wolfe did not return to his hometown until 1937.



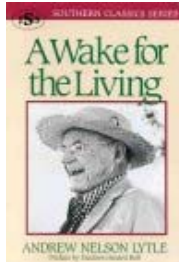
Nonfiction:

A Treasury of Southern Folklore: Stories, Ballads, Traditions, and Folkways of the People of the South by B.A. Botkin (390.0097 B657)

Gobs of stories and folksongs present a broad view of traditional Southern culture, characters, and heroes. From the heroic General Robert E. Lee to the ruthless pirate Blackbeard, from poor Southerners to wealthy belles and their beaux, from hellfire-and-damnation preachers to gamblers and roustabouts, from sweet to rough, it's all here.

USA: The South: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette by Jane Winter (390.0976 W734)

The author aims to help the reader sort out the difference between the real South and the ridiculous South. Along with proper manners and dress you'll learn about Southern language, religion, speech, holidays, literature and music. Armed with this knowledge, you'll be prepared to intermingle with Southerners.



A Wake for the Living by Andrew Nelson Lytle (917.68 L998)

Andrew Lytle was one of the original Southern Agrarians. In this family chronicle, he uses some of his colorful ancestors to bring alive the South's long dead past. In some ways, it stands as a rebuke to those of us who think the modern or new ways are always better.

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington. (921 Washington)

The uplifting autobiography details Washington's rise from a slave child, through the difficulties he overcame to get an education at Hampton University, to his efforts to help blacks and other minorities learn useful, marketable skills. He also emphasized the importance of manners, health, and a sense of well-being.

I'll Take My Stand: The South and the Agrarian Tradition by Twelve Southerners (975 I16)

A collection of essays by the Southern Agrarians centered at Vanderbilt University during the 1920s and 30s. The writers were old fashioned humanists who criticized the modern world for its attempt to reduce human beings to mere cogs in a wheel. They argued that the "good life" would best be achieved by having people return to small town, rural life.

Myth, Manners, and Memory by Charles Wilson (975.003 W6921)

A scholarly examination of Southern Culture. The book contains 95 entries on such things as the "Cult of Beauty," "Clocks and Time," "Manners," and "Sexuality." It's very helpful in understanding the South's identity as a distinct region and culture.

A Turn in the South by V.S. Naipaul (975.04 N143)

Naipaul travels the South, both small towns and large cities, where he interviews farmers and college professors, waitresses and judges, preachers and businessmen—to get a feel for the complex, sometimes hidden, life of America's South.