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### **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900–1944)**

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was a French writer, poet and pioneering aviator. He was born in Lyon into an aristocratic family and became one of the early pilots of international airmail routes. He flew across Africa and South America, experiences that deeply shaped his literary work.

During World War II, he joined the Free French Air Force and carried out reconnaissance missions. He disappeared in

1944 during a flight over the Mediterranean Sea.

His writing combines adventure with philosophical reflection, focusing on friendship, responsibility, loneliness and the search for meaning.

ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

# Le Petit Prince

★ Avec des aquarelles de l'auteur



### **The Little Prince (1943)**

This short novel tells the story of a young prince who travels from planet to planet, meeting different characters who represent different aspects of human behaviour. Through these encounters, the story criticises adult attitudes such as obsession with power, vanity and materialism.

On Earth, the prince meets a fox who teaches him about friendship, trust and responsibility. The story contrasts the imaginative vision of children with the limited perspective of adults.

Although simple in form, the book offers a deep reflection on human relationships, communication and what truly matters in life.



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## Wind, Sand and Stars (1939)

This autobiographical work is based on Saint-Exupéry's experiences as a pilot. It describes dangerous flights across deserts and mountains, showing both the technical challenges and the emotional impact of isolation.

Beyond adventure, the book reflects on human solidarity, responsibility and the meaning of life. It highlights how extreme situations can reveal the best and worst of human nature.

### SELECTED QUOTES

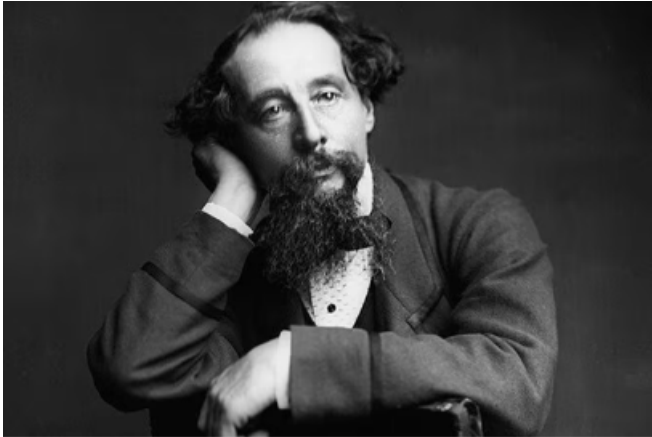
- "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." — *The Little Prince*
- "You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed." — *The Little Prince*
- "All grown-ups were once children... but only few of them remember it." — *The Little Prince*
- "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction." — *Wind, Sand and Stars*



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## Charles Dickens (1812–1870)



Charles Dickens was one of the most influential novelists of the 19th century and a key figure of the Victorian era in England. He was born in Portsmouth into a middle-class family, but his childhood was marked by financial instability. When his father was imprisoned for debt, Dickens was forced to leave school and work in a blacking factory at the age of twelve. This traumatic experience had a lasting impact on him and deeply influenced his writing.

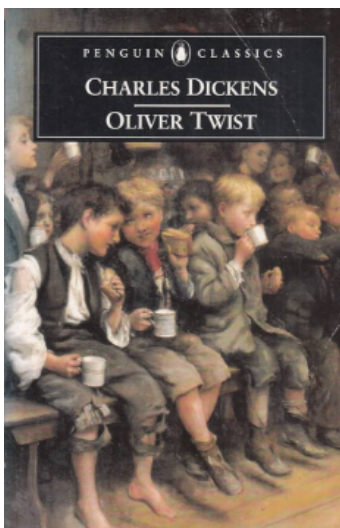
Throughout his career, Dickens became known for his ability to portray the realities of industrial society with vivid detail and emotional depth. His novels often focus on the lives of the poor, especially children, exposing social injustice, exploitation and inequality. At the same time, he created memorable and often symbolic characters that represent different aspects of society.

Dickens published many of his works in serial form, meaning they were released chapter by chapter in magazines. This allowed him to reach a wide audience and respond to readers' reactions. His storytelling style combines humour, drama and social criticism, making his works both entertaining and thought-provoking.

Today, Dickens remains one of the most widely read authors in the world. His works have been adapted into numerous films, television series, theatre productions and even modern reinterpretations, which makes his stories visually and culturally familiar to students.

## Oliver Twist (1837–1839)

Oliver Twist tells the story of an orphan boy born into poverty who grows up in a workhouse, an institution designed to care for the poor but often characterised by harsh conditions and neglect. From the beginning, Oliver suffers hunger, mistreatment and lack of affection.



After escaping the workhouse, Oliver travels to London, where he falls into the hands of Fagin, a criminal who trains children to become pickpockets. Oliver is forced into a world of crime, but he maintains his innocence and moral integrity throughout the story.

