

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: AENEID

Author: VIRGIL

Original Date: 1971

Roman epic based on the legend of Aeneas, the Trojan prince whose descendants were supposed to have founded Rome. Traces the ancestry of Julius Caesar to the gods, and makes the greatness of Rome the subject of divine intervention and prophecy. [BR 10294 translated by Robert Fitzgerald. DB 64204 translated by Robert Fagles. 2006.]
BR 10294 DB 16338 DB 64204

Title: ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Author: REMARQUE, ERICH MARIA, 1898-1970

Original Date: 1929

Classic World War I novel first published in 1929 depicting the horrors and futility of armed conflict. Nineteen-year-old German private Paul Baumer relates the daily routine of ordinary soldiers in the trenches and tells how warfare affected him and his three classmates. Portrays young men who may have escaped bullets but were destroyed by their combat experience.

BR 11984 DB 12312 DB 54896

Title: ANIMAL FARM: A FAIRY STORY

Author: ORWELL, GEORGE, 1903-1950

Original Date: 1946

Classic political satire targets Soviet Communism. The animals on a farm overthrow their master and live a utopian life until the intelligent pigs take over and one establishes himself as dictator. [BR 20910 is the Centennial edition with a forward by Ann Patchett, preface by Russell Baker, and introduction by C.M. Woodhouse.]

BR 01613 BR 13456 BR 20910 DB 38959 LB 03239 LB 05330

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: ANNA KARENINA: A NOVEL IN EIGHT PARTS

Author: TOLSTOY, LEO, 1828-1910

Original Date: 1877

In 1870s Russia, Anna disregards convention, preferring an adulterous affair with Count Vronsky to her stifling marriage. Ostracized by society and separated from her beloved son, Anna gradually unravels. Tolstoy's classic novel in a 2000 translation by the award-winning team of Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. 1877.

DB 72059

Title: ART OF WAR

Author: SUN-TZU (SUN-ZI)

Original Date: 2002

Master Sun's two-thousand-year-old advice on war strategy appears twice: first by itself and then interspersed with commentary, mostly by Chinese scholars, attesting to the text's philosophical relevance to modern culture. Translation and introduction by Oxford scholar John Minford. 2002.

DB 59556

Title: BEOWULF

Author: HEANEY, SEAMUS, 1939-2013

Original Date: 2000

Nobel laureate Heaney presents a bilingual edition of the tenth-century Anglo-Saxon epic, which includes the original poem in Old English along with his new modern English verse translation. The poem chronicles the feats of Scandinavian warrior Beowulf, who battles with monsters and brings wisdom to leadership. Whitbread Award. Bestseller.

BR 12591 DB 49742

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: BEST SHORT STORIES OF GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Author: MAUPASSANT, GUY DE, 1850-1893

Original Date: 1968

Nineteen stories by the nineteenth-century French master of the short story. Includes the famous "Ball-of-Fat," in which the author shows his contempt for the hypocrisy of "solid citizens," and "The Diamond Necklace," in which a woman's downfall stems from pride and social aspirations. 1968.

DB 22118

Title: BRAVE NEW WORLD

Author: HUXLEY, ALDOUS, 1894-1963

Original Date: 1946

A satire of a technocratic future society in which people are rigidly classified and kept happy by a government-administered drug. When two bureaucrats, Lenina and Bernard, travel to a "savage" reservation, they "rescue" a woman and her adult son, abandoned long ago, and returns them to civilization. An argument with the "World Controller" demonstrates the incompatibility of individual freedom and a totally planned society.

BR 01601 BR 11922 DB 13455 DB 47108

Title: BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

Author: DOSTOYEVSKY, FYODOR, 1821-1881

Original Date: 1880

The melodramatic tale of Fyodor Karamazov and his sons: Alyosha, Dmitri, Ivan, and the illegitimate Smerdyakov. The death of the father and conflicts of faith are key themes in this panorama of nineteenth-century Russia. [DB 50370 is the acclaimed 1990 translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky.]

