

2024 rory gilmore reading challenge

MONTHLY PROMPTS

January: A Kids' Book

I always like to start the year off with an easy prompt so readers can get a quick win and/or catch up quickly if they find the Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge later in the year and want to join.

There are *tons* of children's books referenced on Gilmore Girls. Here are ten I personally enjoyed.

- [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) by Lewis Carroll
- [Charlotte's Web](#) by E.B. White
- [Eloise at the Plaza](#) by Kay Thompson
- [Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective](#) by Donald J. Sobol
- [Horton Hears a Who!](#) by Dr. Seuss
- [How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#) 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
- [The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#) by Frank L. Baum

February: A Book Adapted to Film

February makes for a great month to read books adapted to film because we are often stuck indoors and can both read AND watch. Additionally, many of these film adaptations correspond to children's books, so you can easily read two short books to start the 2024 Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge.

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

- [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) by Truman Capote

- [The Bridges of Madison County](#) by Robert James Waller
- [Gone Girl](#) by Gillian Flynn
- [Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#) by J.K. Rowling
- [Love Story](#) by Erich Segal
- [The Outsiders](#) by S.E. Hinton
- [The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) by Stephen Chbosky
- [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen
- [Pygmalion](#) by George Bernard Shaw (the movie *My Fair Lady*)
- [Wild](#) by Cheryl Strayed

March: A Book by a Female Author

Since women are the focus of *Gilmore Girls*, let's read a book by a female author to celebrate Women's History Month. Here are ten important books by prolific women that I personally enjoyed.

- [The Awakening](#) by Kate Chopin
- [Bel Canto](#) by Ann Patchett
- [The Bell Jar](#) by Sylvia Plath
- [Beloved](#) by Toni Morrison
- [Daughter of Fortune](#) by Isabel Allende
- [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) by Anne Frank
- [I Feel Bad About My Neck](#) by Nora Ephron
- [The Joy Luck Club](#) by Amy Tan
- [A Room of One's Own](#) by Virginia Woolf
- [Sense and Sensibility](#) by Jane Austen

April: A Classic Book

Rory Gilmore is a lover of great literature, so it's no surprise there were so many classic books referenced on *Gilmore Girls*. A few months into the 2024 Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge now, I consider this to be the first really challenging prompt.

However, I don't want it to be TOO challenging for you, so below are ten classics I personally 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

May: A Popular Book

This prompt was a reader request, and I think it's a great one. Part of what inspired me to take the Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge myself was to read all the popular books I had missed out on when the show aired and I was busy with schoolwork. I want to understand all the references!

Here are ten books popular generally AND with members of our book club that I have personally enjoyed.

- [And Then There Were None](#) by Agatha Christie
- [Angela's Ashes](#) by Frank McCourt
- [The Bridges of Madison County](#) by Robert James Waller
- [Charlotte's Web](#) by E.B. White
- [Gone Girl](#) by Gillian Flynn
- [Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#) by J.K. Rowling
- [The Lovely Bones](#) by Alice Sebold
- [The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) by Stephen Chbosky
- [The Secret Life of Bees](#) by Sue Monk Kidd
- [The Shining](#) by Stephen King

June: A Book Rory Gilmore Read

This reading challenge is all about Rory, yet we've never before dedicated an entire prompt to her, so now is truly the time to do so. This is especially true in June when graduations are abundant, as it's reminiscent of the [books Rory mentioned in her graduation speech](#). Below are these and a few more Rory has famously read herself.

- [Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#) by Mark Twain
- [Anna Karenina](#) by Leo Tolstoy
- [The Collected Stories](#) by Eudora Welty
- [A Confederacy of Dunces](#) by John Kennedy Toole
- [Moby Dick](#) by Herman Melville
- [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen
- [The Sound and the Fury](#) by William Faulkner
- [Swann's Way: In Search of Lost Time \(Vol. I\)](#) by Marcel Proust
- [The Year of Magical Thinking](#) by Joan Didion
- [War and Peace](#) by Leo Tolstoy

July: A Short Book

Since it's Summer, let's relax and read something short and sweet. There are so many short books (under 250 pages) that were referenced on *Gilmore Girls*, including lots of plays and children's books. Here are ten that I personally enjoyed.