The novel contrasts different environments: the cruelty of the workhouse, the danger of the criminal underworld and the

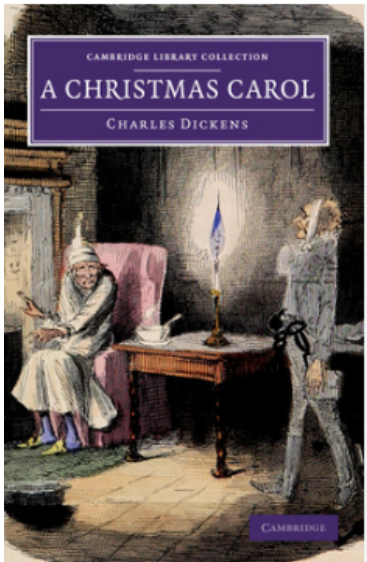


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possibility of kindness and generosity. Dickens uses Oliver's story to criticise the social systems that fail to protect vulnerable children.

The book also explores the tension between nature and environment: Oliver remains good despite being surrounded by corruption. This raises questions about morality, identity and the role of society in shaping individuals.



### **A Christmas Carol (1843)**

This novella centres on Ebenezer Scrooge, a wealthy but selfish and cold-hearted man who cares only about money. He rejects human connection, avoids charity and shows no compassion towards others.

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him that he will suffer a similar fate if he does not change. Three spirits then visit Scrooge: the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Through these encounters, Scrooge is confronted with his own life, the consequences of his actions and the impact he has on others. He realises the emptiness of his existence and decides to change.

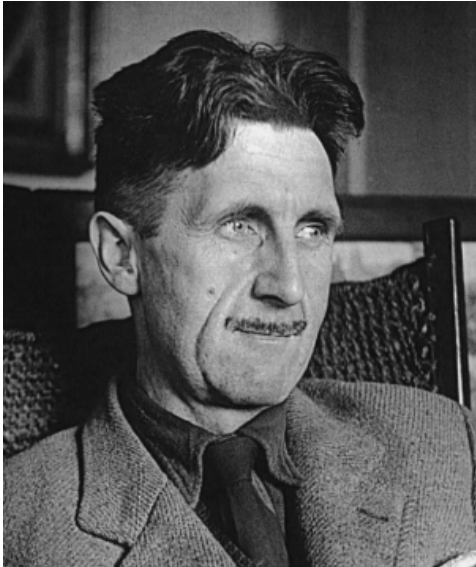
The story emphasises the possibility of personal transformation and highlights the importance of empathy, generosity and social responsibility. It also reflects Dickens's criticism of social inequality and indifference to poverty.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another." — A Christmas Carol
- "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." — A Christmas Carol
- "Please, sir, I want some more." — Oliver Twist
- "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." — A Tale of Two Cities



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### **George Orwell (1903–1950)**

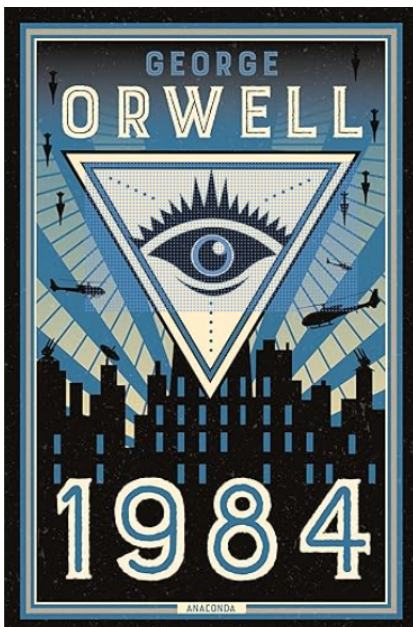
George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Arthur Blair, was an English writer, journalist and essayist. He was born in India, which was then part of the British Empire, and educated in England. His early experiences shaped his critical view of power and inequality.

After finishing his studies, Orwell worked as a colonial police officer in Burma (now Myanmar). This experience made him question imperialism and authority. Later, he lived among the poor in cities like London and Paris to better understand social inequality, which inspired some of his early works.

A key moment in his life was his participation in the Spanish Civil War, where he fought against fascism. This experience deeply influenced his political thinking and reinforced his opposition to totalitarianism in all its forms.

Orwell's writing is characterised by clarity and precision. He believed that language should be used to reveal truth, not to manipulate it. His works explore themes such as surveillance, censorship, propaganda and the abuse of power, making them especially relevant in modern societies.

## **Major Works**



### **1984 (1949)**

*1984* is a dystopian novel set in a totalitarian society where the government controls every aspect of life. The state is led by an almost mythical figure known as Big Brother, and citizens are constantly monitored through telescreens and surveillance systems.

The protagonist, Winston Smith, works for the Ministry of Truth, where he rewrites historical records to match the Party's version of reality. This manipulation of information shows how power can control not only actions but also memory and truth.



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Language plays a central role in the novel. The regime develops “Newspeak”, a simplified language designed to limit the ability to think critically. If people do not have words for certain ideas, they cannot express or even conceive them.

As Winston begins to question the system, he attempts to resist, but the novel shows how difficult it is to maintain individuality in a society built on control, fear and psychological manipulation.

The novel raises important questions about freedom, identity, truth and the role of language in shaping reality.



### ***Animal Farm (1945)***

*Animal Farm* is an allegorical novella that tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human owner in order to create a society based on equality and cooperation.

