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## AESOP

Aesop was probably a prisoner of war, sold into slavery in the early sixth century B.C. on the Greek island of Samos, who represented his masters in court and relied on animal stories to put across his key points. However, the Aesop known to the ancient Greeks and Romans was quite different from the one generally known to modern English speakers. As was the custom with translations of ancient texts from the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, editions of Aesop's fables were very selective and expunged of material deemed offensive to Victorian decorum. Far from being the author of edifying children's stories, the real Aesop was a man who cloaked a rather grim yet pragmatic vision of human life in the tales of nature.

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1859 – 1916, Russian



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## SHOLEM ALEICHEM

Sholem Aleichem is the pen name of Sholem Rabinovitch (1859–1916), the most beloved writer in Yiddish literature and the creator of the famous Tevey character in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Born in a small town in Ukraine, he began writing in Hebrew at an early age and first supported himself as a teacher of Russian. He turned to writing Yiddish fiction in 1883 and encouraged a number of Jewish writers, who were writing in Hebrew, to write in Yiddish as well. After the 1905 pogrom in Kiev, he and his family left Russia, seeking refuge abroad. In 1914, at the start of World War I, he settled in New York, where his writings led some to call him the “Jewish Mark Twain.” He died two years later after a long illness, writing until his last day. His funeral procession was witnessed by one hundred thousand mourners.



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## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Hans Christian Anderson was born in Odense, Denmark, the son of a poor shoemaker and a washerwoman. As a teenager, he was well known locally as a reciter of drama and as a singer, but he eventually found his calling as a storyteller. Andersen's first book was published in 1829. At first, he considered his adult books more important, but in later life he began to see that his charming, apparently trivial, stories could vividly portray features of human life and character, and he would often thinly disguise people he knew as characters in these stories. He once said that ideas for stories "lie in my mind like seeds and only need the kiss of a sunbeam or a drop of malice to flower." Andersen's stories began to be translated into English as early as 1846 and many of his most famous titles—including "The Ugly Duckling"—continue to resonate in the popular imagination.

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## **HANNAH ARENDT**

Born in Hanover, Germany, in 1906, Hannah Arendt moved with her family to Königsberg when she was three years old. Her mother interested her in contemporary politics, in particular the Spartacist faction of the Social Democratic Party and its leaders, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. Arendt studied philosophy at the University of Hamburg with Martin Heidegger in 1924 and with Karl Jaspers from 1925 until 1929. She married Gunther Stern in 1929 in Paris, returning in 1933 to avoid the Nazis and living there until 1940. After escaping to New York, Arendt served as one of the premier members of the faculty of the New School for Social Research and also as a Visiting Fellow of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. She originated the concept of the "banality of evil" in *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, her account of Adolf Eichmann's war-crimes trial, and wrote extensively on political and Jewish issues. She died in 1975.

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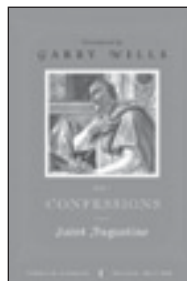
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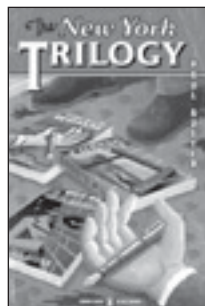
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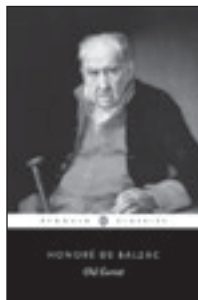
The son of a civil servant, Honoré de Balzac was born in 1799 in Tours, France. After attending boarding school in Vendôme, he gravitated to Paris where he worked as a legal clerk and a hack writer, using various pseudonyms, often in collaboration with other writers. Balzac turned exclusively to fiction at the age of thirty and went on to write a large number of novels and short stories set amid turbulent nineteenth-century France. He entitled his collective works *The Human Comedy*. Along with Victor Hugo and Dumas *père* and *fils*, Balzac was one of the pillars of French romantic literature. He died in 1850, shortly after his marriage to the Polish countess Evelina Hanska, his lover of eighteen years.

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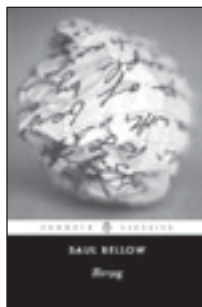
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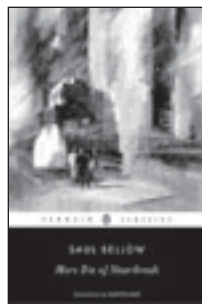
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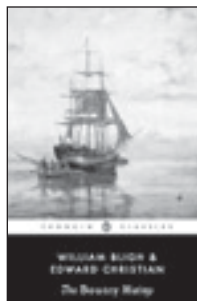
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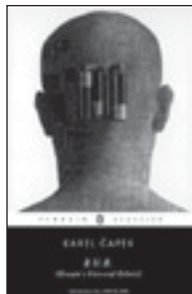
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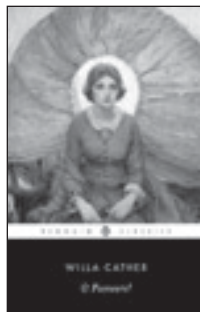
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Born in Virginia in 1873 and raised on a Nebraska ranch, Willa Cather is known for her beautifully evocative short stories and novels about the American West. Cather became the managing editor for *McClure's* magazine in 1906 and lived for forty years in New York City with her companion, Edith Lewis. In 1922 Cather won the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours*, the story of a Western boy in World War I. In 1933 she was awarded the Prix Femina Americaine "for distinguished literary accomplishments." She died in 1947.

