

2025 rory gilmore reading challenge

MONTHLY PROMPTS

January: A Kids' Book

I always like to start the year with an easy prompt so readers can get a quick win and/or catch up if they find the challenge later in the year. There are tons of children's books referenced on Gilmore Girls. Here are 10 I enjoyed.

[Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) by Lewis Carroll

[Charlotte's Web](#) by E.B. White

[Charlie & the Chocolate Factory](#) by Roald Dahl

[Eloise at the Plaza](#) by Kay Thompson

[Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective](#) by Donald J. Sobol

[Horton Hears a Who!](#) by Dr. Seuss

[Little House in the Big Woods](#) by Laura Ingalls Wilder

[Madeline](#) by Ludwig Bemelmans

[Mary Poppins](#) by P.L. Travers and Mary Shepard

[Nancy Drew and The Witch Tree Symbol](#) by Carolyn Keene

I'm leaning towards reading [Deenie](#) by Judy Blume and/or [Harrold & the Purple Crayon](#) by Crockett Johnson.

February: A Book Adapted to Film

February is a great month to read books adapted to film because we are often stuck indoors and can read and watch. Many of these film adaptations also correspond to children's books, so you can easily read two short books to start the challenge.

There are also tons of book-to-film adaptations referenced on Gilmore Girls. Here are 10 I enjoyed.

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote

The Bridges of Madison County by Robert James Waller

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Wild by Cheryl Strayed

I'm leaning towards reading **Misery** by Stephen King and/or **Emma** by Jane Austen.

March: Main Character Under 18

In many ways, Gilmore Girls is about women under 18 coming of age. Though we don't see Lorelai's younger years, they are crucial to the plot. And, of course, we watch Rory live, learn, love, and read through her Chilton years. So, let's celebrate books with main characters under 18 this month.

Below are 10 recommendations for older children, teens, and adults since we already read children's books earlier this year (though you can certainly read one here, too).

Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Carrie by Stephen King

Deenie by Judy Blume

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

I'm leaning towards **The Jungle Book** by Rudyard Kipling since I have a graphic edition.

April: A Classic Book

Rory Gilmore loves great literature, so it's no surprise there were so many classic books referenced on Gilmore Girls. We're a few months into the challenge, and I consider this the first truly challenging prompt.

However, I don't want it to be too challenging for you, so below are 10 classics I enjoyed and think are very readable.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

I'm leaning towards reading Jane Austen: **Emma** and/or **Northanger Abbey**.

May: A Translated Book

Rory reads a lot of translated literary works (particularly Russian literature), and so should we! Below are 10 literary works I recommend that originated in languages other than English. A few are on the more accessible side, and a few are challenges!

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie

Candide by Voltaire

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

I'm leaning towards reading **Gigi** by Collette or **The House of the Spirits** by Isabel Allende.

Reading Tip: For more options, check the full list for author's names that appear they may come from a non-English speaking country, such as Russia, France, or Spain. Then, search for the title on Wikipedia. It will tell you the original language of the book.

June: Required Reading

June is the first month of summer reading, which means the start of required summer reading for students. Let's do some of our own required reading with them! Below are 10 books I was required to read in high school and enjoyed.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

I'm leaning toward **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley or something by Dickens, Austen, or Hemingway.

July: A Short Book

Since it's summer, let's relax and read something short and sweet. So many short books (under 250 pages) were referenced on Gilmore Girls, including many plays and children's books. Here are 10 that I enjoyed.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhrv

Howl and Other Poems by Allen Ginsberg

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Snows of Kilimanjaro by Ernest Hemingway

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe

I'm leaning towards reading **The Art of Fiction** by Henry James, **Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** by Kate Douglas Wiggin, or **A Movable Feast** by Ernest Hemingway.

August: A Book From Season 1 of Gilmore Girls

As we prepare to rewatch *Gilmore Girls* this fall, let's read something from season 1. Here are 10 notable titles, all of which I read and enjoyed.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling

The Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Andersen

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? by Edward Albee

I'm leaning towards **Peyton Place** by Grace Metalious.

September: A Banned Book

To celebrate Banned Books Month, let's read one! I'm listing 12 recommendations for this month, which come directly from Rory's and Paris's banned books poster.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Howl and Other Poems by Allen Ginsberg

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Native Son by Richard Wright

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Ulysses by James Joyce

I'm leaning towards **Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain or **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas** by Hunter S. Thompson.

Reading Tip: The **American Library Association** retains lists of the most commonly banned books if you want more options.

October: 5 Star Reads

I want this challenge to help you both read more books from Gilmore Girls and find amazing books that impact your life. So, let's focus on books often deemed 5 out of 5 stars. Below are 10 books I rated 5-stars. You can also pick a book you anticipate will be a 5-star read.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote

Brokeback Mountain by Annie Proulx

Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhrv

Empire Falls by Richard Russo

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

I'm leaning towards reading **The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay** by Michael Chabon, **The Age of Innocence** by Edith Wharton, **The Picture of Dorian Gray** by Oscar Wilde, or **Dracula** by Bram Stoker.

November: A Non-Fiction Book

Since November is widely considered themed "Non-Fiction November" in the literary world, this is a great time to focus on non-fiction in our challenge. Here are 10 options I enjoyed.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

I Feel Bad About My Neck by Nora Ephron

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly by Anthony Bourdain

Night by Elie Wiesel

Truth & Beauty: A Friendship by Ann Patchett

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Who Moved My Cheese? by Spencer Johnson

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

I'm leaning towards reading **Autobiography of a Face** by Lucy Grealy, **The Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson, or **Me Talk Pretty One Day** by David Sedaris.

December: A Book on Your To Be Read (TBR) List

For the last month of this year's challenge, let's close it out by reading something still on your TBR list so you feel especially accomplished when you complete it.

Of course, this is a very personal challenge, but below are 10 recommendations I enjoyed on the themes of Christmas, popular picks, and must-reads.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Holidays on Ice: Stories by David Sedaris

How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

I set a **reading goal** to finish all of Jane Austen's books in 2025, so I will start there if any are still on my TBR list. **Galapagos** by Kurt Vonnegut has also been on my list for years!