At first, the animals establish a system where all are equal. However, the pigs, who assume leadership, gradually take more power and begin to manipulate the rules for their own benefit. Over time, they become indistinguishable from the humans they replaced.

The story reflects how revolutionary ideals can be corrupted and how power can lead to inequality if it is not controlled. Orwell uses simple language and animal characters to communicate complex political ideas in a way that is accessible and powerful.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *“Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four.” — 1984*
- *“Big Brother is watching you.” — 1984*
- *“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” — Animal Farm*
- *“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” — Essay: The Freedom of the Press*



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### **Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616)**

Miguel de Cervantes is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in world literature and a central figure of the Spanish Golden Age. He was born in Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid, into a modest family. His life was marked by instability, adventure and hardship, all of which deeply influenced his literary work.

As a young man, Cervantes travelled to Italy and later joined the Spanish army. He fought in the Battle of Lepanto (1571), one of the most important naval battles of the time, where he was seriously wounded and lost the use of his left hand. Despite this, he always considered the experience a source of pride.

On his way back to Spain, Cervantes was captured by pirates and spent five years as a prisoner in Algiers. After being ransomed, he returned to Spain and struggled financially for much of his life, working in various administrative jobs.

These experiences gave him a deep understanding of human nature, society and the contrast between ideals and reality. His writing reflects irony, humour and critical observation, often questioning social norms and perceptions.

Cervantes is especially important because he helped shape the modern novel. His characters are complex and psychologically rich, and his narratives explore multiple perspectives, blurring the line between fiction and reality.

## **Major Works**



### ***Don Quixote* (1605–1615)**

*Don Quixote* is considered one of the first modern novels and one of the most influential works in Western literature. It tells the story of Alonso Quixano, a middle-aged man who becomes obsessed with books about knights and chivalry. Inspired by these stories, he reinvents himself as a knight called Don Quixote and sets out on a journey to defend justice and fight evil.

He is accompanied by Sancho Panza, a practical and down-to-earth farmer who serves as his squire. The relationship between Don Quixote and Sancho Panza is central to the novel, representing the tension between idealism and realism.



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Throughout the story, Don Quixote misinterprets reality: he attacks windmills believing they are giants, sees inns as castles and imagines ordinary people as noble figures. These situations create humour, but they also invite deeper reflection.

The novel explores several key themes:

- **Reality vs imagination:** Don Quixote lives according to an imagined world, raising questions about how we perceive reality.
- **Identity and self-construction:** The protagonist chooses who he wants to be, challenging fixed identities.
- **Idealism vs pragmatism:** The contrast between Don Quixote and Sancho Panza reflects different ways of understanding the world.
- **Social critique:** Cervantes subtly criticises the values and contradictions of his society.

Although often read as a comic novel, *Don Quixote* is also a profound reflection on human aspirations, failure and dignity. The character's determination, even in the face of ridicule, can be interpreted as both admirable and tragic.

### ***Exemplary Novels (Novelas ejemplares, 1613)***

This collection of twelve short stories presents a wide range of characters and social situations. Each story offers a different perspective on human behaviour, often including moral, ironic or satirical elements.

Unlike *Don Quixote*, which follows a single narrative, these stories explore diverse themes such as love, deception, honour, social mobility and justice. Cervantes experiments with different narrative styles, showing his versatility as a writer.

The title "exemplary" suggests that the stories contain lessons or reflections, but Cervantes does not impose simple moral conclusions. Instead, he invites readers to interpret the situations and draw their own ideas.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *"When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies?" — Don Quixote*
- *"The truth may be stretched thin, but it never breaks." — Don Quixote*
- *"Too much sanity may be madness — and maddest of all: to see life as it is, and not as it should be." — Don Quixote*
- *"He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more." — Don Quixote*



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### **Mary Shelley (1797–1851)**

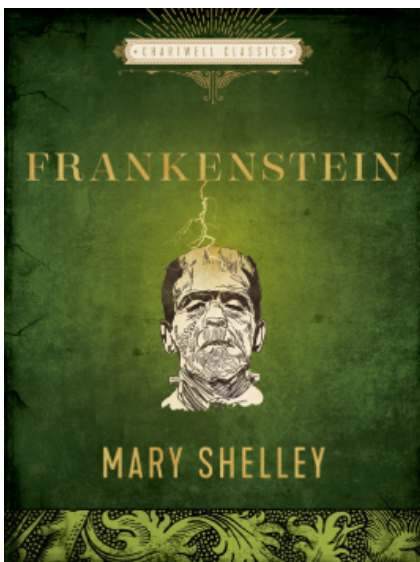
Mary Shelley was an English novelist and a key figure in early science fiction. She was born in London into an intellectual and progressive family. Her father, William Godwin, was a philosopher, and her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, was a pioneering advocate for women's rights. Although her mother died shortly after her birth, her legacy had a strong influence on Shelley's thinking.

Mary Shelley grew up in an environment surrounded by writers, thinkers and political debate. As a teenager, she developed a close relationship with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, with whom she later travelled across Europe. These journeys exposed her to new ideas, cultures and literary influences.

One of the most important moments in her life occurred in 1816, during a stay near Lake Geneva with Percy Shelley and Lord Byron. Due to bad weather, the group spent long evenings indoors telling ghost stories. During this time, Mary Shelley conceived the idea for *Frankenstein*, which she began writing at the age of 18.