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## MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was born in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, in 1547. As a young man serving in the Spanish wars against the Ottoman Empire, he was captured by the Barbary pirates and sent into slavery in Algeria in 1575. After many attempts at escape, he was finally ransomed in 1580, an act that reduced his family to poverty. Returning to Madrid, Cervantes entered public service (including a stint commandeering supplies for the Spanish Armada) and was so ill-suited to the job that he was jailed for gross irregularities in his accounts. Although his first novel, *La Galatea*, was written in 1585, and he wrote poetry and drama (only two of his thirty plays survive), it was not until the publication of *Don Quixote* in 1605 that Cervantes gained fame as a writer. An immediate success in his native country, the novel soon became a favorite abroad. The intricate, multi-layered structure of the novel, and Cervantes's brilliant exploration of the relationship between art and life, had tremendous impact on the development of the modern novel; the works of writers from Fielding and Smollett to Twain, Dostoyevsky, and even Kafka, all bear traces of the influence of Cervantes's masterpiece.

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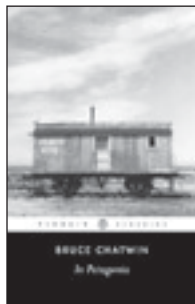
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## **ANTON CHEKHOV**

Anton Chekhov was born in 1860 at Taganrog in southern Russia. After a harsh childhood he went to Moscow in 1879 and entered the medical faculty of the university, graduating in 1884. In 1886 Chekhov published his first volume of stories. The next year, his first full-length play, *Ivanov*, was produced in Moscow. He continued to practice medicine while writing many of his best stories. In 1898, Stanislavsky produced *The Seagull* at his newly founded Moscow Art Theater. It was for him that Chekhov wrote *Uncle Vanya* (1900), *The Three Sisters* (1901), and *The Cherry Orchard* (1903). After 1900, when his health began to fail, Chekhov moved to Yalta, where he met Tolstoy and Gorky. In 1901 Chekhov married Olga Knipper, one of the Art Theatre's leading actresses. He died in 1904.

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*Translated by Rosamund Bartlett  
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Introduction and Notes by  
Rosamund Bartlett*

Throughout his life, Chekhov wrote thousands of letters to a wide range of correspondents. Vividly evoking landscapes, people, and his daily life, the selection here offers revealing glimpses into Chekhov's preoccupations, taking us inside the mind of one of the world's great writers.

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Charles Robert Darwin was born in Shrewsbury in 1809 and was educated at Edinburgh University and Christ's College Cambridge. He took his degree in 1831 and in the same year embarked on a five-year voyage on HMS *Beagle* as a companion to the captain. Some of his letters on scientific matters were privately published, and on his return he at once took his place among the leading men of science. In 1839 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Most of the rest of his life was occupied in publishing the findings of the voyage and in documenting his theory of the transmutation of species: *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* appeared in 1859. Darwin spent many years with his wife, Emma Wedgwood, and their children at Down House in Kent. He died in 1882, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

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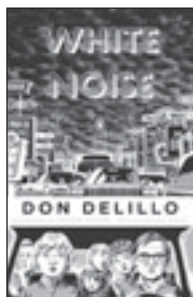
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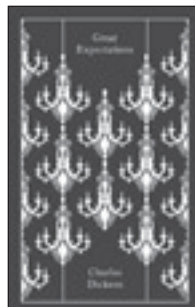
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Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth on February 7, 1812, the second of eight children. His father, a government clerk, was imprisoned for debt and Dickens was sent to work at the age of twelve. He became a reporter of parliamentary debates for the *Morning Chronicle* and began to publish sketches in various periodicals. *The Pickwick Papers* were published in 1836–37 and became a publishing phenomenon and Dickens's characters the center of a popular cult. He died on June 9, 1870. Dickens's popularity during his lifetime was exceptional but, as the distinguished literary critic Walter Allen said, his influence continues to be felt and "his work has become part of the literary climate within which Western man lives."

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Introduction by William Mills Todd III*

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Jane Kentish*

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Introduction by Robert Louis Jackson

These two novels of inner turmoil mark a turning point for Dostoyevsky and are among his most personally revealing.

*Notes from Underground* portrays a nihilistic who probes into the dark underside of man's nature; *The Double* is a classic study of psychological breakdown.

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Dostoyevsky's first great literary triumph, the novella *Poor Folk* is presented here, along with "The Landlady," "Mr. Prokharchin," and "Polzunkov."

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Translated with an Introduction by Ignat Avsey

This work introduces a Dostoyevsky unfamiliar to most readers, revealing his unexpected talents as a humorist and satirist. While its lighthearted tone and amusing plot make it a joy to read, it also contains the prototypes of characters who appear in his later works.

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1818 – 1895, American

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Ex-slave Frederick Douglass's second autobiography—written after ten years of reflection following his legal emancipation in 1846 and his break with his mentor William Lloyd Garrison—catapulted Douglass into the international spotlight as the foremost spokesman for black Americans, both freed and slave.

**384 pp. 978-0-14-043918-2 \$12.00**

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## FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in 1818 in Tuckahoe, Maryland, Frederick Douglass changed his surname to conceal his identity after escaping slavery in 1838 and making his way to Philadelphia and New York. Having been taught to read by the wife of one of his former owners, Douglass wrote later that literacy was his "pathway from slavery to freedom," and in 1845 he published his instantly bestselling *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, followed by *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855) and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1881, 1892). Beginning a long career in journalism in 1847, he later held several appointed positions in the United States Government. Renowned as the foremost African American advocate against slavery and segregation of his time, he died in Washington, D.C., in 1895, and after lying in state in the nation's capital, was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York.



