

# The Lost Code:

## Key Literary References and Influ-



**Heart of Darkness** by Joseph Conrad  
**CAS A CONR/ eAudiobook**

A man journeys through the Congo and contemplates the nature of good and evil. There are several references, especially in relation to Colonel's Kurtz's descent toward madness.

**The Stand** by Stephen King **FIC KING**

A battle between good and evil ensues after a deadly virus decimates the population. Producers cite this book as a major influence, and other King allusions (*Carrie*, *On Writing*, *The Shining*, *Dark Tower* series, etc.) pop up frequently.

**The Odyssey** by Homer **FIC HOME/883 HOME/ CD BOOK 883.1 HOME/CAS A HOME/ eAudiobook**

Greek epic about Odysseus's harrowing journey home to his wife Penelope after the Trojan War. Parallels abound, especially in the characters of Desmond and Penny.

**Slaughterhouse-Five** by Kurt Vonnegut **FIC VON**

A World War II soldier becomes "unstuck in time," and is jerked back and forth between the past and future.

**Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass** by Lewis Carroll **J CARR/CAS J CARR/eAudiobook\***

The surreal children's classic about a young girl who falls down a rabbit hole to discover a world of nonsensical, comical characters and its sequel. Among other references, white rabbits are a recurring theme in *Lost*. \*Alice only

**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** by Frank L. Baum  
**FIC BAUM/J BAUM**

After a cyclone strands her in the land of Oz, Dorothy seeks a way home. Obvious tie-ins include the "Henry Gale" story, the red shoes Desmond observes in one of his flashes, and repeated references to "the man behind the curtain."

## Island Predecessors



**The Lord of the Flies** by William Golding  
**FIC GOLD/ CD J BOOK GOLD**

A group of boys marooned on an island they believe to be haunted by a terrifying monster is divided in a power struggle between two groups in this classic tale of morality and society.

**The Mysterious Island** by Jules Verne **J VERN/FIC VERN**

Five men and a dog crash land their balloon on a faraway, fantastic island and struggle to survive as they uncover the island's mysterious secrets.

**Island** by Aldous Huxley **FIC HUXL**

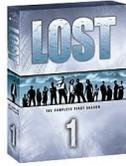
A remote island where the ideal society flourishes is threatened by the greed and envy of the outside world when an emissary of those who wish to overtake the island is shipwrecked there.

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### LOST on DVD



*Lost Complete First Season*

*Lost Season 2: Extended Experience*

*Lost Season 3: The Unexplored Experience*

*Lost: The Complete Fourth Season: The Expanded Experience*

*Lost: The Complete Fifth Season: The Journey Back*

\**Lost: Complete Sixth & Final Season* is due for release 8/24/10.

### LOST Episode Guide

In addition to the biblical episode titles, there are several other *Lost* episode titles with literature/philosophy connections. These include "White Rabbit" and "Through the Looking Glass" from Carroll's Alice books; "Catch-22"; "Tabula Rosa" (philosopher John Locke's theory that the human mind is a blank slate at birth); and "The Man Behind the Curtain" and "There's No Place Like Home" (The Wonderful Wizard of Oz).



**Left Behind** by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins

**SF LAHA/LT LAHA/CAS A JENK/eAudiobook**

Select people disappear mysteriously from a plane (à la *Lost*'s Ajira Airways flight) while others are left behind to cope with the beginnings of apocalypse.

**The Little Prince** by Antoine de Saint Exupéry **J 398.2 DESA**

A pilot crash lands in the Sahara Desert and encounters a little prince from a small planet who recounts his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life.

**Stranger in a Strange Land** by Robert Heinlein

**SF HEIN/CD BOOK HEIN/CAS A HEIN**

A man born and raised on Mars arrives on Earth with extrasensory powers, and his visit brings into doubt the values and beliefs of Western society.

**A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens **FIC DICK/eAudiobook**

Two men love the same woman in the era of the French Revolution. The episode title references the separate societies of the Others and the crash survivors.

