The Age of Innocence
Edith Wharton

The intelligent and charming Newland Archer - a member of one of New York's most prominent families - is living the life that has always been expected of him: he is a successful lawyer engaged to the beautiful and well-connected May Welland. However, with the arrival of May's cousin, the free-spirited and unconventional Countess Ellen Olenska, doubts begin to grow in Newland's mind. As the bond between them grows, Newland comes increasingly to question all that had once seemed so simple.

An extraordinarily well-observed dissection of New York's high society in the 1870s - the world Edith Wharton grew up in - The Age of Innocence shines a critical light on the social mores and values of the old order.

Author Bio

Edith Wharton (1862-1937) was one of America's greatest writers. The author of more than forty books, including The Age of Innocence, Wharton was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University, and full membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Wharton was the principal designer of her 1902 country home The Mount in Lenox, Mass. The Mount's elegant house and gardens reflect the neoclassical design principles that she espoused in her works The Decoration of Houses and Italian Villas and Their Gardens.
The Crack-up
by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Compiled and published after Fitzgerald's death by his friend, the prominent critic and editor Edmund Wilson, The Crack-Up is a collection of writings that chronicle the author's state of mind and personal perspective on events, fellow writers and public figures of the 1920s and 1930s. In addition to articles and essays such as the celebrated title piece, this volume includes a selection of Fitzgerald's notebooks, which - as well as being a repository of anecdotes and witty lines - provide a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse into the novelist's creative process, with passages that would be reworked into his fiction.

An entertaining and eclectic miscellany that sheds light on the author and his times, The Crack-Up is an invaluable companion to such well-known works as The Great Gatsby and Tender Is the Night.

He was better than he knew, for in fact and in the literary sense he invented a generation.” - The New York Times

Author Bio

Considered one of the finest American writers of the twentieth century, F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was the author of various novels and short stories chronicling life in the US during the Roaring Twenties.
Written in 1932, but not published until 1962, over twenty years after its author's death, The Life of Monsieur de Moliere charts the life of the French playwright, from his humble beginnings to later theatrical triumphs and political controversies. The work was met with disapproval by the Soviet authorities, who detected parallels between the lives of Moliere and Bulgakov, and viewed the work as a veiled critique of their own times. With a dazzling blend of biography and novelistic imagination, Bulgakov's eccentric and satirical take on the life of a fellow writer energetically captures the genius of Moliere, while revealing another aspect of his own self.

One of the great writers of the twentieth century." - A.S. Byatt

Author Bio

Born in Kiev in 1891 to Russian parents, Mikhail Bulgakov trained as a doctor and volunteered for the Red Cross on the outbreak of the First World War. He later enlisted as a doctor for the anti-Bolshevik White Army, before eventually giving up medicine to concentrate on literature. The Master and Margarita is his most famous work, and has been hailed as one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century.
Have you ever looked up into the sky and wondered about space, astronomy and the universe? Perhaps you have. But you've probably never looked around you - at the water you drink, the sunglasses you wear or the selfies people take - and thought about space. The truth is, there is more of space on earth than you realize.

Full of amazing facts about everyday innovations inspired by space travel and sections on the people who brought them to us, Space on Earth is an entertaining and fascinating look at space and the untold relationship with the planet we live on, helping children not only to feel the awe and wonder of the universe, but also to understand the reasons why space is relevant to us here on Earth.

Author Bio

Dr Sheila Kanani is the Education, Outreach & Diversity Officer at the Royal Astronomical Society. She is a planetary physicist, science presenter, secondary-school physics teacher and space comedian.
Spring Awakening
by Frank Wedekind, translated by Tom Osborn

The best and most enduring German play of its era." - Jonathan Franzen"

Author Bio

Frank Wedekind (1864-1918) was born in Hanover. He became a journalist and later secretary of a circus before forming his own theatrical company and producing and acting in his own plays. *Frühlings Erwachen (Spring Awakening)* was written in 1891 and like all his plays aroused great controversy for its sexual outspokenness. It is perhaps his best known work.
The Story of the Amulet
by E. Nesbit, illustrated by Ella Okstad

When Cyril, Anthea, Robert and Jane find the Psammead, a magical sand fairy, in a pet shop in London, they have no idea that they are about to embark on their greatest adventure yet. The Psammead leads them to an Egyptian amulet that has the power to grant whatever their hearts desire. The problem is that the amulet is broken, and the other half - needed if their wishes are to be granted - is lost. Yet with their half of the amulet able to transport them through time, the children set out on a search for the missing half, and the realization of their wildest dreams.

