

Film Adaptations for Young Adults  
 Dr. Jane Gangi  
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Please feel free to make recommendations.

While parents and educators are right to question, given the image-saturated media environment outside school hours, long periods of time spent on films in school, films can stimulate reading. In the classroom, even a short clip can be worthwhile in helping students visualize setting, context, landscape, etc.

I recommend:

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* based on the book by William Kamkwana

*Dolan's Cadillac* based on the story by Stephen King. Longtime English teacher in Vermont says he uses this with adolescents who don't like to read. They learn how Edgar Allen Poe inspired Stephen King.

*The Hate U Give* based on the book by Angie Thomas

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* based on the book by Rebecca Skloot

*Jane Eyre* based on the book by Charlotte Bronte (so many versions!)

*Moneyball* based on the book by Michael Lewis

*A Monster Calls* based on the book by Patrick Ness

*Perks of Being a Wallflower* based on the novel by Stephen Chbosky

*Rabbit Proof Fence* based on the book by Doris Pilkington—2 aboriginal children escape an Australian boarding school, overcoming all odds to survive and get home.

*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

*Whale Rider* based on the book by Witi Ihimaera

#### MORE CHOICES

*The 39 Steps* based on the book by John Buchan

*Adam Bede* based on George Eliot's novel

*The Age of Innocence* based on the book by Edith Wharton

*Babe* based on *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith

*A Beautiful Mind* based on the book by Sylvia Nasar (paranoid schizophrenia)

*The Big Sleep* based on the book by Raymond Chandler

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* based on the book by William Kamkwanda

*The Breadwinner* based on the book by Deborah Ellis

*Bridge to Terabithia* based on the book by Katherine Paterson

*Children of a Lesser God* based on the play by Mark Medoff (deafness)

*A Christmas Carol* based on the book by Charles Dickens

*The Chosen* based on the book by Chaim Potok

*City of Ember* based on the book by Jeanne DuPrau

*Coraline* based on the book by Neil Gaiman

*Daniel Deronda* based on the novel by George Eliot

*Dead Poets' Society* based on the novel by N.H. Kleinbaum

*Dolan's Cadillac* based on the story by Stephen King

*Don't Look Now* based on the book by Daphne Du Maurier

*Dr. Zhivago* based on the book by Boris Pasternak

*Dracula* based on the book by Bram Stoker

*East of Eden* based on the book by John Steinbeck  
*Empire of the Sun* based on the book by J. G. Ballard  
*Flyboy* based on the book by James Bradley  
*Great Expectations* based on the book by Charles Dickens  
*Gulliver's Travels* based on the book by Jonathan Swift  
*Hatchet* based on the book by Gary Paulsen.  
*The Handmaid's Tale* based on the novel by Margaret Atwood  
*Harry Potter* based on the based on the books by J. K. Rowling  
*The Hate U Give* based on the book by Angie Thomas  
*How Green Was My Valley* based on the book by Richard Llwyllan  
*Howl's Moving Castle* based on the book by Diana Wynne Jones  
*I, Robot* based on the book by Isaac Asimov  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* based on the book by Rebecca Skloot  
*It's Kind of a Funny Story* based on the book by Ned Vizzini  
*Jane Eyre* based on the book by Charlotte Bronte  
*Jurassic Park* based on the book by Michael Chrichton  
*Lincoln* based on *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Godwin  
*The Lord of the Rings* based on the books by J. R. R. Tolkien  
*Love Simon* based on the book *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli  
*The Maltese Falcon* based on the book by Dashiell Hammett  
*Man of La Mancha* based on *Don Quixote* by Cervantes  
*The Miracle Worker* based on the play by William Gibson  
*Moby Dick* based on the book by Herman Melville  
*Moneyball* based on the book by Michael Lewis  
*A Monster Calls* based on the book by Patrick Ness  
*Nothing but the Truth* based on the book by Avi  
*Oliver Twist* based on the book by Charles Dickens  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* based on the novel by Ken Kesey  
*Perks of Being a Wallflower* based on the novel by Stephen Chbosky  
*Pride and Prejudice* based on the novel by Jane Austen  
*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* based on the book by Muriel Spark  
*Rabbit Proof Fence* based on the book by Doris Pilkington  
*The Return of the Native* based on Thomas Hardy's novel  
*The Right Stuff* based on the book by Tom Wolfe  
*A Room with a View* based on the book by E. M. Forster  
*Run Silent, Run Deep* based on the book by Edward L. Beach  
*Seabiscuit* based on the book by Laura Hillenbrand  
*Searching for Bobby Fischer* based on the book by Fred Waitzkin  
*Sense and Sensibility* based on the novel by Jane Austen  
*A Streetcar Named Desire* based on the play by Tennessee Williams  
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* based on the book by Thomas Hardy  
*Things Fall Apart* based on the book by Chinua Achebe  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* based on the book by Harper Lee  
*Up the Down Staircase* based on the book by Bel Kaufman  
*Watership Down* based on the book by Richard Adams  
*Whale Rider* based on the book by Witi Ihimaera  
*White Fang* based on the story by Jack London  
*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* based on the play by Edward Albee