BR 06803 DB 20172 DB 50370

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: CANTERBURY TALES

Author: CHAUCER, GEOFFREY, D. 1400

Original Date: 1952

A poetic comedy from fourteenth-century England. During the annual April pilgrimage to Thomas a Becket's shrine at Canterbury, the travelers stop at the Tabard Inn, where their host suggests a storytelling contest. The jovial tellers of the ribald tales include a friar, summoner, nun's priest, and miller. [BR 466 is modern English translation by Nevill Coghill. BR 13235 is modern English translation by Ronald L. Ecker and Eugene J. Crook.]

BR 00466 BR 13235 DB 20461

Title: COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Author: DUMAS, ALEXANDRE, 1802-1870

Original Date: 1845

A sailor, unjustly accused of helping the exiled Napoleon in 1815, escapes from prison after 14 years to take revenge on the four men who caused his imprisonment. Now wealthy after recovering a buried treasure, he assumes a new identity and plots the ruin of his accusers. [BR 6917 published 1984.]

BR 06917 DB 11299 DB 56946

Title: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Author: DOSTOYEVSKY, FYODOR, 1821-1881

Original Date: 1866

Psychological chronicle of a sensitive intellectual who nearly convinces himself that he is exempt from moral law because poverty drives him to murder. [DB 50147 translated from the Russian by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky; with an introduction by W.J. Leatherbarrow.] 1993.

BR 06832 BR 18145 DB 21783 DB 50147

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

Author: PATON, ALAN

Original Date: 1948

The classic story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo's search for his delinquent son, Absalom, in 1940s Johannesburg, South Africa. Kumalo's experiences are set against a background of a land and people who struggle not only with overwhelming racial injustice but also with disintegration of their tribal culture and traditional family bonds. 1948.

BR 01948 BR 15354 DB 17190 DB 57559 LB 00067

Title: DIVINE COMEDY

Author: DANTE ALIGHIERI, 1265-1321

Original Date: 1970

John Ciardi's faithful translation of Dante's classic epic poem in its entirety. Dante describes being lost in a frightening forest, meeting the poet Virgil, and being conducted by Virgil through hell (The Inferno), purgatory (The Purgatorio), and paradise (The Paradiso). 1321.

BR 12134 DB 30589

Title: DOLL'S HOUSE

Author: IBSEN, HENRIK, 1828-1906

Original Date: 1879

A woman who has always been sheltered, petted, and expected to act like a scatterbrain begins to feel that her father's and later her husband's treatment was not the love she suspected. 1879.

BR 06839 DB 24292

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: DON QUIXOTE OF LA MANCHA

Author: CERVANTES SAAVEDRA, MIGUEL DE, 1547-1616

Original Date: 1605

A Spanish parody of romances of chivalry, whose hero is an addlebrained, idealistic old country gentleman. Accompanied by his ignorant but shrewd and practical squire, he sets out like a knight of old to search for adventure and to right wrongs. Originally published in 1605.

BR 08808 BR 15246 DB 24290

Title: DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

Author: STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS, 1850-1894

Original Date: 1886

In this psychological novel of the war waged between good and evil within the human personality, a kindly physician commits diabolical crimes when his suppressed personality is released. First published in 1886. [DB 26427 was recorded from a Bantam Books edition, published in 1981. It includes an afterword by Jerome Charyn.]

DB 26427 LB 00391

Title: DRACULA

Author: STOKER, BRAM

Original Date: 1897

A tale of vampires set in the late 19th century. Jonathan Harker, an English solicitor, visits Count Dracula in his Transylvania castle to transact some business, and soon learns that Dracula is not the ordinary man he appears, but a monster. His horror increases when Dracula moves to England.

DB 31689

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: EPIC OF GILGAMESH

Author:

Original Date: 1977

English version of the adventures of the great King of Uruk in the third millennium B.C., including his fruitless search for immortality and his friendship with Enkidu, the wild man from the hills. Also alludes to the legend of the Flood, agreeing in many details with the Biblical story of Noah.

DB 19137

Title: FRANKENSTEIN; OR, THE MODERN PROMETHEUS

Author: SHELLEY, MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT, 1797-1851

Original Date: 1818

Classic horror story. A science student, Victor Frankenstein, invents an artificial man using body parts from several corpses. The hideous creature cannot find companionship and becomes violent. Eventually he turns on his creator. 1818.