### STILL LOST?

**Lostpedia: [www.lostpedia.com](http://www.lostpedia.com)**

Visit this extensive wiki on all things *Lost* to discover more literary connections, or to seek the answers to some of your lingering questions.

**For more library pathfinders, go to**

[www.bcplib.org/Good\\_Reads/Pathfinders.htm](http://www.bcplib.org/Good_Reads/Pathfinders.htm)

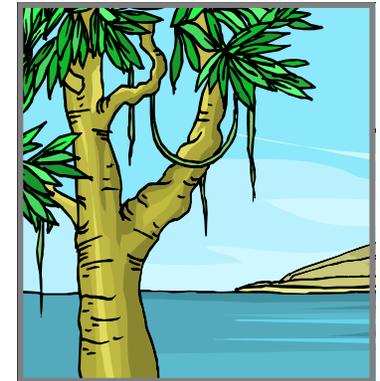
**Is there a subject you'd like to learn more about? If you have suggestions for future pathfinders, let me know!**

Tracy Weikel, BCPL Reference Dept.

[reference@bcplib.org](mailto:reference@bcplib.org)

# LOST

## With a Good Book



*At a loss now that the TV series has ended?*

See the show with new eyes by exploring some of the many books referenced on the show.

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MAY 2010

# Cameo Appearances...

Many *Lost* characters—most notably Sawyer—are avid readers. These are some of the books that are read or otherwise seen on the show.

**After All These Years** by Susan Isaacs

**FIC ISAA/CAS A ISAA**

A schoolteacher finds her cheating spouse dead after their 25th anniversary bash and goes in search of the killer before she can be arrested for a crime she didn't commit.

**Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret** by Judy Blume

**J BLUM/CAS J BLUM**

A classic teen novel where a girl struggles with issues of growing up and religion.

**Bad Twin** by Gary Troup **MYS TROUP/LT TROUP**

A private detective hired by Clifford Widmore to find his "bad" identical twin discovers troubling secrets. This TV tie-in novel is supposed to be the unpublished manuscript found on the show amidst the wreckage of Oceanic 815.

**A Brief History of Time** by Stephen Hawking **eAudio-book**

A popular, landmark book on time travel and black holes.

**The Brothers Karamazov** by Fyodor Dostoyevsky **FIC DOST**

A Russian novel of family disputes and patricide that explores complex issues of God, free will, and morality.

**Catch-22** by Joseph Heller **FIC HELL**

Classic novel centered around an airman in the U.S. Army during World War II. Characterized by multiple points of view and a non-chronological narrative full of flashbacks.

**The Chosen** by Chaim Potok **FIC POTO/J POTO/CAS J POTO**

The story of a friendship between two Jewish boys in 1940s Brooklyn.

**Evil Under the Sun** by Agatha Christie **CAS A CHRI**

Hercule Poirot investigates the murder of a young woman at a beach resort.

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury **SF BRAD**

Classic dystopian/science fiction novel in which people live hedonistic lives and critical thought is banned.

**The Fountainhead** by Ayn Rand **FIC RAND**

This story of a nonconformist young architect and his struggles with love and society examines the various archetypes of human character.

**Grimm's Fairy Tales [The Annotated Brothers Grimm]** by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm **398.2 GRIMM**

The authentic, often violent fairy tales, including *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, etc., as well as less familiar tales. Selected edition includes nine tales "For Adults."

**Hotel** by Arthur Hailey **FIC HAIL**

Several characters seeking redemption for their shady pasts find that their lives intertwine over five days at a luxury hotel in Louisiana.

**Lancelot** by Walker Percy **FIC PERC**

A lawyer confined to a mental institution reflects on his path to becoming a vengeful knight on a quest to destroy evil.

**Notes from Underground** by Fyodor Dostoyevsky **FIC DOST**

A short, existential novel examining the darkest depths of the human heart. Presented in the guise of a bitter "Underground Man's" memoirs.

**An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge** by Ambrose Bierce **eAudiobook**

Short stories of mystery, fantasy, horror, romance, and the unknown. The title story relates the thoughts of a condemned man awaiting hanging during the Civil War.

**Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck

**FIC STEI/CD BOOK STEI**

The poignant story of two Depression-era drifters in California. Sawyer claims this is his favorite book.

**Our Mutual Friend** by Charles Dickens **FIC DICK**

A man fakes his own death to determine the character of his future wife. Dickens's last, possibly darkest novel is a story of greed and corruption, class struggle, murder, and romance.

**The Sheltering Sky** by Paul Bowles **FIC BOWL**

Three American travelers in post-World War II North Africa are tested by the alienness of the culture.

**The Turn of the Screw** by Henry James

**FIC JAME/eAudiobook**

This "ghost story" novella about a governess who fears her two charges are being haunted by spirits calls into question issues of sanity and morality.

**Ulysses** by James Joyce **FIC JOYC**

This notoriously "difficult" stream-of-consciousness novel follows a non-eventful yet full day in the life of Leopold Bloom. Structure and characters are meant to parallel *The Odyssey*.

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams **FIC ADAM/CAS ADAM**

An allegorical tale of a group of rabbits in exile who seek to create a new, more peaceful home, learning about survival, leadership, and heroism along the way.

**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeline L'Engle **J LENG/CAS J LENG**

Classic children's fantasy in which two children travel across space and time with a friend to rescue their father from a mysterious dark force that threatens the universe.

## What's In a Name?

Many *Lost* characters & places appear to have literary namesakes, such as *Eloise Hawking* (see left on Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*) and *Ben's Henry Gale* alias (*Dorothy's* uncle in *The Wizard of Oz* is called Henry Gale). Other literary name influences include:



**O Pioneers!** by Willa Cather

**FIC CATH/CAS A CATH/eAudiobook**

The characters of Alex and Karl may allude to Alexandra and Carl from this short novel about an immigrant family's struggle to build a farm in the isolated, "wild lands" of Nebraska.

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) **J TWAI/J CLEM/CAS A TWAI/eAudiobook**

Con-artist Anthony Cooper and later James "Sawyer" Ford adopted this literary appellation from the classic children's novel about an imaginative young boy with a gift for persuading others and getting into mischief.

**The Chronicles of Narnia** by C.S. Lewis **J LEWI**

Charlotte Stapleton Lewis is a reference to Clive Staples Lewis, author of the beloved *Chronicles of Narnia* series set in a magic world where time passes differently and only select individuals can enter. One of the Dharma stations, the Lamp Post, also references this series. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is the first book of the series.

**The Pearl** by John Steinbeck **FIC STEI/CD J BOOK STEI**

This Steinbeck novella about a fisherman who discovers a fortune that brings him only tragedy could very well be the inspiration for the Pearl Dharma Station. Plus, there's the similarity to Hurley's cursed lottery winnings.

**Locke** by Michael Ayers **192 AYER**

The "original" John Locke was a 17th century philosopher often credited with the modern conception of identity.

**The Social Contract** by Jean Jacques Rousseau **320.1 ROUS**

Danielle Rousseau's likely namesake wrote this 1762 essay on the best way to organize a political community.

**Hume** by Anthony Quinton **192 QUIN**

Desmond David Hume's namesake, David Hume, was an 18th century Scottish philosopher who examined the psychological aspects of human nature.

**The Holy Bible** (various versions)

**220.5 BIBL/220.52 BIBL/LT 220.5 BIBL/eAudiobook**

The Bible is referenced throughout the series, including in character names like Jacob, Matthew Abbadon, Adam and Eve, and Christian Shephard. Plus, there's Mr. Eko's backstory, several Bible "cameos," and episode titles like "Exodus," "The 23rd Psalm," "Numbers," "Fire + Water," and "316."

**Want to explore *Lost*'s philosophical influences in greater depth?**

Try *Great Courses'* *Great Minds of Western Intellectual Tradition* series. *Volume 4* includes lectures on Locke, Hume, and Rousseau. *Volume 5* examines theorist Edmund Burke (also the name of Juliet's ex-husband) and Kierkegaard (his book *Fear and Trembling*, which examines the "leap of faith" idea, was discovered at the Temple). **LECTURE 182 GRE A v.1-7**