

# Marine Corps reading list

*The titles listed below are required to be read by all Marines while serving in the grade shown. These titles are specifically focused on war fighting.*

*Leaders are expected to have read all books of those grades junior to the grades they currently hold, and to engage their juniors and peers in frequent discussion of these titles. The goal is to achieve excellence in war fighting based on competence and comradeship.*

- I. Required Reading by Grade
  - a. Private to Lance Corporal
    - i. *A Message to Garcia*
    - ii. *Rifleman Dodd* by C.S. Forster
    - iii. *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara
    - iv. *The Soldier's Load* by S.L.A. Marshall
    - v. *The Defense of Duffer's Drift* by E.D. Swinton
    - vi. *Black Hawk Down* by Mark Bowden
    - vii. *Constitution of the United States*
  - b. Corporal to Sergeant
    - i. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
    - ii. *Battle Leadership* by Adolph Von Schell
    - iii. *With the Old Breed at Pelelieu and Okinawa* by E.B. Sledge
    - iv. *The Bridge at Dong Ha* by John Miller
    - v. *Gates of Fire* by Steven Pressfield
    - vi. *The United States Marines: A History* by BGen E.H. Simmons
    - vii. *The Last Full Measure* by Jeff Shaara
    - viii. *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley
    - ix. *Fields of Fire* by James Webb
    - x. *Tip of the Spear* by Sgt G. J. Michaels
  - c. Staff Sergeant of Marines
    - i. *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu (Griffith translation is recommended)
    - ii. *The Forgotten Soldier* by Guy Sajer
    - iii. *Pegasus Bridge* by Stephen Ambrose
    - iv. *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* by Moore and Galloway
    - v. *Phase Line Green-The Battle for Hue 1968* by Nicholas Warr
    - vi. *The Village* by Francis West
    - vii. *This Kind of War* by T.R. Fehrenbach
    - viii. *The Arab Mind* by R. Patai
    - ix. *Attacks!* By Erwin Rommel
  - d. Gunnery Sergeant
    - i. *Semper Fidelis: The History of the U.S. Marine Corps* by Allan Millet
    - ii. *Navajo Weapon* by Sally McClain
    - iii. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen Ambrose
    - iv. *Breakout* by Martin Russ
    - v. *My American Journey* by Colin Powell
    - vi. *Unaccustomed Fear* by Roger Willock
    - vii. *Savage Wars Peace* by Max Boot
    - viii. *Command in War* by Martin Van Creveld
  - e. Master Sergeant and First Sergeant
    - i. *Bayonet Forward!* By Joshua Chamberlain
    - ii. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence
    - iii. *Defeat into Victory* by William Slim
    - iv. *Band of Brothers* by Stephen Ambrose
    - v. *Strong Men Armed* by Robert Leckie
    - vi. *The Mask of Command* by John Keegan
    - vii. *War in the Shadows* by R. B. Asprey
    - viii. *The Face of Battle* by John Keegan

