https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/may/08/books.booksnews

[Best books](https://www.theguardian.com/books/bestbooks)

The top 100 books of all time - Take a look at a list of the top 100 books of all time, nominated by writers from around the world, from Things Fall Apart to Mrs Dalloway, and from Pride and Prejudice to Don Quixote - [The 100 greatest non-fiction books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/jun/14/100-greatest-non-fiction-books)   
  
Looking for great book recommendations? Our [critics and experts pick the best books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/bestbooks), and give the [definitive subject lists](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/1000novels)

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| Don Quixote | The greatest book of all time? ... Don Quixote and Sancho Panza as drawn by Honoré Daumier, c.1855. Photograph: Francis G. Mayer/Corbis  Wed 8 May 2002 10.58 BST |

[1984](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/book/fiction/9781857151343/george-orwell) by George Orwell, England, (1903-1950)

[A Doll's House](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=A+Doll%27s+House) by Henrik Ibsen, Norway (1828-1906)

[A Sentimental Education](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=A+Sentimental+Education&searchBy=all) by Gustave Flaubert, France, (1821-1880)

[Absalom, Absalom!](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Absalom%2C+Absalom&searchBy=all) by William Faulkner, United States, (1897-1962)

[The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Huckleberry+Finn) by Mark Twain, United States, (1835-1910)

[The Aeneid](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Aeneid&searchBy=all) by Virgil, Italy, (70-19 BC)

[Anna Karenina](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Anna+Karenina&searchBy=all) by Leo Tolstoy, Russia, (1828-1910)

[Beloved](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Beloved&searchBy=all) by Toni Morrison, United States, (b. 1931)

[Berlin Alexanderplatz](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Berlin+Alexanderplatz&searchBy=all) by Alfred Doblin, Germany, (1878-1957)

[Blindness](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=blindness&searchBy=all) by Jose Saramago, Portugal, (1922-2010)

[The Book of Disquiet](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Book+of+Disquiet&searchBy=all) by Fernando Pessoa, Portugal, (1888-1935)

[The Book of Job](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Book+of+Job&searchBy=all), Israel. (600-400 BC)

[The Brothers Karamazov](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Brothers+Karamazov&searchBy=all) by Fyodor M Dostoyevsky, Russia, (1821-1881)

[Buddenbrooks](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Buddenbrook&searchBy=all) by Thomas Mann, Germany, (1875-1955)

[Canterbury Tales](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Canterbury+Tales&searchBy=all) by Geoffrey Chaucer, England, (1340-1400)

[The Castle](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Castle+Bohemia+Kafka&searchBy=all) by Franz Kafka, Bohemia, (1883-1924)

[Children of Gebelawi](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Children+of+Gebelawi&searchBy=all) by Naguib Mahfouz, Egypt, (b. 1911)

[Collected Fictions](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Collected+Fictions+Jorge+Luis+Borges&searchBy=all) by Jorge Luis Borges, Argentina, (1899-1986)

[Complete Poems](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/book/poetry/9780141193878/canti-the-poems-of-leopardi) by Giacomo Leopardi, Italy, (1798-1837)

[The Complete Stories](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Complete+Stories%3B+Franz+Kafka&searchBy=all) by Franz Kafka, Bohemia, (1883-1924)

[The Complete Tales](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Complete+Tales+Edgar+Allan+Poe&searchBy=all) by Edgar Allan Poe, United States, (1809-1849)

[Confessions of Zeno](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Confessions+of+Zeno&searchBy=all) by Italo Svevo, Italy, (1861-1928)

[Crime and Punishment](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Crime+and+Punishment+&searchBy=all) by Fyodor M Dostoyevsky, Russia, (1821-1881)

[Dead Souls](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Dead+Souls&searchBy=all) by Nikolai Gogol, Russia, (1809-1852)

[The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Other Stories](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Death+of+Ivan+Ilyich+and+Other+Stories&searchBy=all) by Leo Tolstoy, Russia, (1828-1910)

[Decameron](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Decameron&searchBy=all) by Giovanni Boccaccio, Italy, (1313-1375)

[The Devil to Pay in the Backlands](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Joao+Guimaraes+Rosa&searchBy=author) by Joao Guimaraes Rosa, Brazil, (1880-1967)

[Diary of a Madman and Other Stories](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Diary+of+a+Madman+and+Other+Stories&searchBy=all) by Lu Xun, China, (1881-1936)

[The Divine Comedy](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=divine+comedy&searchBy=all) by Dante Alighieri, Italy, (1265-1321)

[Don Quixote](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Don+quixote&searchBy=all) by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Spain, (1547-1616)

[Essays](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Essays+Michel+de+Montaigne&searchBy=all) by Michel de Montaigne, France, (1533-1592)