From an encounter with Julius Caesar to a visit of the lost city of Atlantis, The Story of the Amulet - the final instalment in the Psammead Trilogy - is an unforgettable tale of magic and time travel that has been loved by children and parents alike for more than a century.

Author Bio

E. Nesbit is the author of the classic children's story The Railway Children.

Alma Books
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Juvenile Fiction / Classics • Ages 10 years and up

Notes

Promotion
Tender is the Night
by F. Scott Fitzgerald

While holidaying at a villa on the French Riviera, Dick and Nicole Diver, a wealthy American couple, meet the young film star Rosemary Hoyt. Her arrival causes a stir in their social circle and exposes the cracks in their fragile marriage. As their relationship unravels, glimpses of their troubled past emerge, and a series of disturbing events unfolds. Peopled by an unforgettable cast of aristocrats and high-fliers, Tender Is the Night is at once a scathing critique of the materialism and hypocrisy of the Roaring Twenties and a poignant and sensitive account of personal tragedy and disillusionment.

He was better than he knew, for in fact and in the literary sense he invented a generation." - The New York Times

"Gatsby was a tour de force, but this is a confession of faith." - Fitzgerald comment on Tender is the Night

Author Bio

Considered one of the finest American writers of the twentieth century, F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was the author of various novels and short stories chronicling life in the US during the Roaring Twenties.
To the Lighthouse
by Virginia Woolf

When Mrs Ramsay tells her guests at her summer house on the Isle of Skye that they will be able to visit the nearby lighthouse the following day, little does she know that this trip will only be completed ten years later by her husband, and that a gulf of war, grief and loss will have opened in the meantime. As each character tries to readjust their memories and emotions with the shifts of time and reality, this long-delayed excursion will also prove to be a journey of self-discovery and fulfilment for them.

Rich in symbolism, daring in style, elegiac in tone and encapsulating Virginia Woolf's ideas on life, art and human relationships, To the Lighthouse is a landmark of twentieth-century literature and one of the high points of early Modernism.

Author Bio

The most famous member of the Bloomsbury Group, Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) was a novelist, essayist and critic. Her writing established her as one of Modernism's leading exponents, as well as a pioneering feminist. Her most famous works include To the Lighthouse, Orlando and Mrs Dalloway.
Stephen Glennard is in desperate need of money. So when he becomes aware of the potential value of a series of passionate love letters written to him by the recently deceased author Margaret Aubyn, he sells them and marries the beautiful Alexa Trent. However, his shame and guilt at building a new life on the betrayal of another's love slowly begins to eat away at him, and Margaret's memory has a power that can reach him from beyond the grave.

The first of Edith Wharton's works depicting life in old New York*, *The Touchstone* is an acutely observed novella, and an exploration of the tension between self-serving opportunism and the desire to live a moral life.

**Author Bio**

Edith Wharton (1862-1937) was one of America's greatest writers. The author of more than forty books, including *The Age of Innocence*, Wharton was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University, and full membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Wharton was the principal designer of her 1902 country home The Mount in Lenox, Mass. The Mount's elegant house and gardens reflect the neoclassical design principles that she espoused in her works *The Decoration of Houses and Italian Villas and Their Gardens.*
On his thirtieth birthday, the bank clerk Josef K. is suddenly arrested by mysterious agents for an unspecified crime. He is told that he will be set free, but must make regular appearances at a court in the attic of a tenement building while his trial proceeds. Although he never comes to know the particulars of his case, Josef K. finds his life taken over by the opaque bureaucratic procedures and is tormented by the psychological pressures exerted by his legal nightmare.

Published the year after the author's death, but written ten years earlier, *The Trial* is the most acclaimed of Kafka's three novels, and is both a haunting meditation on freedom and the powerlessness of the individual in the face of state power, and an ominous prefiguration of the totalitarian excesses of the twentieth century.

Those who defend the process may offer absurd arguments, but they also state the case as clearly as it can be stated. All the humour of Kafka lies here, in the logical pursuit of absurd arguments. – *Zadie Smith*

**Author Bio**

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) was one of the giants of twentieth-century German literature. His stories, such as *The Metamorphosis* (1915), and novels, including *The Trial* (1925) and *The Castle* (1926), concern troubled individuals in a nightmarishly impersonal and bureaucratic world.
Ulysses
by James Joyce

Controversial, scandalous, erudite and funny, Ulysses is undisputedly a landmark of twentieth-century modernism. It charts one day - 16th June 1904 - in the lives of three inhabitants of Dublin: the advertising salesman Leopold Bloom, the artist Stephen Dedalus and Bloom's wife Molly. Their peregrinations, thoughts and encounters form the basis of the narrative, which becomes a celebration of all human experience through the lives of specific individuals in a specific place at a specific time. Ulysses is both an experimental novel and a book intimately concerned with the events of modern life.