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## ALEXANDRE DUMAS

Alexandre Dumas was born in 1802 at Villers-Cotterêts. His father, the illegitimate son of a marquis, was a general in the Revolutionary armies, but died when Dumas was only four. Brought up in straitened circumstances and receiving very little education, he nevertheless entered the household of the future king, Louis-Phillipe, and began reading voraciously. Later he entered the *cénacle* of Charles Nodier and began to write. In 1829 he embarked on twenty years of successful playwriting, and in 1839 he turned his attention to writing historical novels, the most successful of which were *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1844–5) and *The Three Musketeers* (1844). In addition to his many novels, Dumas wrote travel books, children's stories, and his *Mémoires*, which describe most amusingly his early life, his entry into Parisian literary circles, and the 1830 Revolution. He died in 1870.

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**1 map**

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1888 – 1965, English  
(b. America)  
Nobel Prize Winner



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940 – 1020, Persian



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## ABOLQASEM FERDOWSI

Abolqasem Ferdowsi was born in Khorasan in a village near Tus, in 940 CE. His great epic the *Shahnameh*, to which he devoted much of his adult life, was originally composed for the Samanid princes of Khorasan, who were the chief instigators of the revival of Persian cultural traditions after the Arab conquest. The new ruler of Khorasan showed little interest in Ferdowsi’s lifework and Ferdowsi is said to have died around 1020 in poverty and embittered by royal neglect, though confident of his and his poem’s ultimate fame.

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Born in Rouen in 1821, Gustave Flaubert was the son of a brilliant surgeon and grew to be strongly critical of bourgeois society. He quit law school in 1841 after being diagnosed with epilepsy and devoted himself to writing. His stormy affair with the poet Louise Colet ended after nine years in 1855. His masterpiece *Madame Bovary*, based on two different true stories, was published the next year, and Flaubert narrowly escaped being convicted for immorality due to its daring content. His work reflects his passion for poetic prose and, at the same time, relentless objectivity. Flaubert counted among his friends George Sand, Turgenev, Zola, and his protégé Maupassant.



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## SIGMUND FREUD

Sigmund Freud was born in 1856 in Moravia; between the ages of four and eighty-two, his home was in Vienna: in 1938 Hitler's invasion of Austria forced him to seek asylum in London, where he died the following year. His career began with brilliant work on the nervous system. He was almost thirty when his interests first turned to psychology, and another ten years of clinical work in Vienna (at first in collaboration with Joseph Breuer, an older colleague) saw the birth of his creation—psychoanalysis. What began simply as a method of treating neurotic patients quickly grew into an accumulation of knowledge about the workings of the mind in general, whether sick or healthy. Freud's ideas shaped not only many specialist disciplines but the whole intellectual climate of the latter half of the twentieth century.



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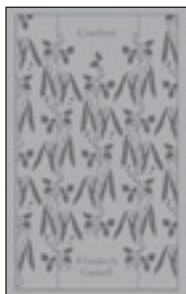
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Elizabeth Gaskell was born in London in 1810, but she spent her formative years in Cheshire, Stratford-upon-Avon, and the north of England. In 1832 she married the Reverend William Gaskell. As well as leading a busy domestic life as minister's wife and mother of four daughters, she worked among the poor, traveled frequently, and wrote. After her first success, *Mary Barton* (1848), she began writing for Dickens's magazine, *Household Words*, to which she contributed fiction for the next thirteen years, notably an industrial novel, *North and South* (1855). Dickens discovered her resilient strength of character when trying to impose his views on her as editor. Gaskell's later works reveal that she was continuing to develop her writing in new literary directions when she died suddenly in November 1865.

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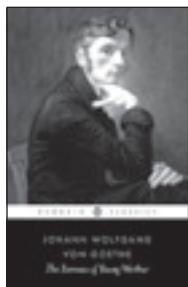
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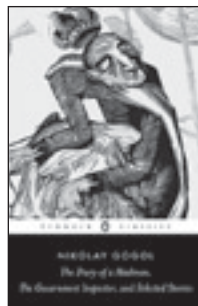
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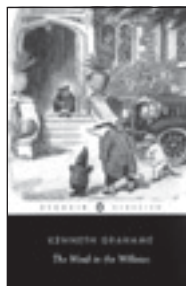
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Graham Greene was born in England in 1904 and died in 1991 in Switzerland. He studied at the Berkhamsted School, where his father was headmaster, before entering Balliol College, Oxford. In 1926 Greene became a journalist for the *Nottingham Journal* and converted to Catholicism to be closer to his future wife, Vivien Dayrell-Browning. His first novel, *The Man Within*, was published three years later. *The Quiet American*, *Our Man in Havana*, and *Orient Express* are among his numerous provocative, exotically suspenseful, and often hilarious explorations of the corruption of the human spirit. Many of his novels have been adapted successfully to the screen.

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## HENRIK IBSEN

Henrik Ibsen was born at Skien, Norway, in 1828. His family went bankrupt when he was a child, and he struggled with poverty for many years. His first ambition was medicine, but he abandoned this to write and to work in theater. A scholarship enabled him to travel to Rome in 1864. In Italy he wrote *Brand* (1866), which earned him a state pension, and *Peer Gynt* (1867), for which Grieg later wrote the incidental music. These plays established his reputation. From *The League of Youth* (1869) onward, Ibsen renounced poetry and wrote prose drama. He supported in his plays many crucial issues of his day, such as the emancipation of women. Plays like *Ghosts* (1881) and *A Doll's House* (1879) caused a critical uproar.