[Fairy Tales and Stories](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Fairy+Tales+and+Stories+Hans+Christian+Andersen&searchBy=all) by Hans Christian Andersen, Denmark, (1805-1875)

[Faust](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Faust+Goethe&searchBy=all) by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Germany, (1749-1832)

[Gargantua and Pantagruel](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Gargantua+and+Pantagruel&searchBy=all) by Francois Rabelais, France, (1495-1553)

[Gilgamesh](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Mesopotamia+Gilgamesh&searchBy=all) Mesopotamia, (c 1800 BC)

[The Golden Notebook](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Golden+Notebook&searchBy=all) by Doris Lessing, England, (b.1919)

[Great Expectations](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Great+Expectations&searchBy=all) by Charles Dickens, England, (1812-1870)

[Gulliver's Travels](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Gulliver%27s+Travels+Jonathan+Swift&searchBy=all) by Jonathan Swift, Ireland, (1667-1745)

[Gypsy Ballads](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Gypsy+Ballads+Federico+Garcia+Lorca&searchBy=all) by Federico Garcia Lorca, Spain, (1898-1936)

[Hamlet](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=hamlet&searchBy=title) by William Shakespeare, England, (1564-1616)

[History](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Elsa+Morante&searchBy=author) by Elsa Morante, Italy, (1918-1985)

[Hunger](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Hunger+Knut+Hamsun&searchBy=author) by Knut Hamsun, Norway, (1859-1952)

[The Idiot](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=the+idiot+Fyodor+Dostoyevsky&searchBy=title) by Fyodor M Dostoyevsky, Russia, (1821-1881)

[The Iliad](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Iliad+Homer&searchBy=all) by Homer, Greece, (c 700 BC)

[Independent People](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Independent+People&searchBy=all) by Halldor K Laxness, Iceland, (1902-1998)

[Invisible Man](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Invisible+Man+Ralph+Ellison&searchBy=all) by Ralph Ellison, United States, (1914-1994)

[Jacques the Fatalist and His Master](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Jacques+the+Fatalist+and+His+Master&searchBy=all) by Denis Diderot, France, (1713-1784)

[Journey to the End of the Night](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=+Journey+to+the+End+of+the+Night&searchBy=all) by Louis-Ferdinand Celine, France, (1894-1961)

[King Lear](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=King+Lear+shakespeare&searchBy=all) by William Shakespeare, England, (1564-1616)

[Leaves of Grass](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Leaves+of+Grass+Walt+Whitman&searchBy=all) by Walt Whitman, United States, (1819-1892)

[The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Tristram+Shandy&searchBy=all) by Laurence Sterne, Ireland, (1713-1768)

[Lolita](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=) by Vladimir Nabokov, Russia/United States, (1899-1977)

[Love in the Time of Cholera](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Love+in+the+Time+of+Cholera&searchBy=title) by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia, (b. 1928)

[Madame Bovary](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Madame+Bovary&searchBy=title) by Gustave Flaubert, France, (1821-1880)

[The Magic Mountain](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Magic+Mountain&searchBy=title) by Thomas Mann, Germany, (1875-1955)

[Mahabharata](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Mahabharata&searchBy=title), India, (c 500 BC)

[The Man Without Qualities](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Man+Without+Qualities+&searchBy=title) by Robert Musil, Austria, (1880-1942)

[The Mathnawi](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Mathnawi+&searchBy=title) by Jalal ad-din Rumi, Afghanistan, (1207-1273)

[Medea](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Medea&searchBy=title) by Euripides, Greece, (c 480-406 BC)

[Memoirs of Hadrian](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Memoirs+of+Hadrian+Marguerite+Yourcenar&searchBy=all) by Marguerite Yourcenar, France, (1903-1987)

[Metamorphoses](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Metamorphoses&searchBy=all) by Ovid, Italy, (c 43 BC)

[Middlemarch](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Middlemarch&searchBy=all) by George Eliot, England, (1819-1880)

[Midnight's Children](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Midnight%27s+Children&searchBy=all) by Salman Rushdie, India/Britain, (b. 1947)

[Moby-Dick](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=moby+dick&searchBy=all) by Herman Melville, United States, (1819-1891)

[Mrs. Dalloway](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Mrs.+Dalloway&searchBy=all) by Virginia Woolf, England, (1882-1941)

[Njaals Saga](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/book/classics/9781853267857/njals-saga), Iceland, (c 1300)

[Nostromo](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Nostromo&searchBy=title) by Joseph Conrad, England,(1857-1924)

[The Odyssey](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Odyssey+homer&searchBy=all) by Homer, Greece, (c 700 BC)