A lively repository of literary allusion and colloquial realism, this dazzlingly innovative, ambitious novel is here presented in its 1939 Odyssey Press version, which is regarded as the most accurate text published in Joyce's lifetime. This edition also includes over 9,000 notes by Joyce scholars Sam Slote, Marc A. Mamigonian and John Turner.

This is a text of choice for first-time and established readers alike" - Variants:
The Journal of the European Society for Textual Scholarship

"[The] annotations are by far the most systematic, the most thorough, the most scholarly, of any single-volume Ulysses. The notes on scientific and technical terms are particularly clear." - The Irish Times

"[This edition] provides perhaps the clearest insight into the finely grained details of Ulysses of any yet on offer." - The Irish Times

"[The annotations] are exacting, full, textured and, yes, economical of expression." - James Joyce Quarterly

"[The] annotation is extensive, diligent and unfussy, and offers a serious rival to Jeri Johnson's notes in the Oxford edition." - The Tablet

"Anyone looking for an accurate, annotated Ulysses will find one here." - TLS

"I love this edition. The explanatory notes don't get in the way of the text but rather send (...)"

Author Bio

Born in Dublin, James Joyce (1882-1941) spent most of his life abroad, living in Trieste, Paris and Zurich. His writings, however, mainly centre on Dublin - his home town, his memories of his childhood, and his memories of his time in Dublin.
We
by Yevgeny Zamyatin, translated by Hugh Aplin

We takes place in a distant future, where humans are forced to submit their wills to the requirements of the state, under the rule of the all-powerful Benefactor, and dreams are regarded as a sign of mental illness. In a city of straight lines, protected by green walls and a glass dome, a spaceship is being built in order to spearhead the conquest of new planets. Its chief engineer, a man called D-503, keeps a journal of his life and activities: to his mathematical mind everything seems to make sense and proceed as it should, until a chance encounter with a woman threatens to shatter the very foundations of the world he lives in.

Written in a highly charged, direct and concise style, Zamyatin's 1921 seminal novel - here presented in Hugh Aplin's crisp translation - is not only an indictment of the Soviet Russia of his time and a precursor of the works of Orwell and the dystopian genre, but also a prefiguration of much of twentieth-century history and a harbinger of the ominous future that may still lay ahead of us.

Author Bio
Yevgeny Zamyatin (1884-1937) was a Russian novelist and journalist who worked as an engineer in England before becoming a writer in his homeland. His satirical and critical works earned him the displeasure of the Soviet regime and he spent the last few years of his life in exile in Paris.
The House of the Dead
by Fyodor Dostoevsky, translated by Roger Cockrell

The House of the Dead recounts the story of Alexander Goryanchikov, a gentleman who is sent to a prison colony in Siberia for killing his wife. Largely ignored at first by his fellow inmates due to his noble blood, he gradually settles in and becomes an avid observer of the new world around him - watching his fellow prisoners being brutally and cruelly punished by the guards, listening to their past stories of blood and murder, assimilating the institution's social codes and learning that even convicts are capable of acts of pure generosity.

Based on Dostoevsky's own autobiographical experiences of penal servitude in Siberia, this genre-defying novel is not only an unflinching expose of the conditions faced by prisoners during the Tsarist period, but also a call to see the human side in criminals and rediscover the values of forgiveness and compassion.

Author Bio

Fyodor Dostoevsky was a Russian novelist and writer of fiction whose works, including Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov, have had a profound and lasting effect on intellectual thought and world literature.
Of unknown date, and surviving in a tenth-century manuscript, Beowulf is the tale of a young Geatish hero and his struggle with three deadly foes, beginning with the dread monster Grendel, who has been devouring warriors in the hall of the Danish King in their sleep.

The most important Old English poem, and the first known major poem written in a European vernacular, Beowulf is a unique and compelling mix of sixth-century historical events, Christian commentary, Germanic myth and Anglo-Saxon culture. The poem is presented here in a dual-text format with a new translation by multi-award-winning translator J.G. Nichols.
A Fantasy of Dr Ox
by Jules Verne, translated by Andrew Brown

In the somnolent Flemish town of Quiquendone disagreements are unheard of, courtships might last a decade and not a ripple of activity can be seen at all. But when the mysterious Dr Ox and his assistant Ygene move into the neighbourhood, strange things begin to happen: animals become aggressive, fruits grow huge in size, plants climb more vigorously and tempers flare up, leading the once phlegmatic townsfolk to bitter confrontations and pushing them to the brink of all-out violence.