### Hedda Gabler and Other Plays

*Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Una Ellis-Fermor*

*The Pillars of the Community* and *The Wild Duck* show Ibsen's preoccupation with problems of personal and social morality; *Hedda Gabler*, the latest of these plays, is both a drama of individual conflict and a partial return to social themes.

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The four plays collected here—*The Master Builder*, *Rosmersholm*, *Little Eyolf*, and *John Gabriel Borkman*—were written late in Ibsen's career and reflect his then growing interests in internal conflicts and the dangers of self-deception.

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### Peer Gynt

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This high-spirited poetical fantasy, based on Norwegian folklore, is the story of an irresponsible, lovable hero. After its publication, Ibsen abandoned the verse form for more realistic prose plays.

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1491 – 1556, Spanish

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## HENRY JAMES

Henry James was born into a brilliant family in New York City in 1843. In 1875, James moved to Europe, eventually settling in England. His fourth novel, *Daisy Miller*—a story about a naïve American girl visiting the Continent—became a runaway bestseller when it was published in 1879. His tale of the supernatural, *The Turn of the Screw*, created a sensation when it appeared in 1898 in *Collier's Weekly*. In it, as in his other works, James explored the interaction between innocence and corrupt experience. He was one of the first writers in the English language to embrace stream-of-consciousness writing and greatly influenced the works of writers such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Joseph Conrad, and Edith Wharton. James died in 1916.

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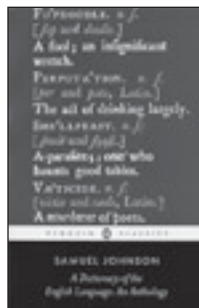
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Born in Dublin in 1882 and educated by Jesuits, James Joyce moved to the Continent after graduating from the University of Dublin. While he was teaching English abroad, many of his closest friends were among the more than 500 Irish patriots killed by the British in the Easter Rebellion. Although he would never live in Ireland again, his works describe and reflect his homeland in both dialect and setting. His epic novel *Ulysses*, one of the supreme masterpieces of twentieth-century literature, was published in Paris in 1922 and banned as obscene in the United States until 1933. In 1940, Joyce fled Paris to Zurich, where he died the following year.



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1883 – 1924, Czech

(b. Austro – Hungary)



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c. 1st millennium B.C., Indian



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The son of a miner, the prolific novelist, poet, and travel writer David Herbert Lawrence was born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, in 1885. He attended Nottingham University and found employment as a schoolteacher. His first novel, *The White Peacock*, was published in 1911, the same year his beloved mother died and he quit teaching after contracting pneumonia. The next year Lawrence published *Sons and Lovers* and ran off to Germany with Frieda Weekley, his former tutor's wife. His masterpieces *The Rainbow* and *Women in Love* were completed in quick succession, but the first was suppressed as indecent and the second was not published until 1920. Lawrence's lyrical writings challenged convention, promoting a return to an ideal of nature where sex is seen as a sacrament. In 1925 Lawrence's final novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, was banned in England and the United States for indecency. He died of tuberculosis in 1930 in Venice.

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*Collected and Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Vivian de Sola Pinto and F. Warren Roberts*

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## PRIMO LEVI

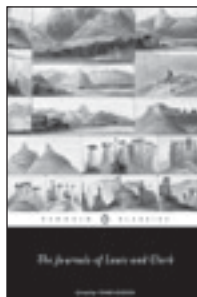
Born in Turin, Italy, in 1919, Primo Levi was trained as a chemist. Arrested as a member of the anti-Fascist resistance, he was deported to Auschwitz in 1944. His experience in the death camp is the subject of his two classic memoirs, *Survival in Auschwitz* and *The Reawakening*, and of the recently published and acclaimed *The Periodic Table*. Dr. Levi retired from his position as manager of a Turin chemical factory in 1977 to devote himself full time to writing. He died in 1987.

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H. P. Lovecraft was born in 1890 in Providence, Rhode Island. Frequent illnesses in his youth disrupted his schooling, but Lovecraft gained a wide knowledge of many subjects through independent reading and study. He wrote many essays and poems early in his career, but gradually focused on the writing of horror stories, after the advent in 1923 of the pulp magazine *Weird Tales*, to which he contributed most of his fiction. His relatively small corpus of fiction—three short novels and about sixty short stories—has nevertheless exercised a wide influence on subsequent work in the field, and he is regarded as the leading twentieth-century American author of supernatural fiction. Lovecraft died in Providence in 1937.

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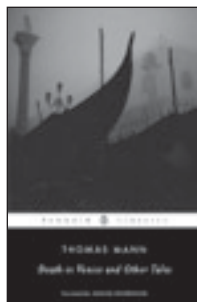
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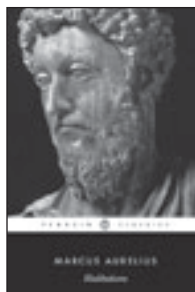
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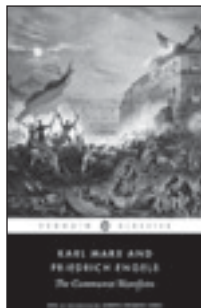
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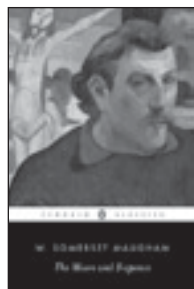
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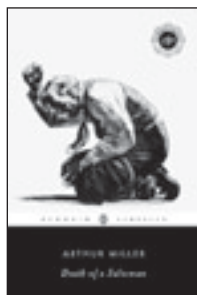
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Arthur Miller was born in New York City in 1915. After attending the University of Michigan, he returned to New York where he began his remarkable career in playwriting after publishing the novel *Focus* in 1945. His first successful play, *All My Sons*, was soon followed by *Death of a Salesman*, which received a Pulitzer Prize in 1949 and established Miller as a preeminent American playwright.