BT 03719 DB 25835 LB 03683 LB 06283

Title: GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Author: DICKENS, CHARLES, 1812-1870

Original Date: 1861

Pip, a poor orphan boy, is befriended by an unknown benefactor and goes to London to live the life of a gentleman. The sequence of events and his meetings with strange and colorful characters change him from a shallow youth to a mature man. [BR 11178 published 1992 includes an introduction by G.K. Chesterton. BR 1587 published 1932.]

BR 01587 BR 11178 DB 11454 DB 53991

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Author: SWIFT, JONATHAN

Original Date: 1726

Published in 1726 as a scornful satire on humankind, this novel follows the travels of Captain Lemuel Gulliver into remote and fanciful nations of the world. On his voyages, he encounters miniature people, giants, horses with human reason, and a flying island. 1967.

BR 12766 DB 23150 LB 02983

Title: HEART OF DARKNESS WITH THE CONGO DIARY AND UP-RIVER BOOK

Author: CONRAD, JOSEPH, 1857-1924

Original Date: 1902

Classic allegorical tale in which Marlow, a wandering seaman, recounts his journey into the heart of the Belgian Congo where he confronted the depths of human savagery. Centenary edition includes "The Congo Diary" and "Up-River Book," and Conrad's notes documenting his 1890 visit to the region. 2002 foreword by A.N. Wilson. [See also Heart of Darkness and the Secret Sharer, DB 12613.] 1902.

DB 58105

Title: HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Author: DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN, 1859-1930

Original Date: 1902

The evil of Sir Hugo, master of the lonely manor Baskerville on the moors, began the "Curse of the Baskervilles" in the seventeenth century. Now, years later, the legendary hound howls and Sir Charles Baskerville dies. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson move in to solve the crime. [BR 10565, published 1993, includes introduction by Editor W.W. Robson and Doyle's chronology.]

BR 10565 DB 14165 LB 04815

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS

Author: ALLENDE, ISABEL

Original Date: 1985

Symbolic family saga by the niece of Chile's assassinated President Salvador Allende. Concerns the union of gentle, clairvoyant Clara del Valle and autocratic, violent Esteban Trueba, patron of a huge hacienda whose peasants he controls with tyranny. Through three generations of vividly portrayed characters, a strong, compassionate picture of an unnamed but identifiable country emerges. 1985.

BR 06096 DB 21524

Title: ILIAD

Author: HOMER

Original Date: 1990

Robert Fagles's 1990 translation of the Greek epic poem written during the eighth century B.C.E. and attributed to Homer. Relates the events of a few days of battle near the end of the Trojan War. Focuses on Achilles' withdrawal from the fight and its disastrous effects on the Greek campaign. 1990. [DB 43541 is Robert Fitzgerald's 1961 translation, which won the Bollingen Prize for best translation of a poem into English.]

DB 43541 DB 66356

Title: JANE EYRE

Author: BRONTE, CHARLOTTE, 1816-1855

Original Date: 1847

Nineteenth-century English novel. An intelligent woman educated at a charitable institution becomes the governess at an estate, is caught up in the mysteries of the manor, and falls in love with the brooding master of the house. 1847.

BR 10514 BT 03741 DB 10886 DB 47868 LB 04365

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: MACBETH

Author: SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM, 1564-1616

Original Date: 1959

The tragedy of the Scottish thane who becomes obsessed with the desire for power and, spurred on by his wife, murders Duncan, his king, in order to become king himself. A study of the profound guilt and fear that overtake Macbeth and his wife. 1959.

BR 09269 BT 03724 DB 24293 LB 00261

Title: MADAME BOVARY

Author: FLAUBERT, GUSTAVE, 1821-1880

Original Date: 1857

In this classic French novel, Emma Bovary, married to a dull young doctor, seeks the excitement and happiness she expects from life by taking lovers and spending money extravagantly, only to become disappointed by her lovers and deeply involved in debt. [BR 124809 and DB 49192 translated by Gerard Hopkins; with an introduction by Anita Brookner. LB 06721 and DB 73372 translated with an introduction and notes by Lydia Davis.]

