

GREAT BOOKS OF MANKIND

345 Essential Works ? 2100 BC to 2025 AD ? Check each book as you read

Mesopotamia, c. 2100 BC

- The Epic of Gilgamesh (2100 BC)

Vedic India, c. 1500 BC

- The Rigveda (1500 BC)

China & India, c. 1000-800 BC

- The I Ching (1000 BC)
- The Upanishads (800 BC)

Archaic Greece, c. 750-700 BC

- The Iliad (750 BC)
- The Odyssey (725 BC)
- Theogny (700 BC)
- Works and Days (700 BC)

The Axial Age, c. 600-500 BC

- Fragments/Poems (600 BC)
- Fragments (500 BC)
- The Analects (500 BC)
- The Art of War (500 BC)

Classical Athens: The Golden Age, c. 480-430 BC

- Odes (475 BC)
- The Persians (472 BC)
- Prometheus Bound (460 BC)
- The Orestea (458 BC)
- Antigone (441 BC)
- The Histories (440 BC)
- Medea (431 BC)
- Oedipus Rex (429 BC)
- Hippolytus (428 BC)

The Peloponnesian War, c. 430-400 BC

- The Clouds (423 BC)
- Trojan Women (415 BC)
- Lysistrata (411 BC)
- The Bacchae (405 BC)
- Oedipus at Colonus (401 BC)
- History of the Peloponnesian War (400 BC)

Philosophy's Golden Age, c. 400-300 BC

- Dao De Jing (400 BC)
- Dialogues (Complete) (380 BC)
- Anabasis (370 BC)
- Nicomachean Ethics (340 BC)
- Politics (335 BC)
- Metaphysics (335 BC)
- Poetics (335 BC)
- Elements (300 BC)

Late Roman Republic to Early Empire, c. 55 BC - 19 BC

- De Rebus Natura (55 BC)
- On the Republic / On the Laws (51 BC)
- Odes / Ars Poetica (23 BC)
- The Aeneid (19 BC)

The Roman Empire at Its Height, c. 8-170 AD

- Metamorphoses (8)
- The Holy Bible (Catholic Canon, 73 books) (33)
- Letters (Epistulae Morales) (65)
- Parallel Lives (100)
- Annals / Histories (116)
- Meditations (170)

The Fall of Rome, c. 397-524 AD

- Confessions (397)
- The City of God (426)
- Consolation of Philosophy (524)

Arabia, c. 632 AD

- The Quran (632)

Early Medieval Europe, c. 750

- Beowulf (750)

The Islamic Golden Age, c. 750-1050

- One Thousand and One Nights (The Arabian Nights) (950)
- Shahnameh (The Persian Book of Kings) (1010)

Heian Japan, c. 1010

- The Tale of Genji (1010)

Medieval Monasticism & the Great Schism, c. 1010-1054

- Manual (Enchiridion) (1011)

The High & Late Middle Ages, c. 1274-1440

- Summa Theologica (1274)
- The Divine Comedy (1320)
- Romance of the Three Kingdoms (1330)
- Decameron (1353)
- The Canterbury Tales (1400)
- Voynich Manuscript (1420)

The Renaissance & Reformation, c. 1532-1580

- The Prince (1532)
- Luther Bible (Lutherbibel) (1534)
- Gargantua and Pantagruel (1534)
- Gargantua and Pantagruel (1534)
- Persers (1670)

The Great Navigations, 1572

- Os Lusiadas (The Lusiads) (1572)

Shakespeare & Cervantes, c. 1605-1623

- Don Quixote (1605)
- King James Bible (Authorized Version) (1611)
- Novum Organum (1620)
- Complete Works (First Folio) (1623)

Revolution & Reason, c. 1651-1689

- Leviathan (1651)
- Dom Juan (1665)
- The Misanthrope / Tartuffe (1666)
- Paradise Lost (1667)
- Persers (1670)
- Ethics (1677)
- Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica (1687)
- Two Treatises of Government (1689)

The Enlightenment, c. 1725-1762

- Gulliver's Travels (1726)
- The Spirit of the Laws (1748)
- Candide (1759)
- The Social Contract (1762)