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## MURASAKI SHIKIBU

Murasaki Shikibu was born in Japan c. 973, during the Heian period (794–1192), when the head of the major faction of the Fujiwara clan, Michinaga, held sway over the imperial court. Apart from what she reveals in her diary, we know little of her life. She married around the turn of the century, had one daughter, and was widowed soon after. During the next four or five years Murasaki seems to have begun writing *The Tale of Genji*, the astonishingly complex and sophisticated work of fiction that was to bring her fame and eventually be recognized as one of the masterpieces of Japanese literature. It is probable that chapters were read at court and came to the notice of Michinaga, who decided that she would be an excellent addition to the entourage of his daughter Shōshi (or Akiko), the young emperor's young consort. Murasaki entered the service of Shōshi in 1006 and probably died sometime between 1014 and 1025.



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## **R. K. NARAYAN**

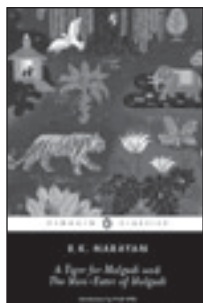
R. K. Narayan was born in Madras, South India, in 1906, and educated there and at Maharaja's College in Mysore. His first novel, *Swami and Friends* and its successor, *The Bachelor of Arts*, are both set in the enchanting fictional territory of Malgudi and are only two out of the twelve novels he based there. In 1958 Narayan's work *The Guide* won him the National Prize of the Indian Literary Academy, his country's highest literary honor. In addition to his novels, Narayan has authored five collections of short stories, including *A Horse and Two Goats*, *Malgudi Days*, and *Under the Banyan Tree*, two travel books, two volumes of essays, a volume of memoirs, and the re-told legends *Gods, Demons and Others*, *The Ramayana*, and *The Mahabharata*. In 1980 he was awarded the A. C. Benson Medal by the Royal Society of Literature and in 1982 he was made an Honorary Member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Narayan died in 2001.

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b. 1938, Kenyan



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## FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was born in Prussia in 1844. After the death of his father, a Lutheran minister, Nietzsche was raised from the age of five by his mother in a household of women. In 1869 he was appointed Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Basel, where he taught until 1879 when poor health forced him to retire. He never recovered from a nervous breakdown in 1889 and died eleven years later. Known for saying that "god is dead," Nietzsche propounded his metaphysical construct of the superiority of the disciplined individual (superman) living in the present over traditional values derived from Christianity and its emphasis on heavenly rewards. His ideas were appropriated by the Fascists, who turned his theories into social realities that he had never intended.

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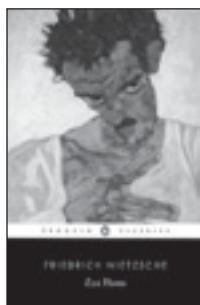


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## DOROTHY PARKER

Dorothy Parker was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, in 1893 and grew up in New York, attending a Catholic convent school, and later Miss Dana's School in Morristown, New Jersey. In 1916 she sold some of her poetry to the editor of *Vogue*, and was subsequently given an editorial position on the magazine, writing captions for fashion photographs and drawings. She then became drama critic of *Vanity Fair* and the central figure of the celebrated Algonquin Round Table. Famous for her spoken wit and closely associated with modern urbane humor, she showed the same trenchant commentary and concentration of judgments in her book reviews for the *New Yorker* and *Esquire* and in her poems and sketches.



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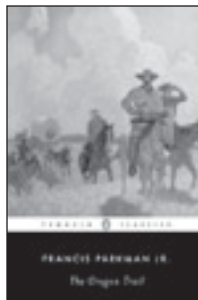
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## FERNANDO PESSOA

Fernando Pessoa was born in Lisbon in 1888 and was brought up in Durban, South Africa. In 1905 he returned to Lisbon to enroll at the university, but soon dropped out, preferring to study on his own. He made a modest living translating the foreign correspondence of various commercial firms, and wrote obsessively—in English, Portuguese, and French. Pessoa attributed his work to dozens of literary alter egos that he called "heteronyms"—including Alberto Caeiro, Alvaro de Campos, Ricardo Reis, and the fictional author of *The Book of Disquiet*, the assistant bookkeeper Bernardo Soares—whose fully fleshed biographies he invented, giving them different writing styles and points of view. Although Pessoa was acknowledged as an intellectual and a poet, his literary genius went largely unrecognized until after his death in 1935.

**PETRONIUS**

d. A.D. 66, Roman

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c. 4 B.C. – A.D. 65, Roman



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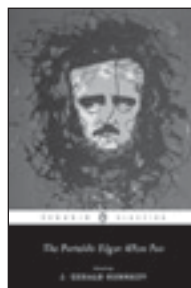
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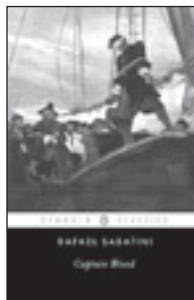
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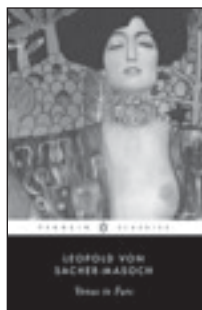
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George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856. Essentially shy, he created the persona of G.B.S., the showman, satirist, critic, wit, and dramatist. Commentators brought a new adjective into English: Shavian, a term used to embody all his brilliant qualities. After his arrival in London in 1876 he became an active Socialist and platform speaker. He undertook his own education at the British museum and consequently became keenly interested in cultural subjects. He invented the comedy of ideas, expounding on social and political problems with a razor-sharp tongue, yet never sacrificing the comic vitality that ensures regular revivals of his plays. Shaw won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1925 and lived long enough to see a few of his plays made into films. He died in 1950.