[Oedipus the King](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Oedipus+the+King&searchBy=all) Sophocles, Greece, (496-406 BC)

[Old Goriot](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Old+Goriot+Honore+de+Balzac&searchBy=all) by Honore de Balzac, France, (1799-1850)

[The Old Man and the Sea](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=the+old+man+and+the+sea&searchBy=all) by Ernest Hemingway, United States, (1899-1961)

[One Hundred Years of Solitude](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=One+Hundred+Years+of+Solitude&searchBy=all) by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia, (b. 1928)

[The Orchard](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Bustan&searchBy=title) by Sheikh Musharrif ud-din Sadi, Iran, (c 1200-1292)

[Othello](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Othello&searchBy=title) by William Shakespeare, England, (1564-1616)

[Pedro Paramo](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Pedro+Paramo+Juan+Rulfo&searchBy=all) by Juan Rulfo Juan Rulfo, Mexico, (1918-1986)

[Pippi Longstocking](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Pippi+Longstocking&searchBy=all) by Astrid Lindgren, Sweden, (1907-2002)

[Poems](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Poems+Paul+Celan&searchBy=all) by Paul Celan, Romania/France, (1920-1970)

[The Possessed](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Possessed+&searchBy=title) by Fyodor M Dostoyevsky, Russia, (1821-1881)

[Pride and Prejudice](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Pride+and+Prejudice&searchBy=title) by Jane Austen, England, (1775-1817)

[The Ramayana](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Ramayana+Valmiki&searchBy=title) by Valmiki, India, (c 300 BC)

[The Recognition of Sakuntala](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=the+Recognition+of+Sakuntala+Kalidasa&searchBy=all) by Kalidasa, India, (c. 400)

[The Red and the Black](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Red+and+the+Black&searchBy=all) by Stendhal, France, (1783-1842)

[Remembrance of Things Past](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Remembrance+of+Things+Past&searchBy=all) by Marcel Proust, France, (1871-1922)

[Season of Migration to the North](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Season+of+Migration+to+the+North&searchBy=all) by Tayeb Salih, Sudan, (b. 1929)

[Selected Stories](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Selected+Stories+Anton+Chekhov&searchBy=all) by Anton P Chekhov, Russia, (1860-1904)

[Sons and Lovers](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Sons+and+Lovers&searchBy=all) by DH Lawrence, England, (1885-1930)

[The Sound and the Fury](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Sound+and+the+Fury&searchBy=all) by William Faulkner, United States, (1897-1962)

[The Sound of the Mountain](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Sound+of+the+Mountain&searchBy=all) by Yasunari Kawabata, Japan, (1899-1972)

[The Stranger](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Stranger+Albert+Camus&searchBy=all) by Albert Camus, France, (1913-1960)

[The Tale of Genji](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Tale+of+Genji+&searchBy=all) by Shikibu Murasaki, Japan, (c 1000)

[Things Fall Apart](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Tale+of+Things+Fall+Apart+Chinua+Achebe&searchBy=all) by Chinua Achebe, Nigeria, (b. 1930)

[Thousand and One Nights](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Thousand+and+One+Nights&searchBy=all), India/Iran/Iraq/Egypt, (700-1500)

[The Tin Drum](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Tin+Drum+&searchBy=all) by Gunter Grass, Germany, (b.1927)

[To the Lighthouse](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=To+the+Lighthouse&searchBy=all) by Virginia Woolf, England, (1882-1941)

[The Trial](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=The+Trial+Franz+Kafka&searchBy=all) by Franz Kafka, Bohemia, (1883-1924)

[Trilogy: Molloy, Malone Dies, The Unnamable](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Trilogy%3A+Molloy%2C+Malone+Dies%2C+The+Unnamable&searchBy=all) by Samuel Beckett, Ireland, (1906-1989)

[Ulysses](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Ulysses&searchBy=title) by James Joyce, Ireland, (1882-1941)

[War and Peace](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=War+and+Peace&searchBy=title) by Leo Tolstoy, Russia, (1828-1910)

[Wuthering Heights](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/book/classics/9780141439556/wuthering-heights) by Emily Brontë, England, (1818-1848)

[Zorba the Greek](https://www.theguardian.com/books/data/search/results?query=Zorba+the+Greek.&searchBy=title) by Nikos Kazantzakis, Greece, (1883-1957)

This list of the 100 best books of all time was prepared by Norwegian Book Clubs. They asked 100 authors from 54 countries around the world to nominate the ten books which have had the most decisive impact on the cultural history of the world, and left a mark on the authors' own thinking. Don Quixote was named as the top book in history but otherwise no ranking was provided

This article was amended on 14 March 2012. José Saramago's entry was updated to include the year of his death.