Her life was marked by personal loss, including the deaths of several of her children and her husband. These experiences influenced the emotional depth of her writing. Shelley's works often explore themes such as creation, responsibility, isolation and the limits of human knowledge.

## **Major Works**



### ***Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818)**

*Frankenstein* tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist obsessed with discovering the secret of life. Through his experiments, he succeeds in creating a living being from dead matter. However, shocked by the creature's appearance, he immediately rejects it.

The creature, intelligent and sensitive, seeks acceptance and companionship but is repeatedly rejected by society



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because of its appearance. As a result, it becomes isolated and eventually turns to violence.

The novel raises complex questions about **scientific responsibility, ethics and the consequences of human ambition**. Victor's failure is not in creating life, but in abandoning his creation. The story suggests that knowledge without responsibility can lead to suffering.

The relationship between creator and creature is central to the novel. The creature can be seen both as a victim and as a threat, which challenges the reader to reflect on themes such as empathy, justice and the fear of the unknown.

The subtitle, *The Modern Prometheus*, refers to the myth of Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods to give it to humanity. This parallel reinforces the idea of forbidden knowledge and the risks of overstepping natural limits.

### ***The Last Man (1826)***

This novel is set in a future where a mysterious plague gradually destroys humanity. The story follows a small group of survivors as they try to cope with the collapse of society.

Unlike traditional adventure stories, *The Last Man* focuses on emotional and psychological experiences rather than action. It explores themes such as isolation, loss and the fragility of civilisation.

The novel is also notable for imagining a global catastrophe, making it relevant to modern discussions about pandemics and collective responsibility.

#### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *"Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful."* — *Frankenstein*
- *"Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change."* — *Frankenstein*
- *"I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel."* — *Frankenstein*
- *"Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge."* — *Frankenstein*



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### **Franz Kafka (1883–1924)**

Franz Kafka was a writer born in Prague, which at the time was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He wrote in German and is considered one of the most important figures in modern literature.

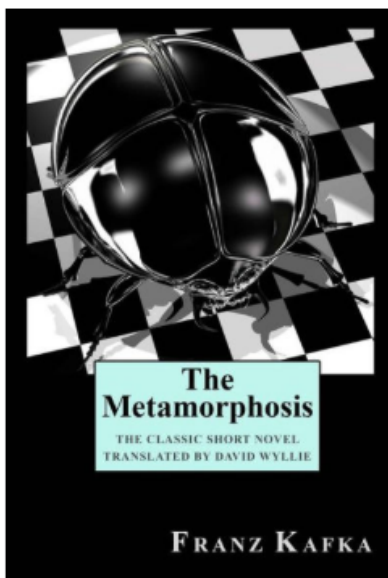
Kafka grew up in a middle-class Jewish family and had a complex relationship with his father, who was strict and authoritarian. This relationship influenced many of his works, which often explore themes of authority, fear and personal inadequacy.

He studied law and worked in an insurance company, a job that exposed him to bureaucratic systems and repetitive routines. These experiences shaped his view of modern society as impersonal, confusing and often oppressive.

Kafka's writing is known for its unusual and unsettling atmosphere. His stories often begin with strange or impossible situations that are accepted as normal by the characters. This creates a sense of discomfort and raises questions about identity, freedom and the individual's place in society.

Although Kafka published only a small part of his work during his lifetime, his writings became highly influential after his death. Today, the term "Kafkaesque" is used to describe situations that are absurd, illogical and dominated by complex, unfair systems.

## **Major Works**



### ***The Metamorphosis* (1915)**

This short novel begins with one of the most famous openings in literature: Gregor Samsa, a travelling salesman, wakes up one morning transformed into a giant insect.

Despite this shocking transformation, Gregor is initially more worried about being late for work than about his condition. This reaction highlights how deeply his identity is tied to his role in society.



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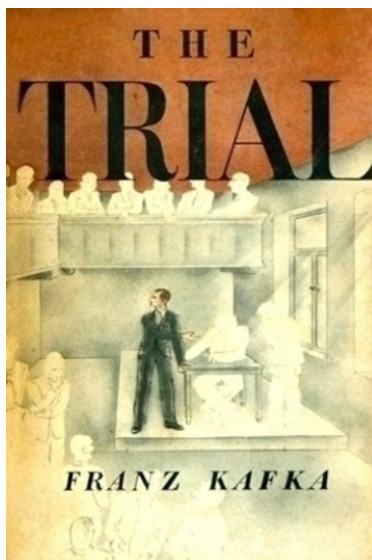


As the story progresses, Gregor becomes increasingly isolated. His family, who once depended on him financially, begins to reject him. He is hidden away, neglected and eventually treated as a burden.

The story explores several important themes:

- **Identity and self-worth:** Gregor's value is linked to his usefulness. When he can no longer work, he loses his place in the family.
- **Isolation and exclusion:** The transformation makes visible a loneliness that already existed.
- **Family relationships:** The story shows how relationships can change under pressure.
- **Dehumanisation:** Gregor is gradually treated as less than human.