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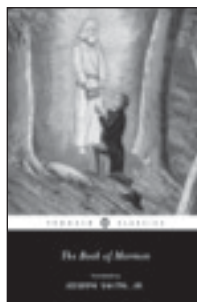
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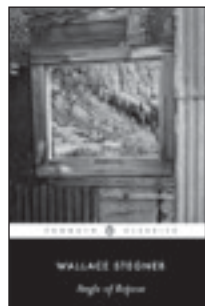
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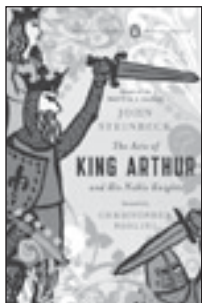
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## JOHN STEINBECK

Born and raised in Salinas, California, John Steinbeck attended Stanford University from 1919 until 1925 without attaining a degree before working at a series of mostly blue-collar jobs and embarking on his literary career. Profoundly committed to social progress, Steinbeck’s novels, such as *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Cannery Row*, and *Tortilla Flat*, raised issues of labor exploitation during the Great Depression. *The Grapes of Wrath* won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1939. *Travels with Charley in Search of America*, a travelogue chronicling his tour of the United States with his dog, was published in 1962, the same year he received the Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1964, Steinbeck was presented with the United States Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Steinbeck died in New York in 1968.

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Adopting the structure and themes of the Arthurian legend, Steinbeck created a "Camelot" on a shabby hillside above Monterey on the California coast and peopled it with a colorful band of knights. As Steinbeck chronicles their thoughts and emotions, temptations and lusts, he spins a tale as compelling, and ultimately as touched by sorrow, as the famous legends of the Round Table.

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In September 1960, Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, embarked on a journey across America. A picaresque tale, this chronicle of their trip meanders along scenic backroads and speeds along anonymous superhighways, moving from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases.

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Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on June 14, 1811, the seventh child of Lyman and Roxanna Foote Beecher. At 13, Stowe was sent away to school in Hartford, rejoining her family in 1832 after their move to Cincinnati, where her father ran the Lane Theological Seminary. Her proximity to Kentucky, a slave state, made her and her family increasingly aware of the horrors of slavery, which they protested vehemently. In 1843 Stowe published her first book, *The Mayflower*, followed in 1852 by her bestselling first novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the first major work of fiction to criticize the institution of slavery. Her instant success prompted the *Independent* magazine in New York to offer her a position, and she was asked to tour England where she was received by Queen Victoria. She went on to write many more novels, but none are today as well known as her first, which was the bestselling novel of the nineteenth century. She died on July 1, 1896, and was buried in Andover, Massachusetts.



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c. 69 – c. 140, Roman

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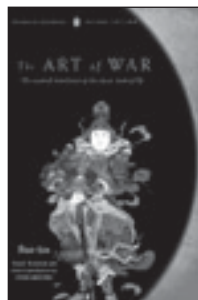
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d. 1974, Gambian

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d. 1994, Gambian

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1780 – unknown, American

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c. 186 – 159 B.C., Roman

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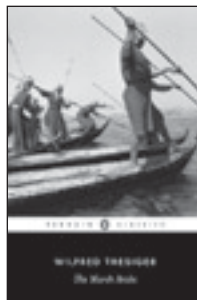
1910 – 2003, British

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c. 1379 – 1471, German

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## HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1817. He graduated from Harvard in 1837, the same year he began his lifelong journal. Inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thoreau became a key member of the Transcendentalist movement. He tested the Transcendentalists’ faith in nature between 1845 and 1847, when he lived for twenty-six months in a homemade hut at Walden Pond. There he worked on the only two books published during his lifetime, *Walden* and *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. Several of his other works were published posthumously. Thoreau died in Concord in 1862.

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c. 460 – c. 400 B.C., Greek



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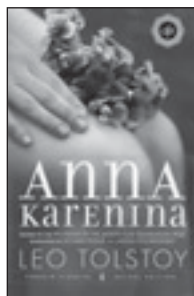
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## LEO TOLSTOY

Count Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy was born in 1828 at Yasnaya Polyana in the Tula province of Russia. As a young man, he studied Oriental languages and law at the University of Kazan. After he completed his schooling, Tolstoy fought in the Crimean war while writing *The Sebastopol Sketches*, which established his reputation. In 1862, he married Sophie Andreyevna Behrs and the next fifteen years proved to be a period of great happiness; they had thirteen children and Tolstoy managed his vast estates in the Volga Steppes and, in 1868, completed *War and Peace*, following that work with *Anna Karenina* in 1876. *A Confession*, finished in 1882, marked an outward change in his life and works; he became an extreme rationalist and moralist, and in a series of pamphlets he expressed his doctrines such as inner self-perfection, rejection of institutions, indictment of the demands of the flesh, and denunciation of private property. His teaching earned him numerous followers in Russia and abroad, but also much opposition. In 1901, Tolstoy was excommunicated by the Russian holy synod. He died in 1910, in the course of a dramatic flight from home, at the small railway station of Astapovo.

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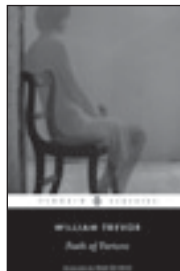
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B. 1928, Irish



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1882 – 1949, Norwegian (b. Denmark)  
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## SIGRID UNSET

Sigrid Undset was born in Denmark, the eldest daughter of a Norwegian father and a Danish mother, and moved with her family to Oslo two years later. She published her first novel in 1907 and *Gunnar's Daughter*, her first work set in the Middle Ages, followed in 1909. In 1920, Undset published the first volume of *Kristin Lavransdatter*, the medieval trilogy that would become her most famous work. In 1928, Sigrid Undset won the Nobel Prize for literature. During the Nazi occupation of Norway, Undset lived as a refugee in New York City. She returned home in 1945 and lived in Lillehammer until her death in 1949.