BR 12480 DB 13249 DB 49192 DB 73372 LB 06721

Title: MISERABLES

Author: HUGO, VICTOR, 1802-1885

Original Date: 1862

Jean Valjean, a poor French peasant, is imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his hungry children. He escapes, hiding his identity and devoting his life to noble causes, until once again he becomes the victim of cruel circumstances. Hugo's epic novel about the human capacity for goodness and society's penchant for evil is set during the turmoil of the eighteenth-century French Revolution.

DB 35363

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: NIGHT TRILOGY

Author: WIESEL, ELIE, 1928-2016

Original Date: 1972

Night is an account of the exile of Elisha and his Jewish family from Poland to Auschwitz; in Dawn, Elisha is the sole survivor of his family; and in The Accident, Elisha becomes a successful journalist in New York and the victim of a near fatal accident. Some violence and some descriptions of sex.

BR 11185 DB 42074

Title: NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

Author: ORWELL, GEORGE, 1903-1950

Original Date: 1949

Satire about an alternate London under a totalitarian regime overseen by the omnipresent Big Brother. Winston Smith, a Ministry of Truth bureaucrat, attempts an intellectual rebellion against the Party while he pursues an illicit romance. His actions lead to his imprisonment, torture, and reeducation by the Thought Police. 1949.

BR 10312 DB 34268 DB 73474 LB 02843

Title: ODYSSEY

Author: HOMER

Original Date: 1996

Robert Fagles's 1996 translation of the Greek epic poem attributed to Homer. After the Trojan War, Odysseus begins a ten-year voyage back to Ithaca during which he relies on his wit and willness to survive encounters with Poseidon, god of oceans, and other divine and natural forces. 1996.

BR 12113 DB 72052

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE

Author: GARCIA MARQUEZ, GABRIEL, 1927-2014

Original Date: 1970

The rise and fall, birth and death, of the mythical town of Macondo, somewhere in Latin America, through characterizations of the Buendia family. The variety of life and the search for peace and truth are universal themes that dominate the novel. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 59490

Title: PARADISE LOST

Author: MILTON, JOHN, 1608-1674

Original Date: 1669

An epic poem based on the theme of mankind's fall from grace, loss of innocence, and the struggle to return to paradise. Richly elaborate symbolism is employed to portray Satan's battle with God, descent into Hell, and his seduction of Adam and Eve

DB 31889

Title: PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

Author: WILDE, OSCAR, 1854-1900

Original Date: 1895

A beautiful youth has his portrait painted by an artist with a flair for the morbid. The portrait becomes the mirror of its innocent-appearing subject's inner life. This Gothic melodrama created such a scandal that the author added a preface to defend his aesthetic philosophy, stating: "There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all." 1895.

BR 09281 BR 17780 DB 11341 DB 56794 LB 04812

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: PILGRIM'S PROGRESS FROM THIS WORLD TO THAT WHICH IS TO COME AND GRACE ABOUNDING TO THE CHIEF OF SINNERS

Author: BUNYAN, JOHN, 1628-1688

Original Date: 2004

Two classic works by English Puritan John Bunyan (1628-1688). In the allegorical tale Pilgrim's Progress, the protagonist, burdened by sin, leaves the City of Destruction to find Zion, the city of God. His journey embodies Christian teachings. In Grace Abounding, Bunyan recounts his conversion and spiritual growth. 2004.

BR 15964 DB 59950

Title: PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN

Author: JOYCE, JAMES, 1882-1941

Original Date: 1916

An autobiographical character study of Stephen Daedalus, portrayed later as the protagonist in Joyce's Ulysses (DB 19994). Written in a much more straightforward style than Ulysses, this novel omits the obscurities and difficult allusions. [BR 6244: the definitive text, corrected from the Dublin holograph by C.G. Anderson and edited by Richard Ellmann. BR 18335 includes 2006 introduction by Langdon Hammer.]