Verne, the acclaimed author of immortal tales of adventure and early science fiction, can be seen here in a different light, regaling readers of all ages with a light-hearted satire that, in its warnings about the dangers of scientific experimentation, has a clear and troubling resonance with our times.

Author Bio

Jules Verne (1828-1905) was a prominent science fiction author. He penned many classics, such as 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. ANDREW BROWN is an author, a lawyer, and a volunteer police officer who lives in Cape Town, South Africa. He won the Sunday Times Fiction Prize for Coldsleep Lullaby, and his work has also been shortlisted for the Alan Paton Award and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize (Africa Region). He is married and has three children.
Selected Plays
by Oscar Wilde

Between 1892 and 1895, Oscar Wilde’s drawing-room comedies Lady Windermere’s Fan, A Woman of No Importance, An Ideal Husband and The Importance of Being Earnest made his name as a playwright who fearlessly mocked the hypocrisy and snobbery of Victorian society and took gleeful delight in appearing to trivialize its most sacred institutions. With its premiere on Valentine’s Day 1895, The Importance of Being Earnest - a hilarious comedy of mistaken identities and coruscating language - was a phenomenal success, but its run was cut short prematurely by Wilde’s court case and subsequent incarceration, and the play was not published until 1899, after Wilde had been released from prison.

Also including the powerful Salome, originally written in French and banned by the British censor, this collection displays Wilde at his provocative and witty best, and demonstrates why he was a playwright who delighted audiences and infuriated critics in equal measure.

Author Bio

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1856. In the years following his graduation from Oxford in 1878 he published poems and stories which included The Picture of Dorian Gray. Lady Windermere’s Fan was produced in 1892, A Woman of No Importance in 1893 and An Ideal Husband and The Importance of Being Earnest in 1895. Later work included De Profundis and The Ballad of Reading Gaol. He died in 1900.
Before taking up her new post as a governess, the artful and ambitious Becky Sharp spends a brief period at the family home of her friend Amelia Sedley. Passive, pampered and utterly reliant on others, Amelia is the opposite of her scheming and ruthless friend. While Becky tries to ensnare the wealthy and vain Jos Sedley, Amelia desires nothing more than to be betrothed to the self-obsessed and raffish soldier George Osborne. Meanwhile, Captain William Dobbin, with his constant and selfless love for Amelia, is the only one who steers clear of any calculated romantic manoeuvrings.

Woven into the climactic events of the Napoleonic Wars, and set against a backdrop of gaudy elegance and cut-throat personal ambition, *Vanity Fair* is an epic and sweeping satire, and a landmark of English literature.

**Author Bio**

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-63) was an English novelist best known for *Vanity Fair*, a satirical portrait of English society that is considered one of the crowning achievements of Victorian literature.
In this classic Victorian Bildungsroman, David Copperfield makes his way through life, from his happy Suffolk childhood and his subsequent adventures in London, where he is dispatched by his unsympathetic stepfather, through to his first steps as a writer and his search for love and happiness. Along the way he encounters a vast array of characters - among them, some of Dickens's most memorable ones - such as the eccentric aunt Betsey Trotwood, the deluded optimist Wilkins Micawber and the obsequious villain Uriah Heep.

Much admired by Freud and Dostoevsky, and cited by Dickens as the favourite among his own novels, this heavily autobiographical work marks the transition from his early picaresque novels to his more profound later works. A frequent subject of adaptations and always ranking highly among readers' favourite classics, *David Copperfield* is as fresh and entertaining today as it was when it was first published over a hundred and fifty years ago.

**Author Bio**

Considered by many to be the greatest novelist of the English language, Charles John Huffam Dickens was born February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. Some of his most popular works include *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*. 
Pen in Hand
Reading, Rereading and other Mysteries
by Tim Parks

How can other people like the books we don’t like? What benefit can we get from rereading a work? Can we read better? If so, how? These and many other questions, ranging from the field of writing to that of reading and translation, are given a comprehensive answer in a series of stimulating and challenging literary essays that will be a perfect read for all book explorers and practitioners of the pen.

After delighting us with his novels and many volumes of non-fiction, Tim Parks - who is not only an acclaimed author and a translator, but also a celebrated literary essayist - gives us a book to enjoy, savour and, most importantly, reread.