## Kristin Lavransdatter

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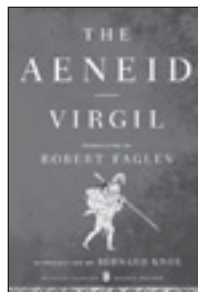
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c. 1150 – c. 1218, French

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70 – 19 B.C., Roman



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1866 – 1946, English

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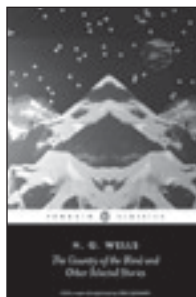
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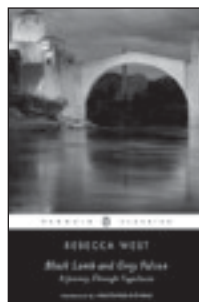
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(b. western Africa)



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Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854, the son of an eminent surgeon. He attended Trinity College, Dublin, then Magdalen College, Oxford, where, in the last years of the seventies, he started the cult of "Aestheticism"—of an art of life. He wrote several books, including *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), before he became a successful playwright in both England and France. In 1895 Wilde brought a libel action against the Marquis of Queensberry; he lost the case and was himself sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labor for acts of gross indecency. He was released from prison, bankrupt, in 1897 and went to Paris, where he lived until his death in 1900.



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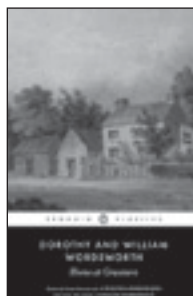
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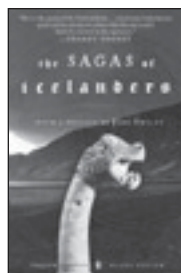
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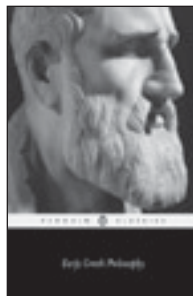
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On the Origin of Species

The Portable Darwin

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Journal of Researches



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- The Woman in White and The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins
- World of Wonders* by Robertson Davies
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YEAR	WINNER	LIFE DATES	NATIONALITY
1907	Rudyard Kipling	1865–1936	British
1909	Selma Lagerlöf	1858–1940	Swedish
1913	Rabindranath Tagore	1861–1941	Indian
1920	Knut Hamsun	1859–1952	Norwegian
1921	Anatole France	1844–1924	French
1923	William Butler Yeats	1865–1939	Irish
1925	George Bernard Shaw	1856–1950	Irish
1928	Sigrid Undset	1882–1949	Norwegian
1929	Thomas Mann	1875–1955	German
1930	Sinclair Lewis	1885–1951	American
1934	Luigi Pirandello	1867–1936	Italian
1936	Eugene O'Neill	1888–1953	American
1946	Hermann Hesse	1877–1962	Swiss
1947	André Gide	1869–1951	French
1948	T. S. Eliot	1888–1965	British
1949	William Faulkner	1897–1962	American
1962	John Steinbeck	1902–1968	American
1971	Pablo Neruda	1904–1973	Chilean
1972	Heinrich Böll	1917–1985	German
1973	Patrick White	1912–1990	Australian
1976	Saul Bellow	1915–2005	American

**Dante Alighieri**

La vita nuova  
Translated by Virginia Jewiss

**Saul Bellow**

\*The Victim  
Introduction by Norman Ruth

**Jorge Luis Borges**

On Argentina  
Edited with and Introduction  
and Notes by Alfred Mac  
Adam  
General Editor: Suzanne Jill  
Levine

On Mysticism

Edited with and Introduction  
Maria Kodama  
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London Journal 1762 – 1763  
Introduction and Notes by  
Gordon Turnbull

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Catherine Clinton

**Humphrey Cobb**

Paths of Glory  
Introduction by James H.  
Meredith  
Foreword by David Simon

**Friedrich Engels**

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Private Property, and the  
State  
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**Euclides da Cunha**

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Campaign  
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Ilan Stavans

**Anna Katharine Green**

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Joseph McAlhany

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A Shropshire Lad and Other  
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Revised with Notes by Archie  
Burnett  
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Hoffman

\*An Enemy of the People

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**Es'kia Mphahlele**

In Corner B

**John Steinbeck**

Of Mice and Men and The  
Moon is Down  
Foreword by James Earl  
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Introduction by Robert Stone

\*The Spectator Bird

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### Ancient World

Aeschylus  
Aesop  
Ammianus Marcellinus  
Anna Komnene  
Apollonius of Rhodes  
Appian  
Apuleius  
Aristophanes  
Aristotle  
Arrian  
Boethius, Ancius  
Caesar, Julius  
Catullus  
Cicero, Marcus Tullius  
Curtius Rufus, Quintus  
Dio, Cassius  
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Heraclitus  
Herodotus  
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Josephus, Flavius  
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Livy, Titus  
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Lucian  
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Menander  
Michael Psellus  
Ovid  
Pausanuis  
Persius  
Petronius  
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Pliny the Elder  
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Plotinus  
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Procopius  
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Saint Augustine  
Sallust  
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Equiano, Oluadah  
First, Ruth  
Huxley, Elspeth  
Kanute, Banna  
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o  
Sancho, Ignatius  
Schreiner, Olive  
Suso, Bamba

### Arab World

Usama ibn Munqidh

### Argentina

Borges, Jorge Luis  
Sarmiento, Domingo F.