BR 06244 BR 18335 DB 22892 LB 00346

Title: ROBINSON CRUSOE

Author: DEFOE, DANIEL, 1661?-1731

Original Date: 1719

Crusoe runs away to sea, is shipwrecked, and leads a solitary existence on an uninhabited island near the Orinoco River for twenty-four years. He meets the difficulties of primitive life with ingenuity and at length finds a companion in a native whom he saves from cannibals. First published in 1719.

BR 09250 DB 27138 LB 00053 LB 04816

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: ROMEO AND JULIET

Author: SHAKESPEARE, WILLIAM, 1564-1616

Original Date: 1595

A sixteenth-century romantic tragedy of two teenagers from rival families who fall in love. A sentence of exile and an impending arranged marriage force the two to flee. A friar suggests a ruse to accomplish their union, but miscommunication causes it to backfire. 1595.

BR 10925 DB 44353

Title: SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Author: AUSTEN, JANE, 1775-1817

Original Date: 1811

Written in the 1790s as “Elinor and Marianne” and published in 1811 under the current title, this tale of two sisters provides a portrait of upper- and middle-class English society. The two Dashwood women, forced to live in reduced circumstances, each search for the right marriage partner—one relying on common sense, the other on romantic emotion. [BR 11520 published 1995.]

BR 11520 DB 22282 LB 03396 LB 04697

Title: STRANGER

Author: CAMUS, ALBERT, 1913-1960

Original Date: 1946

An existential novel set in Algiers, about a man who resists any commitment, rendering his life meaningless. He does not react to his mother’s death nor to a killing he commits, and he becomes a placid prisoner convicted of murder. His own impending death, however, leads him to some realizations.

BR 01185 BR 10394 DB 40902

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

Author: HARDY, THOMAS, 1840-1928

Original Date: 1891

Victorian England. When her impoverished family discovers its noble heritage, young Tess appeals to wealthy, supposed relatives, the D'Urbervilles, and falls victim to Alec. Later, Tess marries the vicar's son, Angel Clare. But Angel rejects Tess for her scandalous past, forcing her back to Alec - with tragic results. 1891.

BR 17469 DB 20074 LB 03231

Title: THINGS FALL APART

Author: ACHEBE, CHINUA

Original Date: 1995

Portrays traditional Igbo society in nineteenth-century Nigeria and one of its great men, Okonkwo. Through rituals, the lives of the individual and the community are unified, giving them order and significance. But the time-honored system of beliefs and behavior falls apart with the arrival of missionaries and colonists. Originally published in 1958.

DB 47510

Title: THREE MUSKETEERS

Author: DUMAS, ALEXANDRE, 1802-1870

Original Date: 1844

Seventeenth-century France. D'Artagnan arrives in Paris, determined to join the king's bodyguards. He duels with each of the three musketeers—Athos, Porthos, and Aramis—and becomes their close friend. Their swashbuckling escapades occur amid court intrigues dominated by Cardinal Richelieu. 1844.

BR 07477 BR 17264 DB 64277

WORLD CLASSICS

Title: TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

Author: WOOLF, VIRGINIA, 1882-1941

Original Date: 1927

During summer visits to the Scottish coast, members of the Ramsey family reveal their personal challenges and innermost thoughts. Youngest child James must forfeit a yearned-for visit to the lighthouse. Ten years later, James, surviving family members and former guests complete the long-delayed outing. [DB 67708 includes Eudora Welty's 1981 foreword.] 1927.

BR 00617 BR 18163 DB 67708

Title: WAR AND PEACE

Author: TOLSTOY, LEO, 1828-1910

Original Date: 1869

Epic historical novel portrays five aristocratic families against the background of Russian social life during the Napoleonic Wars (1805-1814). Depicts campaign battles, the burning of Moscow, and the French army's winter retreat. DB/RC 67136 is a 2007 translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. 1869.

BR 09710 DB 26275 DB 67136 LB 03318

Title: WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Author: BRONTE, EMILY, 1818-1848

Original Date: 1847

This classic nineteenth-century English novel, set in the wild moor country of Yorkshire, is about Heathcliff, a foundling raised in the Earnshaw home, who passionately loves Catherine. He dedicates his life to the realization of that love and revenge on those who oppose him. First published in 1847.

BR 01218 BR 11902 DB 25178 LB 00038 LB 04699