There are many ways of touring the land that Italians, following Dante, call il bel paese, and Parks is as perceptive a guide as could be wished.” - TLS

Author Bio

Tim Parks is the author of fourteen novels, including Europa (shortlisted for the Booker prize), Destiny, Cleaver, Sex Is Forbidden and, most recently, Painting Death, all of which have been translated into many languages. As well as being a novelist and the author of several works of non-fiction, Tim is the acclaimed translator of books by Moravia, Calvino, Machiavelli and other Italian writers. He’s a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books and the London Review of Books.
A Voyage to the Moon
by Cyrano de Bergerac, translated by Andrew Brown

In A Voyage to the Moon, the narrator (called, like the author, Cyrano de Bergerac), after a failed first attempt to reach the moon using vials of dewdrops, finally makes it into space and to his desired destination using the more scientific means of a rocket-powered craft. After landing, he discovers four-legged creatures whose nourishment is smoke and whose currency is poetry and encounters the ghost of Socrates.

Published posthumously and intended mainly as a satire of its age, this imaginative and entertaining tale - here presented in a lively translation by Andrew Brown - is now considered one of the pioneering works of science fiction.

A firecracker of a book, sparking off in all directions." - TLS

Author Bio

Savinien de Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-55) - best known for Edmond de Rostand's depiction of him in his famous play - was a major writer of the French libertine movement, and the author of plays such as The Death of Agrippina and The Pedant Tricks and many other innovative works of prose and poetry. ANDREW BROWN is an author, a lawyer, and a volunteer police officer who lives in Cape Town, South Africa. He won the Sunday Times Fiction Prize for Coldsleep Lullaby, and his work has also been shortlisted for the Alan Paton Award and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Africa Region). He is married and has three children.
White Fang
by Jack London, illustrated by Ian Beck

Part wolf, part dog, White Fang learns to survive in the freezing wilderness. As well as being forced to confront the harsh realities of nature, the young cub experiences the cruelties of humans - but when his fortunes change, will love and civilization set him on the path to happiness?

Set in the Yukon territory of Canada during the gold rush of the 1890s, White Fang is a rollicking tale of adventure which has enchanted generations of readers since its first appearance in 1906 and become a timeless children's classic.

Author Bio

Jack London was an American author who wrote The Call of the Wild and other books. A pioneer in the then-burgeoning world of commercial magazine fiction, he was one of the first Americans to make a lucrative career exclusively from writing. Ian Beck has illustrated Digory the Dragon Slayer and Winston the Book Wolf by Marni McGee. He lives with his family in London, England.

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Juvenile Fiction / Action & Adventure

Notes

Promotion
The founding father of modern Russian literature, Alexander Pushkin has exerted - through his novel in verse *Eugene Onegin*, his plays, his short stories and his narrative poetry - a long-lasting influence well beyond the borders of his motherland. A slightly lesser-known, but by no mean less important aspect of his writing is his vast production of shorter verse, a genre at which he excelled and arguably still remains unsurpassed.

This volume, part of Alma's series of the complete poetic works of Alexander Pushkin, collects the poems Pushkin wrote during his exile in Mikhaylovskoe and his subsequent return to St Petersburg, at a time when he was working on *Eugene Onegin* and many others of his most celebrated works, and includes some of his lyrical masterpieces, such as 'To -' - arguably the most famous love poem in the Russian language - 'A Flower', 'St Petersburg' and 'My Autograph', each presented in a verse translation opposite the original Russian text. Enriched with notes, pictures and an appendix on Pushkin's life and works, this will be essential reading for anyone wishing to delve deeper into the Russian bard's genius.

**Author Bio**

Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837) was a dramatist and poet, penning such influential works as *Eugene Onegin* and *Boris Godunov*. He is now considered the father of modern Russian literature.
Paradise Lost
by John Milton

Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven."

Blind, broken by the death of his wife and bitterly disappointed by the Restoration, Milton dictated his sweeping biblical epic Paradise Lost to a series of helpers. While the struggle between God and Satan rages across the cosmos, the human tragedy of Adam and Eve - the temptation and fall - is movingly depicted in language unsurpassed in its musicality and beauty.

A staggering and audacious undertaking - seeking, in Milton's words, to "justify the ways of God to men" - Paradise Lost has been revered since its initial publication, inspiring writers from Mary Shelley to William Wordsworth, and is widely considered to be the greatest poem ever written in the English language.

Author Bio

John Milton (1608-74) is best known for his epic masterpiece Paradise Lost and for his commitment to the republican cause. He wrote the crucial justifications for the trial and execution of King Charles I and was Secretary for Foreign Tongues, thus becoming the voice of the revolution. His influence on English literature can only be rivalled by Shakespeare.