Germany, 1774

- The Sorrows of Young Werther (1774)

The Revolutionary Decade, 1776-1781

- The Wealth of Nations (1776)
- Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (1776)
- Critique of Pure Reason (1781)

Germany, 1807

- The Phenomenology of Spirit (1807)

Germany: Goethe's Lifework, 1808-1832

- Faust (Parts I & II) (1832)

England, 1813

- Pride and Prejudice (1813)

Europe, 1818

- Frankenstein (1818)
- The World as Will and Representation (1818)

France & Prussia, 1830-1832

- Red and Black (1830)
- On War (1832)

France, 1835-1839

- Democracy in America (1835)
- Pure Geist / La Comédie humaine (1835)
- The Charterhouse of Parma (1839)

United States, 1836-1841

- Nature' Essays (1836)

United States, 1839-1849

- Complete Tales and Poems (1839)

Europe, 1842-1844

- Dead Souls (1842)
- Either/Or (1843)
- The Count of Monte Cristo (1844)

England, 1847

- Wuthering Heights (1847)

Europe, 1848

- The Communist Manifesto (1848)

United States, 1851

- Moby-Dick (1851)

United States, 1854-1855

- Walden (1854)
- Leaves of Grass (1855)

Germany, 1854

- The History of Rome (1854)

France, 1857

- Madame Bovary (1857)
- The Flowers of Evil (1857)
- Mireio (Mireille) (1859)

England, 1859

- On the Origin of Species (1859)
- On Liberty (1859)

Italy, 1860

- The Duties of Man (1860)

England & France, 1861-1862

- Great Expectations / David Copperfield (1861)
- Les Misérables (1862)

Russia, 1864-1866

- Notes from Underground (1864)
- Crime and Punishment (1866)

England, 1867

- Das Kapital (1867)

Russia, 1869-1872

- War and Peace (1869)
- The Idiot (1869)
- Demons (1872)

Europe, 1871-1873

- Middlemarch (1871)
- The Birth of Tragedy (1872)
- A Season in Hell / Illuminations (1873)

Germany & Russia, 1876-1877

- The Ring of the Nibelung (1876)
- Anna Karenina (1877)

Germany, 1878

- Human, All Too Human (1878)

Norway, 1879

- A Doll's House (1879)

Russia, Brazil & America, 1880-1881

- The Brothers Karamazov (1880)
- Collected Works (1881)
- The Portrait of a Lady (1881)

US, Russia & Europe, 1884-1886

- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)
- The Spoko Zarafuistra (1885)
- The Death of Ivan Iyich (1886)
- Beyond Good and Evil (1886)

Europe, 1887

- On the Genealogy of Morality (1887)

Europe, 1888-1891

- Collected Stories (1888)
- Twilight of the Idols / The Anti-Christ / Ecce Homo (1888)
- The Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)
- Hunger (1890)
- The Golden Bough (1890)
- Tess of the d'Urbervilles / Jude the Obscure (1891)

Europe & the Colonial World, 1892-1896

- The Weavers / Before Sunrise (1892)
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes / The Hound of the Baskervilles (1892)
- The Jungle Book / Kim (1894)
- The Time Machine (1895)
- Quo Vadis (1896)

Europe, 1899

- The Interpretation of Dreams (1899)
- Heart of Darkness (1899)

Europe & America, 1901-1903

- Poems (Selected) (1895)
- Buddenbrooks (1901)
- Waiting for Godot (1952)

Europe, 1905-1908

- The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1905)
- Reflections on Violence (1908)

The Pre-War World, 1906-1912

- Poems (Yeats: Collected) (1908)
- Orthodoxy (1908)
- The Man Who Was Thursday (1908)
- Poems (Tagore: Gitanjali) (1912)

World War I: Modernism is Born, 1913-1916

- In Search of Lost Time (1913)
- Dabliners (1914)
- The Metamorphosis (1915)
- A Portrait of the Artist (1916)
- Relativity: The Special and the General Theory (1916)