*A Wrinkle in Time* based on the book by Madeline L'Engle  
*Wuthering Heights* based on the book by Emily Bronte

**R rated—**

*Brokeback Mountain* based on the book by Anne Proulx  
*Dolan's Cadillac* based on the novella by Stephen King  
*The English Patient* based on the book by Michael Ondaatje  
*The Godfather* based on the book by Mario Puzo  
*The Joy Luck Club* based on the book by Amy Tan  
*Lolita* based on the book by Vladimir Nabokov  
*Manhunter* based on *Red Dragon* by Thomas Harris  
*My Left Foot* based on Christy Brown's autobiography  
*The Silence of the Lambs* based on the book by Thomas Harris  
*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* based on the book by John le Carré

**Screenplays to Texts**

*Billy Elliot* by Lee Hall, based on the film *Billy Elliot*  
*Stand and Deliver* based on the film by Nicholas Edwards et al.  
*Star Wars*—the books came after

**Films Historical and Current Events in Literature**

**Ancient Times:** *Masada*

**Medieval/Renaissance:** *Camelot*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* based on the book by Victor Hugo,  
*The Lion in Winter*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Girl with the Pearl Earring* based on the book by Tracey Chevalier

**Enslavement:** *Amistad* (R rated), *Django Unchained* (R rated)

**Civil War:** Ken Burns's documentary based on letters and documents

**Late 1800s:** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*Babette's Feast*, based on the story by Isak Dinesen

*Cold Sassy Tree*, based on the book by Olive Ann Burns

**Turn of Century:** *The Secret Garden*; *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*The Unsinkable Molly Brown*

**World War I:** Trumbo, Dalton. *Johnny Got His Gun* (R rated)

*All Quiet on the Western Front* based on the book by Erich Maria Remarque

**Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century/Depression:** *Rosewood*

*The Color Purple* based on the book by Alice Walker

*The Grapes of Wrath* based on the book by John Steinbeck

*The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* based on the book by Carson McCullers

*To Kill a Mockingbird* based on the book by Harper Lee

**World War II:**

*A Midnight Clear* based on the book by William Wharton

*The Remains of the Day* based on the book by Kazuo Ishiguro

*Schindler's List* based on the book by Thomas Kenneally

*Sophie's Choice* based on the book by William Styron (R rated)

*The Summer of My German Soldier* based on the book by Bette Greene

*The Thin Red Line* based on James Jones's autobiographical novel

*Unbroken* based on the book by Lauren Hillenbrand

**Post World War II:** *Gandhi*, Ben Kingsley

**Civil Rights:** *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* based on the book by Ernest Gaines

*Malcolm X*

**Professional Literature**

- Boyum, Joy. 1985. *Double Exposure: Fiction into Film*. New York: New American Library.
- Esslin, Martin. 1987. *The Field of Drama: How the Signs of Drama Create Meanings on Stage and Screen*. New York: Methuen.
- Morris, Tim. 2000. *You're Only Young Twice: Children's Literature and Film*. Urbana: U of Illinois Press.

**AUTHORS WHOSE BOOKS HAVE BEEN ADAPTED TO FILM**

**James Baldwin**

*If Beale Street Could Talk*

**Pearl Buck**

<https://www.english.upenn.edu/Projects/Buck/films.html>

**Albert Camus**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Stranger\\_\(1967\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Stranger_(1967_film))

**Lewis Carroll**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works\\_based\\_on\\_Alice\\_in\\_Wonderland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_based_on_Alice_in_Wonderland)

**Willa Cather**

<https://gustavus.edu/english/cather/movies.html>

**Cervantes**

*Don Quixote*

**Stephen Crane**

*The Red Badge of Courage, The Blue Hotel*

**Daniel Defoe**

*Robinson Crusoe*

**Charles Dickens**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Charles\\_Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Charles_Dickens)

**Dostoevski**

<http://airshipdaily.com/blog/05222014-dostoevsky-film-adaptations>

**Arthur Conan Doyle**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Arthur\\_Conan\\_Doyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Arthur_Conan_Doyle)

**Theodore Dreiser**

<https://dreiseronlinecom.wordpress.com/category/film-adaptations/page/2/>

**Alexandre Dumas**

*The Count of Monte Cristo; The Three Musketeers*

**George Eliot**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Eliot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Eliot)

**Ralph Ellison**

*Invisible Man*

**F. Scott Fitzgerald**

*The Great Gatsby*

**Gustave Flaubert**

*Madame Bovary*

**E.M. Forster**

<https://www.musicandmeaning.com/forster/film.html>

**William Golding**

*The Lord of the Flies*

**Graham Greene**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Graham\\_Greene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Graham_Greene)

**Thomas Hardy**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Thomas\\_Hardy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Thomas_Hardy)

**Nathaniel Hawthorne**

<https://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/nh/nhfilm.html>

**Ernest Hemingway**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest\\_Hemingway\\_bibliography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Hemingway_bibliography)

