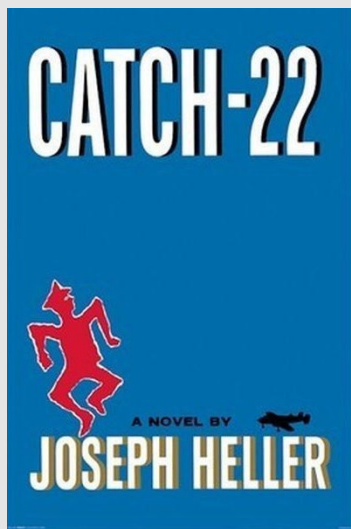


# READER SPOTLIGHT

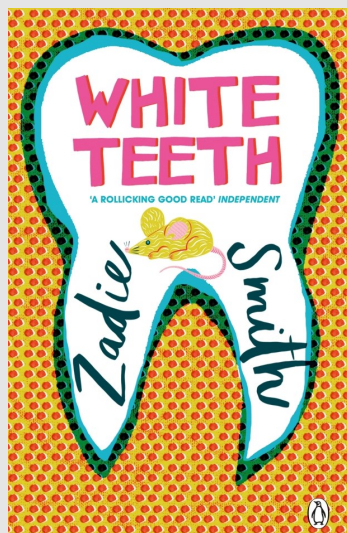
## Amy 'Table' Studzienko

### SEPTEMBER 2018



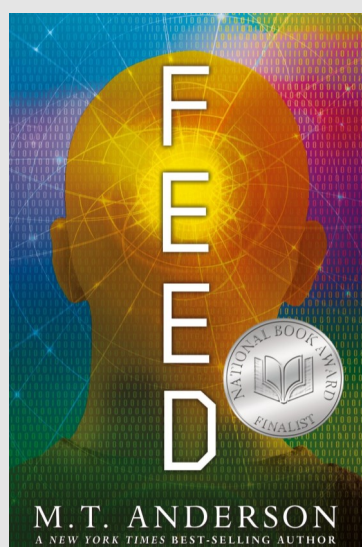
#### Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

This is my favorite book. It's incredibly dark, but told with great humor. There's a million characters and every single person in this book is crazy in a different way, and it's captivating. Once you've read this, you'll meet people and you'll realize 'oh, everybody is actually nuts!



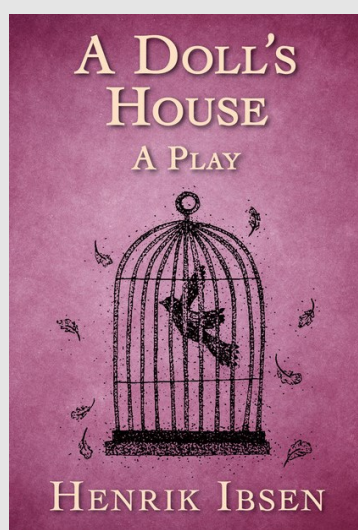
#### White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Zadie Smith is amazing! She is funny and she is *real*, and she thinks about the big forces in the world that affect how we function. She considers what happens when you have a person of one color next to a person of another color in a particular setting. How does everybody behave? How does the setting behave? Fascinating and incredibly entertaining.



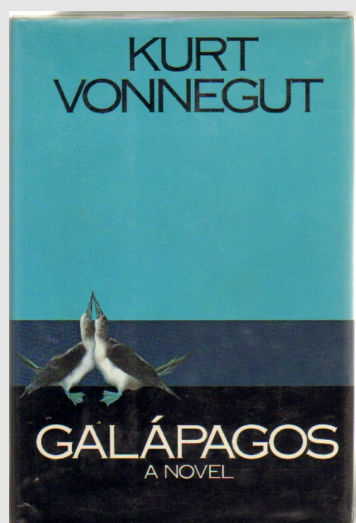
#### Feed by M.T. Anderson

I love this book because I am a Luddite. It considers what could happen when we've gone too far with personal technology. The feed is an implant in everyone's brain, inserted during infancy. It's how people watch TV, text their friends, and lookup information. The feed is on all the time. And then... we meet a character who doesn't have a feed....!



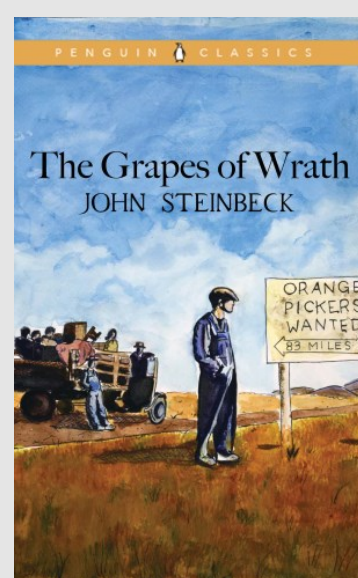
#### A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

An under-the-radar feminist drama with a surprise. Reading a play allows you to get more out of the story than seeing it, because there are no cues from performers to construe the story. You can seize the world you're reading in rather than the world seizing you. This is a play for people that are new to reading drama. And for people that want to stick it to the man!



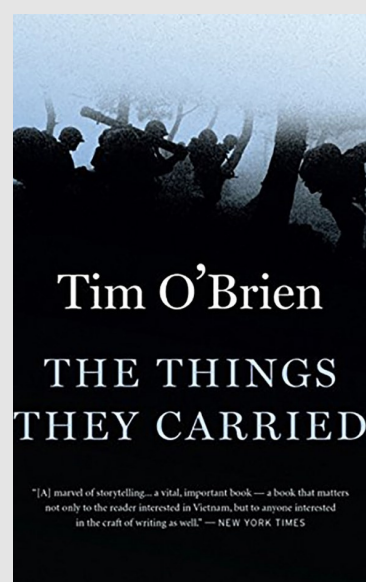
#### Galapagos by Kurt Vonnegut

Vonnegut takes elements of reality, then adds craziness and impossibility. He's so funny, and visceral, and wacky, and he lies a lot so that he can show you what society is actually like. Just suspend all your disbelief and say, 'yes, humans will turn into seals eventually.'



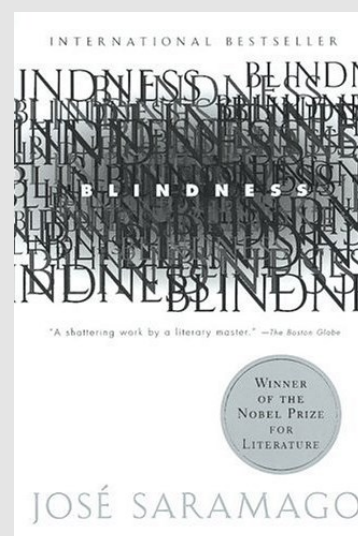
#### The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

One of the most important books in my world. This is a book that my students read. It looks at history, economics, agriculture, and exploitation. It examines these themes with humor and heart. It is intense and it is poetic. For me, it's a major pillar.



#### The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

I like fiction and history together, because by lying you actually tell a more accurate story. O'Brien goes in and out of what actually happens, and it's hard to know where the line is, but it's so effective. O'Brien says in this book, "to tell it truthfully, you have to lie."



#### Blindness by Jose Saramago

We're in a hospital and every single person is blind. It's a plague that has hit the whole world all at once. Saramago unveils the way humanity and the world changes with the loss of vision. This book is intoxicating, but you may want it in small doses. It's gritty.

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