The narrative invites readers to question what makes someone human and how society defines value and dignity.



### ***The Trial* (published posthumously, 1925)**

*The Trial* tells the story of Josef K., a man who is suddenly arrested one morning without being told what crime he has committed. Although he is not imprisoned, he becomes trapped in a complex and confusing legal system.

Throughout the novel, Josef K. tries to understand the charges against him, but he encounters endless bureaucracy, unclear rules and distant authorities. The system appears to operate without logic or transparency.

The novel explores:

- **Power and authority:** The system controls individuals without explanation.
- **Absurdity and confusion:** The lack of clarity creates anxiety and helplessness.
- **Guilt and responsibility:** Josef K. begins to question himself, even without knowing his crime.
- **Loss of control:** The individual is unable to influence the system.

*The Trial* reflects a world where structures of power are distant and incomprehensible, a theme that remains relevant in modern societies.



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## SELECTED QUOTES:

- *“A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us.”* — Letter to Oskar Pollak
- *“I am a cage, in search of a bird.”* — Aphorisms
- *“From a certain point onward there is no longer any turning back. That is the point that must be reached.”* — Aphorisms
- *“Start with what is right rather than what is acceptable.”* — (attributed)



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### **Anne Frank (1929–1945)**



Anne Frank was a Jewish girl born in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1934, her family moved to Amsterdam to escape the rise of Nazi persecution in Germany. However, in 1940, the Netherlands was occupied by Nazi Germany, and anti-Jewish laws began to restrict the lives of Jewish people.

In 1942, when Anne was thirteen years old, her family went into hiding in a secret annex behind her father's office building. They lived there for more than two years, along with four other people, in constant fear of being discovered.

During this time, Anne kept a diary in which she wrote about her daily life, her thoughts, her fears and her hopes for the future. Her writing shows remarkable maturity, honesty and sensitivity.

In 1944, the group was discovered and arrested. Anne was deported to concentration camps, where she died in 1945, shortly before the end of the war.

Her father, Otto Frank, was the only survivor of the family. After the war, he published Anne's diary, which became one of the most important and widely read testimonies of the Holocaust.

Anne Frank is not only remembered as a victim of history, but also as a powerful voice that represents the importance of memory, human dignity and the ability to reflect even in extreme circumstances.

## **Major Works**

### ***The Diary of a Young Girl* (published 1947)**

This work is based on the personal diary Anne Frank wrote while living in hiding between 1942 and 1944. The diary is written in the form of letters addressed to an imaginary friend named "Kitty", which gives the text an intimate and personal tone.



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Anne describes everyday life in the annex: the limited space, the constant tension, the need to remain silent during the day and the relationships between the people in hiding. Small events become significant because of the confined situation.

At the same time, the diary goes beyond a simple record of daily life. Anne reflects on her identity, her emotions, her relationships with her family and her dreams for the future. She also expresses her desire to become a writer.

One of the most striking aspects of the diary is the contrast between the external situation — war, persecution and danger — and Anne’s internal world, which remains full of curiosity, hope and reflection.

The diary invites readers to consider:

- **The impact of discrimination and intolerance**
- **The importance of freedom and human rights**
- **The strength of the human spirit in difficult circumstances**
- **The role of writing as a form of expression and resistance**

Because it is written by someone close in age to the students, the diary often creates a strong emotional connection and helps make historical events more personal and understandable.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” — The Diary of a Young Girl*
- *“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.” — The Diary of a Young Girl*
- *“Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.” — The Diary of a Young Girl*
- *“Whoever is happy will make others happy too.” — The Diary of a Young Girl*



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## Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)



Lewis Carroll was the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an English writer, mathematician and logician. He was born in Cheshire, England, and spent most of his life working as a lecturer in mathematics at the University of Oxford.

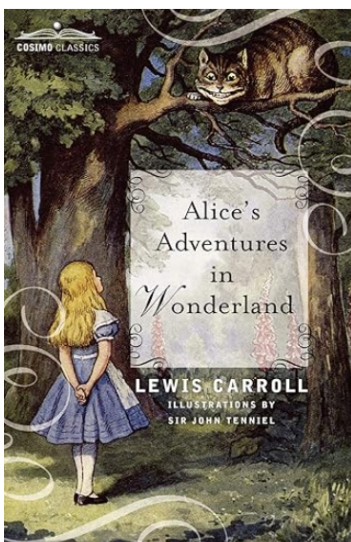
Carroll had a strong interest in logic, language and puzzles, which is clearly reflected in his literary works. His writing often plays with words, meanings and structures, creating situations where logic seems to break down.

He is best known for his imaginative stories featuring the character Alice, which combine fantasy, humour and philosophical questions. Although originally written for children, these stories also contain deeper reflections on identity, language and perception.

Carroll's work is especially important because it challenges conventional ways of thinking. Instead of presenting clear moral lessons, his stories invite readers to question reality, meaning and communication.

His books have had a huge cultural impact and have been adapted into films, animations, theatre productions and visual art, making them highly recognisable for students.

## Major Works



### ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865)***

This novel tells the story of a young girl named Alice who falls down a rabbit hole into a strange and fantastical world. In Wonderland, she encounters a series of unusual characters, such as the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts.