- [The Art of War](#) by Sun Tzu
- [Candide](#) by Voltaire
- [Driving Miss Daisy](#) by Alfred Uhrv
- [The Metamorphosis](#) by Franz Kafka
- [Of Mice and Men](#) by John Steinbeck
- [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
- [Tuesdays with Morrie](#) by Mitch Albom

August: A Book From 2000-2007

As we prepare to rewatch *Gilmore Girls* this Fall, let's get ready by reading something that was published contemporaneously with its original air dates. Here are ten popular books published in that timeframe that show how hip to their times the *Gilmore Girls* are.

- [Eat, Pray, Love](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert
- [The Five People You Meet in Heaven](#) by Mitch Albom
- [Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire](#) by J.K. Rowling
- [He's Just Not That Into You](#) by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo
- [Life of Pi](#) by Yann Martel
- [The Lovely Bones](#) by Alice Sebold
- [Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly](#) by Anthony Bourdain
- [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini
- [My Sister's Keeper](#) by Jodi Picoult
- [The Time Traveler's Wife](#) by Audrey Niffenegger

September: A Book Jess Mariano Read

Back in June, we read a book Rory Gilmore read. Now, let's read [a book Jess Mariano read](#). With Jess being her most bookish suitor, it only makes sense... whether or not you're Team Jess! Here are ten popular books Jess read or referenced on *Gilmore Girls*.

- [The Catcher in the Rye](#) by J.D. Salinger
- [A Confederacy of Dunces](#) by John Kennedy Toole

- [Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas](#) by Hunter S. Thompson
- [The Fountainhead](#) by Ayn Rand
- [Frankenstein](#) by Mary Shelley
- [Franny and Zooey](#) by J.D. Salinger
- [High Fidelity](#) by Nick Hornby
- [Howl and Other Poems](#) by Allen Ginsberg
- [On the Road](#) by Jack Kerouac
- [Slaughterhouse-Five](#) by Kurt Vonnegut

October: Shakespeare

I consider this prompt to offer a bit of a challenge for you this month. It's also the first time we've dedicated an entire prompt to one author. There's no better one here than Shakespeare, as his works are featured more than any other author on *Gilmore Girls*.

My hope is that you are willing to take on this challenge. Shakespeare can be difficult, but it can be much easier to understand with study guides and modern translations. This strategy has made his some of my favorite works of all time.

Here are ten Shakespearean recommendations for you.

- [A Comedy of Errors](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Hamlet](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Henry IV, part I](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Julius Caesar](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Macbeth](#) by William Shakespeare
- [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Othello](#) by William Shakespeare
- [Romeo and Juliet](#) by William Shakespeare
- [The Sonnets](#) by William Shakespeare
- [The Tragedy of Richard III](#) by William Shakespeare

November: A Non-Fiction Book

Since November is widely considered to be themed "Non-Fiction November" in the book world, this is a great time to focus on non-fiction in the Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge. Here are ten options I personally enjoyed.

- [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) by Anne Frank
- [Holidays on Ice: Stories](#) by David Sedaris
- [I Feel Bad About My Neck](#) by Nora Ephron
- [Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly](#) by Anthony Bourdain
- [The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up](#) by Marie Kondo
- [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

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

For the last month of this year's Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge, let's close out the year by reading something that's STILL on your TBR list, so you really feel accomplished when you complete it.

Of course, this is another very personal challenge, but below are ten of my personal favorite books referenced on *Gilmore Girls* so you can end the year strong.

- [Angela's Ashes](#) by Frank McCourt
- [The Bell Jar](#) by Sylvia Plath
- [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) by Truman Capote
- [Brokeback Mountain](#) by Annie Proulx
- [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) by Anne Frank
- [Driving Miss Daisy](#) by Alfred Urv
- [The Glass Menagerie](#) by Tennessee Williams
- [The Lovely Bones](#) by Alice Sebold
- [The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) by Stephen Chbosky
- [Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen