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Magic
Neoclassicism
Realism
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Surrealism
Elizabethan
Realism
Tragedy
Postcolonial
Science
Fantasy
Fiction

Literary Movements *for Students*

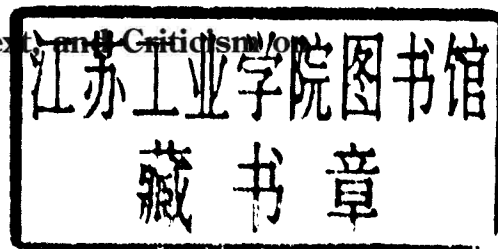


Volume 1

Literary Movements *for Students*

Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism of
Literary Movements

Volume 1



David Galens, Project Editor



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GALE



Literary Movements for Students, Volume 1

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Novels That Include the Names of French Soups

I. A. Richards, the well-known literary critic, once said, “A book is a machine to think with.” In making this observation, Richards underscored the reciprocal relationship between reader and text and the fact that words don’t just sit there full of meaning waiting to be discovered, but rather gain their meaning by the breadth and quality of knowledge readers bring to them. *Literary Movements for Students* provides readers with this knowledge by describing various literatures in their historical and cultural contexts, by providing representative examples of the best-known movements, and by encouraging students to explore those movements more deeply.

“Literary Movements” is really a misnomer, for often the texts described under this heading were considered neither literary nor part of a discernible movement when they were written. Labels are often attached to certain writers or texts by critics and literary historians for efficiency’s sake and with the benefit of hindsight, often decades, sometimes centuries, after a text has been written. Part of identifying a movement is arguing for what features define the writing associated with it, and then locating those features in specific texts. This necessarily means that the description of movements is not objective, but colored by a critic or literary historian’s own particular agendas, whether or not he or she is aware of such agendas. That said, there still needs to be some kind of organizing principle for studying texts, or else there would be no basis for discussion, no way of developing knowledge about them, of understanding how a poem or a

novel or a play fits into its time or what it shares in common with other texts. Academia organizes itself, for better *and* worse, in disciplines, and the discipline of literature organizes itself in periods, which themselves are associated with movements. This kind of packaging enables closer scrutiny of the object studied, which paradoxically results in a more comprehensive understanding of the material. By organizing texts and writers in terms of literary movements, this series aims to provide readers with a foot in the door, a way to think about well-known texts and tools with which to think about them. It’s important to remember, however, that it is just one way, not the only way, to study literature.

The word “literary” gained its current meaning as a term used to denote a quality of poems, plays, and fiction in the eighteenth century, when writing itself proliferated, and professional literary critics emerged to police it by giving names to this or that kind of writing. An adjectival form of “literature,” “literary” was used to exclude other types of writing such as philosophy and history. Today it has an even narrower connotation, serving to mark literature that is “serious” and “cerebral,” as opposed to “popular” such as the romance novel or the suspense thriller. One recent example of both the merits and pitfalls of associating one’s work with the term is novelist Jonathan Franzen’s now well-known spat with talk show host Oprah Winfrey in 2001. Franzen declined to have his novel, *The Corrections*, be named Winfrey’s book of the month selection for her book club, which would

have virtually guaranteed it financial success, claiming that Winfrey's endorsement ruined his reputation in "high art" circles. Franzen eventually retracted his comment, but the damage had already been done. In this instance, Franzen was protecting his image as a producer of *literary*, as opposed to popular, novels. Franzen is not, however, a member of any literary movement if we understand "movement" to signify organized activities by a group of people with a stated objective, though his writing might be included under Realism.

Some literary movements did begin with a clear intention, organized activities, and a set of principles—surrealism, for example. French poet Guillaume Apollinaire coined the term "surrealism," and André Breton, another French poet, spelled out the principles in the *Manifesto of Surrealism*. Other movements, such as twentieth-century Expressionism, elements of which are evident in art and theater of the nineteenth century, are more nebulous, harder to pin down in terms of features or history. There are no Expressionist manifestos, and some critics claim that no such animal as Expressionism even exists. Often, the term given to a literary movement becomes a point of contention for critics whose view of literary history differs from establishment norms. Postcolonialism is a good case in point. Some want to limit the term to signify texts produced in former British colonies after the fall of the British Empire. Others argue that almost all literature (including American) is, in theory, postcolonial, because in the end history is a series of wars and occupations, of one culture displacing another. Movements are not static, but dynamic, evolving from the fray of competing interests and historical developments. An entry on Postcolonialism written ten years from today will no doubt look radically different than the one you read here. It might include novels by writers from some of the former Soviet republics, or perhaps poems from an author of a state yet to be formed, whose people are now battling for independence. Ultimately, it is the shape of the movement itself that is important to grasp, and the context of how, when, and why a particular literature came into being. *Literary Movements for Students* gives you that "how," "when," and "why."

Say, for example, that you've just seen a production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* and were so impressed that you bought and read the book. You've heard Beckett's name associated with Absurdism, but don't really know what that is. If you look up Absurdism in *Literary Movements for Students*, you will find an overview of the movement, including its history, its prominent features, its primary practitioners, and how it is embodied not only in literature and Beckett's work, but in other media and disciplines such as film, painting, and philosophy. You might also find Beckett under Existentialism. *Literary Movement for Students* isn't reductive, but rather expansive in its treatment of movements, charting the crevices and crannies as much as the road most traveled. Movements are provisional by their very nature, contingent on institutional and historical forces, so you'll find a degree of crossover here, with writers and texts sometime listed under more than one movement. That's a good thing.

In the preface to his study historicizing the human sciences, *The Order of Things*, Michel Foucault notes the hilarity of a passage from a story by Jorge Luis Borges in which Borges describes a Chinese encyclopedia's taxonomy of animals. Some of the categories include "belonging to the emperor," "fabulous," "embalmed," "frenzied," and "that from a long way off look like flies." One can also imagine a system of describing literature based on a principle other than literary movements. Such a system might include categories like "books over thirty-four pages," "poems with wine stains," "plays involving a butter dish, a butler, and two pencils," and "novels that include names of French soups." While teaching a course based on texts from one of these categories might well prove engaging, (I'd certainly like to try), one would have a difficult time justifying it to a curriculum review committee. The fact is, literature illustrates, and often instigates, social trends, and history speaks through writers, whether they want it to or not. As of today, critics have yet to make a case for novels that include the names of French soups to be considered a major literary movement. But you might want to check back in ten years, just in case.

Chris Semansky
Chemeketa Community College
Salem, Oregon

Introduction

Purpose of the Book

The purpose of *Literary Movements for Students (LMfS)* is to provide readers with a guide to understanding, enjoying, and studying literary movements by giving them easy access to information about a given literary movement. Part of Gale's "For Students" literature line, *LMfS* is specifically designed to meet the curricular needs of high school and undergraduate college students and their teachers, as well as the interests of general readers and researchers considering specific literary movements.

The information covered in each entry includes an introduction to the literary movement; discussion of certain representative authors and works associated with the movement; analysis of the movement's predominant themes; and an explanation of related literary techniques.

In addition to this material, which helps the readers to analyze the movement itself, students are also provided with important information on its literary and historical background. This includes a historical context essay, a sidebar comparing the time or place the movement occurred to modern Western culture, a critical essay, and previously published criticism on the movement (if available). A unique feature of *LMfS* is a specially commissioned critical essay on each literary movement, targeted toward the student reader.

To further aid the student in studying and enjoying each literary movement, information on me-

dia adaptations is provided (if available), as well as reading suggestions for works of fiction and non-fiction on similar themes and topics. Classroom aids include ideas for research papers, study questions, and lists of critical sources that provide additional material on each movement.

Selection Criteria

The titles for both volumes of *LMfS* were selected by surveying numerous sources on teaching literature and analyzing course curricula for various school districts. Some of the sources surveyed included: literature anthologies; *Reading Lists for College-Bound Students: The Books Most Recommended by America's Top Colleges*; and Arthur Applebee's 1993 study *Literature in the Secondary School: Studies of Curriculum and Instruction in the United States*.

Input was also solicited from our advisory board, as well as educators from various areas. From these discussions, it was determined that the first volume should deal with earlier movements that took place approximately before the twentieth century, while the second volume should deal primarily with the more modern movements of the twentieth century and beyond. Because of the interest in expanding the canon of literature, an emphasis was also placed on discussing works by international, multicultural, and women authors. Our advisory board members—educational professionals—helped pare down the list for each

volume. As always, the editor welcomes suggestions for movements to be included in possible future volumes.