- f. Master Gunnery Sergeant to Sergeant Major
  - i. *First to Fight* by Victor Krulak
  - ii. *Fortune Favors the Brave* by Bruce Myers
  - iii. *Reminiscences of a Marine* by John A. Lejeune
  - iv. *No Bended Knee* by Merrill Twining
- g. Warrant Officer
  - i. *Small Wars Manual*
  - ii. *Leading Marines MCWP 6-11*
  - iii. *Victory at High Tide* by Robert Haint
  - iv. *The Armed Forces Officer* by S.L.A. Marshall
  - v. *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene
- h. Officer Candidate, Cadet, Midshipman
  - i. *Beat to Quarters* by C.S. Forester
  - ii. *A Message to Garcia*
  - iii. *The United States Marines: A History* by BGen E. H. Simmons
  - iv. *MCDP-1 Warfighting*
  - v. *Chesty* by Jon Hoffman
- i. Second Lieutenant
  - i. *Rifleman Dodd* by C.S Forester
  - ii. *On Infantry* by John English & Bruce Gudmundsson
  - iii. *This Kind of War* by T. R. Fehrenback
  - iv. *Cleared Hot* by Bob Stoffey
  - v. *Fields of Fire* by James Web
  - vi. *Chancellorsville* by Stephen W. Sears
  - vii. *The Easter Offensive* by G. H. Turley
  - viii. *The Face of Battle* by John Keegan
  - ix. *The Arab Mind* by R. Patai
- j. First Lieutenant and Chief Warrant Officer 2
  - i. *The Ugly American* by Lederer and Burdick
  - ii. *Reminiscences of a Marine* by John a Lejeune
  - iii. *A People Numerous and Armed* by John Shy
  - iv. *All for the Union* by Elisha Hunt Rhodes
  - v. *The Storm of Steel* by Ernst Junger
  - vi. *Once an Eagle* by Anton Myrer
  - vii. *Company Commander* by Charles B. MacDonald
  - viii. *The Forgotten Soldier* by Guy Sajer
  - ix. *Utmost Savagery* by Joseph Alexander
  - x. *Attacks!* By Erwin Rommel
- k. Captain and Chief Warrant Officer 3
  - i. *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu (Griffith translation is best)
  - ii. *Fields of Battle* by John Keegan
  - iii. *Goodbye Darkness* by William Manchester
  - iv. *From Beirut to Jerusalem* by Thomas Friedman
  - v. *Unaccustomed to Fear* by Roger Willcock
  - vi. *Command in War* by Martin Van Creveld
  - vii. *Eagle Against the Sun* by Ronald Specter
  - viii. *Stonewall in the Valley* by Robert G. Tanner
  - ix. *Savage Wars of Peace* by Max Boot
  - x. *Infantry in Battle compiled* by George C. Marshall
  - xi. *Field Artillery and Firepower* by J.B.A Bailey
  - xii. *Terrorism Today* by Christopher Harmon
- l. Major and Chief Warrant Officer 4
  - i. *Grant Takes Command* by Bruce Catton
  - ii. *The General* by C.S. Forester
  - iii. *On War* by Karl von Clausewitz (Howard ad Paret)
  - iv. *European Armies* by Hew Strachan
  - v. *The Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman
  - vi. *The Mask of Command* by John Keegan
  - vii. *A Bright Shining Lie* by Neil Sheehan
  - viii. *Crucible of War* by Fred Anderson
  - ix. *Strategy* by B. H. Liddell Hart
  - x. *The Glorious Cause* by Robert Middlekauff
  - xi. *For the Common Defense* by Millet and Maslowski
  - xii. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* by James M.

- McPherson
- xiii. *The History of the Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides (“The Landmark” version by Strasser recommended)
- m. Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Warrant Officer 5
- i. *A Revolutionary People at War* by Charles Royster
- ii. *Defeat into Victory* by William Slim
- iii. *Patton: A Genius for War* by Carlo D’Este
- iv. *The Army and Viet Nam* by Andrew F. Krepinevich
- v. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T. E. Lawrence
- vi. *One Hundred Days* by ADM Sandy Woodward
- vii. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* by Thomas L. Friedman
- viii. *Supplying War* by Martin Van Creveld
- ix. *Masters of War* by Michael I. Handel
- x. *The Roots of Blitzkrieg* by James S. Corum
- xi. *Frontiersmen in Blue* by Robert M. Utley
- n. Colonel to General
- i. *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution* by James McPherson
- ii. *Supreme Command* by Eliot Cohen
- iii. *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque
- iv. *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- v. *Military Innovation in the Interwar Period* by Murray and Millett
- vi. *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang
- vii. *Dereliction of Duty* by H. R. McMaster
- viii. *Diplomacy* by Henry Kissinger
- ix. *Carnage and Culture* by Victor Davis Hanson
- x. *Crusade in Europe* by Dwight D. Eisenhower
- xi. *Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman*; Edited by William S. McFeely
- xii. *Feeding Mars* by John Lynn
- xiii. *Eisenhower’s Lieutenants* by Russell S. Weigley
- xiv. *Fleet Tactics and Coastal Combat* by Wayne P. Hughes Jr.
- xv. *Generalship: Its Diseases and Their Cure* by J. F. C. Fuller
- xvi. *Inventing Grand Strategy and Teaching Command* by Jon T. Sumida
- xvii. *The Campaigns of Napoleon* by David G. Chandler
- xviii. *The Conduct of War* by J. F. C. Fuller