In this world, normal rules do not apply: time behaves strangely, language becomes confusing and logic is constantly challenged. Conversations often include wordplay, riddles and paradoxes. Throughout her journey, Alice experiences changes in size, identity and perception. These transformations



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symbolise the instability of identity and the challenges of understanding the world.

The story explores:

- **Identity and self-questioning:** Alice repeatedly asks who she is.
- **Language and meaning:** Words do not always mean what we expect.
- **Authority and absurdity:** Figures of power, like the Queen, behave irrationally.
- **Perception of reality:** The line between sense and nonsense is blurred.

### ***Through the Looking-Glass (1871)***



This sequel presents a different kind of fantasy world, structured like a chess game. Alice enters a mirror and finds herself in a reversed reality, where events unfold according to unusual rules.

The narrative follows Alice's journey across the chessboard, where she encounters characters such as Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Humpty Dumpty and the Red Queen.

The book explores themes similar to the first novel but in a more structured and symbolic way:

- **Logic and structure:** The chessboard represents order within apparent chaos.
- **Reversed reality:** The mirror world challenges assumptions about how things work.
- **Time and movement:** Events do not follow a linear or predictable pattern.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *"Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle."* — *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- *"We're all mad here."* — *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- *"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."* — *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- *"When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less."* — *Through the Looking-Glass*



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## Jules Verne (1828–1905)



Jules Verne was a French novelist and one of the pioneers of science fiction. He was born in Nantes, a port city, which influenced his early fascination with travel, exploration and distant places. Although his father wanted him to become a lawyer, Verne chose to dedicate himself to writing.

He became famous for his series *Voyages extraordinaires*, a collection of novels that combined scientific knowledge, adventure and imagination. His works were often based on real scientific discoveries and geographical knowledge, but he expanded them creatively to imagine future technologies and unknown worlds.

Verne collaborated with publisher Pierre-Jules Hetzel, who helped shape his novels into educational and entertaining works. His books were designed to teach readers about science, geography and culture while telling exciting stories.

What makes Verne especially important is his ability to imagine inventions and technological advances long before they existed, such as submarines, space travel and advanced means of transport. His work reflects optimism about human progress, but also raises questions about exploration, knowledge and responsibility.

Today, Verne's novels remain widely read and have been adapted into films, animations and visual media, making them very accessible and engaging for students.

## Major Works

### *Around the World in 80 Days* (1873)



This novel tells the story of Phileas Fogg, an English gentleman who makes a bet that he can travel around the world in just 80 days. Accompanied by his servant Passepartout, he embarks on a journey that takes him across different continents, cultures and landscapes. Throughout the journey, they encounter various obstacles, including



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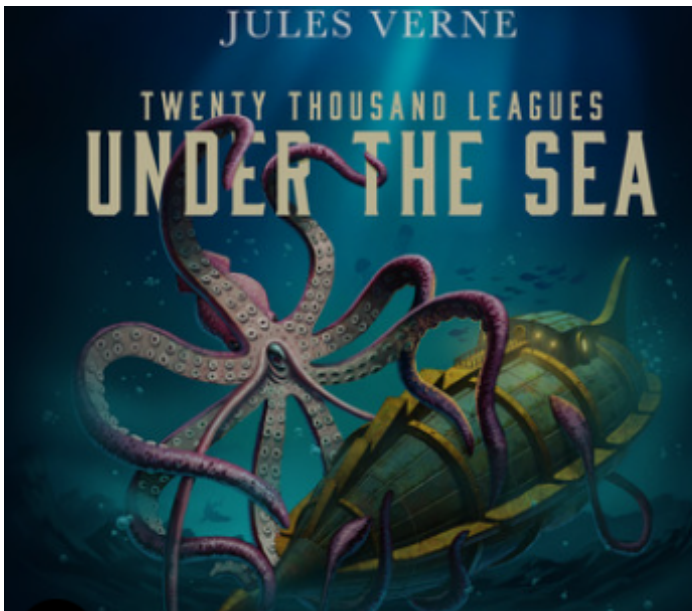
delays, misunderstandings, and the pursuit of a detective who mistakenly believes Fogg is a criminal.

The novel highlights:

- **Cultural diversity:** Fogg travels through different countries, encountering new customs and ways of life.
- **Time and modernity:** The story reflects the impact of new technologies (trains, steamships) on global mobility.
- **Perseverance and determination:** Fogg remains calm and rational despite difficulties.
- **Cooperation:** Success depends not only on Fogg, but also on the people he meets.

The novel offers a vision of a connected world, anticipating the idea of globalisation.

### ***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (1870)***



This novel follows Professor Aronnax and his companions as they are captured by Captain Nemo and taken aboard the Nautilus, a technologically advanced submarine.

As they travel through the depths of the ocean, they discover underwater landscapes, marine life and hidden worlds that were largely unknown at the time.

The novel combines adventure with scientific curiosity and raises important questions:

- **Science and exploration:**

The ocean is presented as a space of discovery.