**Langston Hughes**

<https://shadowandact.com/5-works-of-langston-hughes-that-could-be-adapted-for-the-screen>

**Victor Hugo**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Victor\\_Hugo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Victor_Hugo)

**Zora Neale Hurston**

*Their Eyes Were Watching God*

**Aldous Huxley**

[http://www.fampeople.com/cat-aldous-huxley\\_3](http://www.fampeople.com/cat-aldous-huxley_3)

**Henry James**

<http://www.unbearablebookishness.com/2013/04/the-three-best-henry-james-adaptations.html>

**James Joyce**

<https://guides.nyu.edu/c.php?g=276890&p=1848438>

**Stephen King**

I don't know how many of these are "school appropriate":

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_adaptations\\_of\\_works\\_by\\_Stephen\\_King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_adaptations_of_works_by_Stephen_King)

**Arthur Koestler**

*Darkness at Noon*

**D. H. Lawrence**

<https://mercouris.wordpress.com/2011/04/16/british-film-adaptations-of-d-h-lawrence/>

**Sinclair Lewis**

<https://english.illinoisstate.edu/sinclairlewis/works/film.shtml>

**Somerset Maugham**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Somerset\\_Maugham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Somerset_Maugham)

**Herman Melville**

<https://www.filmaffinity.com/en/movie-group.php?group-id=1236>

**Arthur Miller**

*The Enemy of the People*

*The Crucible*

**Toni Morrison**

*Beloved*

**George Orwell**

<https://georgeorwellauthorproject.weebly.com/film-adaptations.html>

**Boris Pasternak**

*Dr. Zhivago*

**Alan Paton**

*Cry, the Beloved Country*

**Edgar Allan Poe**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar\\_Allan\\_Poe\\_in\\_television\\_and\\_film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Allan_Poe_in_television_and_film)

**Erich Maria Remarque**

*All Quiet on the Western Front*

**Henryk Sienkiewicz**

*Quo Vadis*

**John Steinbeck**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_John\\_Steinbeck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_John_Steinbeck)

**Robert Louis Stevenson**

<http://robert-louis-stevenson.org/richard-dury-archive/films-rls.html>

**Jonathan Swift**

*Gulliver's Travels*

**William Thackeray**

*Vanity Fair*

**Leo Tolstoy**

<https://www.russianartandculture.com/5-best-screen-adaptations-of-leo-tolstoy-novels/>

**Ivan Turgenev**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Ivan\\_Turgenev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Ivan_Turgenev)

**Mark Twain**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films\\_based\\_on\\_works\\_by\\_Mark\\_Twain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Films_based_on_works_by_Mark_Twain)

**Robert Penn Warren**

*All the King's Men*

**Edith Wharton**

<https://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/wharton/wfilm.htm>

**Thornton Wilder**

<http://www.twildersociety.org/2003/06/15/wilder-and-film/>

**Tennessee William**

<https://ew.com/gallery/tennessee-williams-movies/>

**Richard Wright**

*Native Son*

**Websites****10 Black Women's Book-to-Film Adaptations**

<https://negression.com/2014/11/13/black-womens-book-to-film-adaptations/>

**The 40 best book-to-film adaptations ever**

Nor do I know how many of these are “school appropriate”;

<https://www.shortlist.com/entertainment/films/40-best-film-adaptations/84766>

**Rubric**

In two-three double-spaced pages, write an essay comparing the text and the film

	<b>Strong (6)</b>	<b>Acceptable (4)</b>	<b>Weak (2)</b>	<b>Unacceptable (0)</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
<b>Knowledge of Book and Film</b>	Essay demonstrates knowledge of both book and film. Specific details are included for the book and the film	Essay somewhat demonstrates knowledge of both book and film. Specific details are somewhat included for the book and the film	Essay demonstrates little knowledge of book and film		
<b>Compare/contrast</b>	Essay shows how the book and film are alike as well as how they are different	Essay somewhat shows how the book and film are alike as well as how they are different	Essay shows little of the differences and similarities of the book and film		
Personal response	Essay includes your personal response to the book and the film	Essay somewhat includes your personal response to the book and the film			
	<b>Strong (3)</b>	<b>Acceptable (2)</b>	<b>Weak (1)</b>	<b>Unacceptable (0)</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
<b>APA/MLA/Chicago</b>	-Made 1-3 style guide errors	-Made 4-5 style guide errors	-A specific style guide error has been pointed out	-No work will be accepted late after one week without a doctors' note	
<b>Conventions of Standard English</b>	-Made 1-2 errors of the conventions of Standard English	-Made 3-4 errors of the conventions of standard English -A specific error in standard	-A specific error in standard English has been pointed out three times	-An error in standard English has been pointed out 4 times= -2 5 times= -3 6 times= -4	



		English has been pointed out once or twice		And so on.	
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**Total Points (max. 24):** \_\_\_\_\_

A=22-24

A-=20-21

B+=18-19

B=16-17

B-=15 C+=14 C=13

C-=12