Post-War Europe, 1920

- Storm of Steel (1920)
- The Growth of the Soul (1920)

1922: Modernism's Annus Mirabilis

- Six Characters in Search of an Author (1921)
- Ulysses (1922)
- The Waste Land (1922)
- Siddhartha (1922)
- Kristin Lavransdatter (1922)

Weimar Culture, 1924-1926

- The Magic Mountain (1924)
- The Trial (1925)
- The Great Gatsby (1925)
- Mrs. Dalloway (1925)
- The Cantos (1925)
- The Castle (1926)

Germany, 1927

- Being and Time (1927)

The Crash, 1929-1930

- The Sound and the Fury (1929)
- The Revolt of the Masses (1930)

Depression-Era Literature, 1931-1932

- The Good Earth (1931)
- Brave New World (1932)
- Journey to the End of the Night (1932)
- The Worker (1932)
- The Concept of the Political (1932)

Europe Under Fascism, 1934-1935

- The Book of Disquiet / Poetry of the Heteronyms (1934)
- Selections from the Prison Notebooks (1935)

Europe on the Brink, 1937-1939

- The Hobbit (1937)
- Being and Nothingness / Nausea (1938)
- Finnegans Wake (1939)

Europe in Exile, 1941

- Mother Courage and Her Children (1941)

World War II, 1942-1945

- The Stranger (1942)
- Four Quartets (1943)
- The Little Prince (1943)
- Ficciones (1944)
- The Road to Serfdom (1944)
- Animal Farm (1945)

Post-War Reckoning, 1946-1949

- Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (1921)
- Phenomenology of Perception (1945)
- Man's Search for Meaning (1946)
- The Plague (1947)
- No Longer Human (1948)
- 1984 (1949)
- The Second Sex (1949)

Latin America, 1949-1950

- The Aleph (1949)
- Canto General (1950)
- The Labyrinth of Solitude / Selected Poems (1950)

Post-War America, 1951-1952

- The Catcher in the Rye (1951)
- The Old Man and the Sea (1952)
- East of Eden (1952)
- Waiting for Godot (1952)
- Invisible Man (1952)
- Long Day's Journey Into Night / Mourning Becomes Electra (1956)

Britain, 1954-1955

- Lord of the Flies (1954)
- The Lord of the Rings (1954)
- Lolita (1955)
- Tristes Tropiques (1955)

Global Literature, 1955-1956

- Snow Country (1948)
- Pedro Paramo (1955)
- Palace Walk (Cairo Trilogy) (1956)

Cold War Culture, 1957-1958

- Doctor Zhivago (1957)
- Things Fall Apart (1958)
- The Leopard (1958)

Germany, 1959

- The Tin Drum (1959)

Civil Rights & Cold War, 1960-1962

- To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)
- Catch-22 (1961)
- Ride the Tiger (1961)
- A Clockwork Orange (1962)
- The Golden Notebook (1962)

Japan, 1963-1964

- A Personal Matter (1964)

United States, 1965-1966

- The Lyric: 1961-2012 (1963)
- Herring / Humboldt's Gift (1964)
- Stoner (1965)
- Dune (1965)
- The Homecoming / Betrayal (1965)
- The Crying of Lot 49 (1966)
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? (1968)

Latin America & USSR, 1967

- One Hundred Years of Solitude (1967)
- The Master and Margarita (1967)
- The Society of the Spectacle (1967)

1969: Moon, War & Literature

- Slaughterhouse-Five (1969)
- Spring Snow (Sea of Fertility) (1969)

United States, 1971

- A Theory of Justice (1971)

1973

- The Gulag Archipelago (1973)
- Gravity's Rainbow (1973)

European Poetry, 1975-1979

- Poems (1890)

1980

- A Confederacy of Dunces (1980)
- The Name of the Rose (1980)
- The Book of the New Sun (1980)

Peru, 1981

- The War of the End of the World (1881)

US & Hungary, 1985

- Blood Meridian (1985)
- Santanugo (1985)
- Love in the Time of Cholera (1985)

1987

- Beloved (1987)

1989: The World Turns