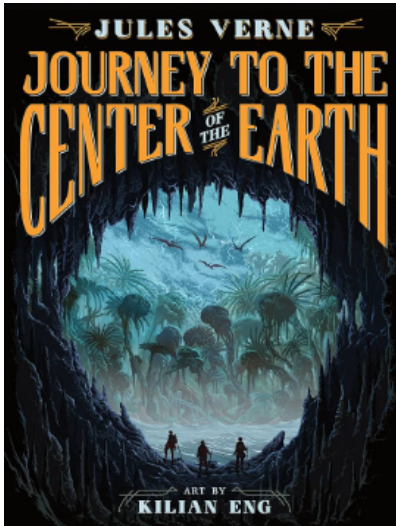
- **Technology and power:** The Nautilus represents both progress and isolation.
- **Freedom and control:** Captain Nemo lives outside society, raising questions about independence and responsibility.
- **Human relationship with nature:** The novel encourages respect for the natural world.



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## ***Journey to the Center of the Earth (1864)***



This novel follows a professor and his companions as they descend into a volcano to explore the interior of the Earth. The journey leads them through underground landscapes filled with prehistoric elements and unknown phenomena.

The story reflects curiosity, scientific exploration and the desire to understand the unknown, while also showing the risks of pushing beyond human limits.

### **SELECTED QUOTES:**

- *“Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real.” — Around the World in 80 Days*
- *“The sea is everything. It covers seven tenths of the terrestrial globe.” — Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*
- *“Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make.” — Journey to the Center of the Earth*
- *“We may brave human laws, but we cannot resist natural ones.” — Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*



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## Bruegel

Pieter Bruegel the Elder was a Flemish painter from the Renaissance. He is famous for painting scenes of everyday life, especially peasants, villages, and landscapes. His art is full of small details and often shows people in a very realistic way.

He studied in Antwerp and became a master painter there in 1551. Later, he travelled to Italy, but his style stayed very different from Italian Renaissance art because he preferred daily life, nature, and ordinary people.

Some of his best-known works are *The Tower of Babel*, *The Hunters in the Snow*, *The Peasant Wedding*, and *The Triumph of Death*. Today, Bruegel is important because his paintings help us understand how people lived in the 16th century.

## Edvard Munch

Edvard Munch was a Norwegian painter from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He is best known for expressing strong emotions in his paintings, such as fear, sadness, and anxiety.

His most famous work is *The Scream*, one of the best-known images in modern art. Munch had a difficult life, and many of his works reflect personal pain and human suffering. He often painted people alone, worried, or emotionally tense.

His style helped prepare the way for Expressionism, an art movement focused on feelings. Today, Munch is remembered as one of the most important painters of modern art.

## Claude Monet

Claude Monet was a French painter and one of the founders of Impressionism. He was interested in light, color, and the changing effects of nature. Monet often painted the same subject many times at different moments of the day to show how light changed what we see.

His works are soft, bright, and full of atmosphere. Some of his most famous paintings are the *Water Lilies* series, *Impression*, *Sunrise*, and the paintings of *Rouen Cathedral*. He painted many scenes outdoors, directly from nature.

Monet is still very important because he changed the way artists looked at the world around them.



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## Edward Hopper

Edward Hopper was an American painter known for showing quiet and sometimes lonely scenes of modern life. He often painted people in places like cafés, gas stations, offices, and houses.

His paintings usually have strong light, deep shadows, and a feeling of silence. Hopper's art makes ordinary places look mysterious and emotional. One of his most famous works is *Nighthawks*, which shows people in a late-night diner. He painted in a realistic style, but his pictures often suggest isolation and distance.

Today, Hopper is admired for capturing the mood of modern life in a very powerful way.

## Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky was a Russian-born painter and one of the pioneers of abstract art. He believed that colors and shapes could express emotions without representing real objects.

At first, his paintings were influenced by nature and music, but later he moved toward complete abstraction. Kandinsky wanted art to be like music, with rhythm, harmony, and feeling. He used strong colors, lines, circles, and geometric forms in creative ways. His work helped open the door to modern abstract painting.

Kandinsky is remembered as one of the most innovative artists of the 20th century.

## Joan Miró

Joan Miró was a Spanish painter, sculptor, and ceramic artist from Catalonia. His art is colorful, playful, and full of imagination. He often used stars, moons, birds, and strange symbols in his works.

Miró liked to simplify forms and create a dreamlike style that was connected to Surrealism. His paintings can look simple at first, but they often have deep meaning and strong creativity. He worked in painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics.

Today, Miró is one of the most famous Spanish artists in the world.



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## Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter and one of the most important artists of the 20th century. He was born in Málaga and showed artistic talent from a very young age.

Picasso co-created Cubism, a style that breaks objects into geometric shapes and shows them from different viewpoints. He worked in many styles during his long career, including the Blue Period, the Rose Period, Cubism, and Surrealist-inspired work. One of his most famous paintings is Guernica, which protests the violence of war.

Picasso was also a sculptor, printmaker, and ceramic artist. His work changed modern art forever.

## Vincent van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter known for his bright colors and expressive brushstrokes. He painted landscapes, still lifes, portraits, and scenes from everyday life.

