Below is a checklist of novels that include or touch on an escape of one sort or another. A number of these escapes are significantly decisive for the escapers, leaving their marks, or even scars, on them; some are only ancillary to the wider, and presumably more important, activities of a character. One of these escapes is fully intended, planned, but abortive, as is that of Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale in *The Scarlet Letter*. Some are only of brief duration, an interlude in the lives of those who make the attempt, but who later return home—somewhat chastened, perhaps—to take up their lives where they had left them. But all have one thing in common: a desire—yearned for or consummated—to cut present moorings in order to learn what lies beyond the horizon of the future. In doing so, the escapers perhaps learn something, as much about themselves as they do about life and the world beyond the peripheries of their immediate environment.

I. Pre-*Huckleberry Finn*

Note: Names in parentheses are those of the escaper or escapers; these may not always be major characters, but the larger number are.


——. *The Prairie*, 1827 (Ishmael Bush and his family).

——. *The Spy*, 1821 (Captain Henry Wharton).

Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The House of the Seven Gables*, 1851 (Clifford and Hepzibah Pyncheon).

——. *The Scarlet Letter*, 1850 (Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale).

William Dean Howells. *A Modern Instance*, 1882 (Bartley Hubbard).


——. *Typee*, 1846 (Tom, an American sailor; Toby, the same).

——. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1852 (Eliza and George Harris).


——. *Neighbor Jackwood*, 1856 (Camille “Milly” Delisard).

II. 1885 and After


Gertrude Atherton. *Julia France and Her Times*, 1912 (Julia Edis France).


Willa Cather. *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*, 1940 (Nancy Till).

Walter Van Tilburg Clark. *The Ox-Bow Incident*, 1940 (Art Croft and Gil Carter).

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain). *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, 1894 (Roxy and Chambers).


——. *Light in August*, 1932 (Joe Christmas; Joe Brown, alias Lucas Burch).

——. *The Sound and the Fury*, 1929 (Quentin, daughter of Candace Compson).

F. Scott Fitzgerald. *Tender is the Night*, 1934 (Dick Diver).


——. *Virginia*, 1913 (Oliver Treadwell).

——. *The Romantic Comedians*, 1926 (Annabel Upchurch).


Ernest Hemingway. *The Sun Also Rises*, 1926 (the major characters).

William Dean Howells. *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, 1885 (Silas and Persis Lapham; Tom Corey and Penelope Lapham).
Appendix

Jack Kerouac. *On The Road*, 1957 (Dean Moriarty).
Ken Kesey. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, 1962 (Broom “Chief” Bromden).
Sinclair Lewis. *Main Street*, 1920 (Carol Kennicott).
——. *The Octopus*, 1901 (Presley).
——. *The Town*, 1950 (Chancey and Guerdon Wheeler).
Elizabeth M. Roberts. *The Time of Man*, 1926 (Ellen Chesser Kent; Jasper Kent).
Robert Penn Warren. *All the King’s Men*, 1946 (Jack Burden).
Nathanael West. *Miss Lonelyhearts*, 1933 (Willie Shrike, as he describes various modes of escape).
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