### Australia

Franklin, Miles  
White, Patrick

**Austria**

Freud, Sigmund

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Davies, Robertson

**Caribbean**

Naipaul, Shiva

Seacole, Mary

**Chile**

Neruda, Pablo

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Lu Xun

Mencius

Pu Songling

Shen Fu

Sun-tzu

Tu Fu

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Capek, Karel

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**Denmark**

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Kierkegaard, Søren

**England**

Abbott, Edwin A.

Alfred the Great

Amis, Kingsley

Anselm of Aosta

Asser

Austen, Jane

Bacon, Francis

Beckford, William

Bede

Behn, Aphra

Bennett, Arnold

Bentham, Jeremy

Blackmore, R. D.

Blackwood, Algernon

Blake, William

Bligh, William

Braddon, Mary Elizabeth

Brontë, Anne

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Browning, Elizabeth Barrett

Browning, Robert

Brittain, Vera

Bunyan, John

Burney, Frances

Butler, Samuel

Byron, Lord

Carroll, Lewis

Carter, Angela

Cavendish, Margaret

Chatwin, Bruce

Chaucer, Geoffrey

Cherry-Garrard, Apsley

Chesterton, G. K.

Christian, Edward

Churchill, Winston

Cleland, John

Coleridge, Samuel

Collins, Wilkie

Congreve, William

Conrad, Joseph

Cook, James

Cugoano, Quobna Ottobah

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David, Elizabeth

De Quincey, Thomas

Defoe, Daniel

Donne, John

Dryden, John

Eddius Stephanus

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Equiano, Olaudah

Fielding, Henry

Ford, Ford Madox

Forster, E. M.

Gaskell, Elizabeth

Gay, John

Geoffrey of Monmouth

Gerald of Wales

Gibbon, Edward

Gibbons, Stella

Gilbert, W. S.

Gissing, George

Godwin, William

Goldsmith, Oliver

Gosse, Sir Edmund

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Haggard, H. Rider

Hakluyt, Richard

Hardy, Thomas

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James, Henry

James, M. R.

Jerome, Jerome K.

Johnson, Samuel

Jonson, Ben

Julian of Norwich

Keats, John

Kempe, Margery

Kingsley, James

Kipling, Rudyard

Lamb, Charles

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Langland, William

Lanyer, Aemilia

Lawrence, D. H.

Lennox, Charlotte

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Lyell, Sir Charles

Macaulay, Lord Thomas

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Malory, Sir Thomas

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Martineau, Harriet

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Maugham, W. Somerset

Mayhew, Henry

Meredith, George

Middleton, Thomas

Mill, John Stuart

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Montagu, Lady Mary

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More, Sir Thomas

Morris, William

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Newman, John Henry

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Pym, Barbara

Radcliffe, Ann

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Stephanus, Eddius  
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Tennyson, Alfred Lord  
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Thesiger, Wilfred  
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Walpole, Horace  
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Wollstonecraft, Mary  
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Wordsworth, William

## France

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Beaumarchais, Pierre-  
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Brillat-Savarin, Jean  
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Kleist, Heinrich von  
Mann, Thomas  
Marx, Karl  
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Snorri Sturluson

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Yeats, W. B.



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## United States

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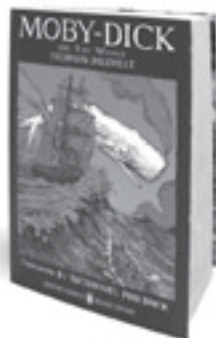
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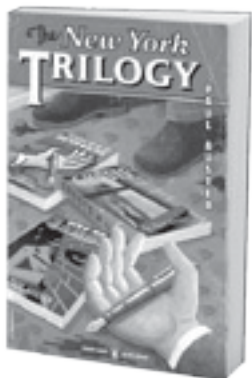
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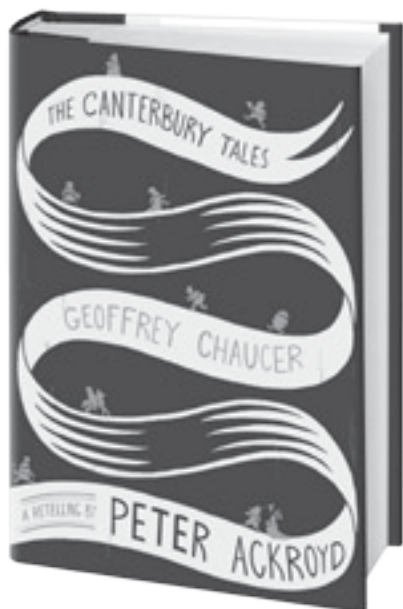
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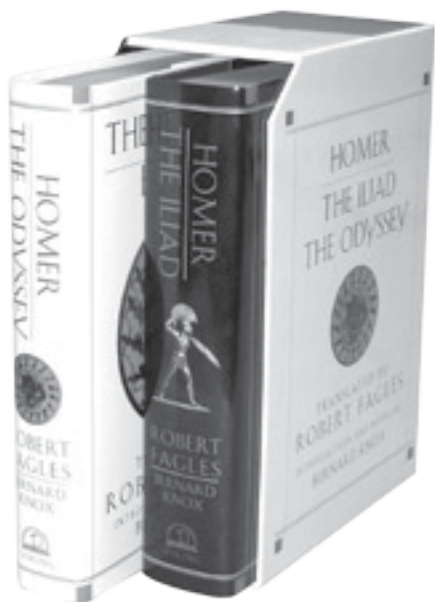
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