Van Gogh did not become famous during his lifetime, but today he is one of the best-known artists in the world. His paintings often show strong emotion and energy. Some of his most famous works are Starry Night, Sunflowers, and The Bedroom. His life was difficult, and he struggled with mental illness.

Van Gogh is remembered for creating art that feels deeply personal and emotional.

## Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí was a Spanish Surrealist painter known for strange, dreamlike, and imaginative images. He was born in Catalonia and became one of the most famous artists of the 20th century.

Dalí painted with great realism, even when the scenes themselves were bizarre or impossible. His works often include melting clocks, empty landscapes, and unusual objects. One of his most famous paintings is The Persistence of Memory. Dalí wanted to explore dreams, the unconscious mind, and hidden ideas.

Today, he is remembered as one of the most original and surprising painters in modern art.



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## Le Corbusier

Le Corbusier was a Swiss-French architect and one of the most important figures in modern architecture. He believed buildings should be simple, functional, and designed for modern life.

He used clean lines, open spaces, and practical shapes in his projects. His ideas changed architecture in the 20th century and influenced many architects around the world.

Some of his most famous works include the Villa Savoye and the design of the city of Chandigarh in India. Today, Le Corbusier is remembered as a pioneer of modern architecture.

## Antoni Gaudí

Antoni Gaudí was a Catalan architect famous for his unique and imaginative buildings. He was born in 1852 and became the most important figure of Catalan Modernisme.

Gaudí was inspired by nature, religion, and organic forms, so his buildings often have curves, bright colors, and unusual shapes. His most famous works include the Sagrada Família, Park Güell, Casa Batlló, and Casa Milà. He used ceramics, iron, glass, and stone in creative ways. Gaudí's architecture looks almost like sculpture, and many people recognize it immediately.

Today, he is one of the most admired architects in the world.

## Louis I. Khan

Louis I. Kahn was an American architect known for monumental and powerful buildings. He used light, geometry, and simple materials in a very thoughtful way. Kahn believed that architecture should feel timeless and emotionally strong.

His buildings often combine modern design with a sense of seriousness and calm. Some of his best-known works are the Salk Institute, the Kimbell Art Museum, and the National Assembly Building in Dhaka. He influenced many architects because of his clear forms and careful use of space.

Today, Kahn is seen as one of the great masters of modern architecture.



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## Frank Lloyd Wright

Frank Lloyd Wright was an American architect who designed buildings that fit naturally into their surroundings. He created the idea of “organic architecture,” which means that a building should work with nature instead of against it.

Wright used open floor plans, natural materials, and strong horizontal lines in many of his buildings. His famous works include Fallingwater and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. He wanted architecture to be beautiful, practical, and connected to the landscape. Wright had a huge influence on modern design in the United States and beyond.

He is still considered one of the most important architects in history.

## Erich Mendelsohn

Erich Mendelsohn was a German architect known for dynamic and modern designs. His buildings often look curved, energetic, and futuristic. He was active in the early 20th century, when architecture was changing quickly.

Mendelsohn designed shops, towers, cinemas, and private buildings with a strong sense of movement. One of his best-known works is the Einstein Tower in Potsdam. He later worked in different countries, including the United States and Palestine.

His architecture is important because it shows the excitement of early modernism.

## Richard Neutra

Richard Neutra was an Austrian-American architect linked to modernist architecture. He became famous for designing clean, elegant houses with lots of light and open space. Neutra believed that architecture should support health, comfort, and modern living.

He often used glass, steel, and simple geometric forms. Many of his buildings were designed for warm climates and connected indoor and outdoor spaces. His best-known works include the Lovell Health House and the Kaufmann House. Neutra is remembered as one of the key architects of modern residential design.



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## Santiago Calatrava

Santiago Calatrava is a Spanish architect and engineer known for dramatic, sculptural buildings and bridges. His style often looks futuristic and is inspired by movement, nature, and the human body.

Calatrava combines architecture, engineering, and art in very original ways. His buildings often use white structures, curved forms, and strong visual impact. Some of his best-known projects are the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia, the Turning Torso in Malmö, and several modern bridges. His work is very recognizable and often makes people think of birds, bones, or sails.

Today, he is one of the most famous living Spanish architects.

## Alvar Aalto

Alvar Aalto was a Finnish architect and designer who combined modern architecture with warmth and humanity. He did not want buildings to feel cold or mechanical, so he used natural materials and soft forms.

Aalto also designed furniture, lamps, and everyday objects. His buildings often include wood, brick, and curved lines that make them feel more human. Some of his best-known works are the Paimio Sanatorium, the Viipuri Library, and Finlandia Hall. He helped create a more human version of modernism.

Today, Aalto is respected as one of the great architects and designers of the 20th century.



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## Otto Wagner

Otto Wagner was an Austrian architect and an important figure in the development of modern architecture. He helped move architecture away from heavy decoration and toward simplicity and function.

Wagner believed that buildings should match modern life and modern materials. He worked in Vienna and influenced the style known as Vienna Secession. Some of his best-known works are the Vienna Stadtbahn stations and the Postal Savings Bank. His designs combined elegance with practicality. Today, Wagner is remembered as one of the pioneers of modern architecture.