How Each Entry Is Organized

Each entry, or chapter, in *LMfS* focuses on one literary movement. Each entry heading lists the full name of the movement and the approximate year of the movement's origin. The following elements are contained in each entry:

- **Introduction:** a brief overview of the movement, which provides information about its first appearance, its literary standing, any controversies surrounding it, and related themes.
- **Representative Authors:** this section includes basic facts about several authors associated with the movement, focusing on their relationship to the movement, including specific works written by the authors that might be typical of the movement.
- **Representative Works:** a description of specific works that have been identified as typical or representative of the movement.
- **Themes:** an overview of the major topics, themes, and issues related to the movement. Each theme discussed appears under a separate subhead and is easily accessed through the bold-face entries in the Subject/Theme Index.
- **Style:** this section addresses important style elements of the movement, such as setting, point of view, and narration, as well as important literary devices used, such as imagery, foreshadowing, symbolism. Literary terms are explained within the entry but can also be found in the Glossary.
- **Movement Variations:** this section briefly discusses variations of the movement, including variations in geography (i.e., different countries), history (i.e., periodic revivals of the movement), philosophy, and art.
- **Historical Context:** this section outlines the social, political, and cultural climate *in which the movement took place*. This section may include descriptions of related historical events, pertinent aspects of daily life in the culture, and the artistic and literary sensibilities of the time in which the movement took place. Each section is broken down with helpful subheads.
- **Critical Overview:** this section provides background on the critical reputation of the move-

ment, including any public controversies surrounding the movement. For older movements, this section includes a history of how the movement was first received and how perceptions of it may have changed over the years; for more recent movements, direct quotes from early reviews may also be included.

- **Criticism:** an essay commissioned for *LMfS* that specifically deals with the movement and is written specifically for the student audience, as well as one or more pieces of previously published criticism on the movement (if available).
- **Sources:** an alphabetical list of critical material used in compiling the entry, with full bibliographical information.
- **Further Reading:** an alphabetical list of other critical sources which may prove useful for the student. It includes full bibliographical information and a brief annotation.

In addition, each entry contains the following highlighted sections, set apart from the main text as sidebars:

- **Media Adaptations:** if available, a list of important film and television adaptations related to the movement, including source information. The list may also include such variations as audio recordings, musical adaptations, and stage adaptations.
- **Topics for Further Study:** a list of potential study questions or research topics dealing with the movement. This section includes questions related to other disciplines the student may be studying, such as American history, world history, science, math, government, business, geography, economics, psychology, etc.
- **Compare and Contrast:** an “at-a-glance” comparison of the cultural and historical differences between the time and culture of the movement and late twentieth-century or early twenty-first-century Western culture. This box includes pertinent parallels between the major scientific, political, and cultural movements of the time or place in which the literary movement took place and modern Western culture.
- **What Do I Study Next?:** a list of works that might complement the featured literary movement or serve as a contrast to it. This includes works by the same representative authors and others, works of fiction and nonfiction, and works from various genres, cultures, and eras.

Other Features

LMfS includes “Novels That Include the Names of French Soups,” a foreword by Chris Semansky, an educator and author who specializes in poetic works. This essay examines how literary movements come about in societies and how people study such movements. The essay also discusses how *Literary Movements for Students* can help teachers show students how to enrich their own reading/viewing experiences.

A Cumulative Author/Title Index lists the representative authors and representative works covered in each volume of *LMfS*.

A Cumulative Nationality/Ethnicity Index breaks down the representative authors and the authors of representative works covered in each volume of *LMfS* by nationality and ethnicity.

A Subject/Theme Index, specific to each volume, provides easy reference for users who may be studying a particular subject or theme rather than a single work or movement. Significant subjects from events to broad themes are included, and the entries pointing to the specific theme discussions in each entry are indicated in **boldface**.

Each entry may include illustrations, including photos of the representative authors, stills from stage productions, and stills from film adaptations.

Citing Literary Movements for Students

When writing papers, students who quote directly from any volume of *Literary Movements for Students* may use the following general forms. These examples are based on MLA style; teachers may request that students adhere to a different style, so the following examples may be adapted as needed.

When citing text from *LMfS* that is not attributed to a particular author (e.g., the Themes, Style, Historical Context sections, etc.), the following format should be used in the bibliography section:

The Bildungsroman. *Literary Movements for Students*. Ed. David Galens. Vol. 1. Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, 2003.

When quoting the specially commissioned essay from *LMfS* (usually the first piece under the “Criticism” subhead), the following format should be used:

Kerschen, Lois. Critical Essay on the Bildungsroman. *Literary Movements for Students*. Ed. David Galens. Vol. 1. Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, 2003.

When quoting a journal or newspaper essay that is reprinted in a volume of *LMfS*, the following form may be used:

Carpenter, Charles A. “‘Victims of Duty’? The Critics, Absurdity, and *The Homecoming*.” *Modern Drama* Vol. 25, No. 4 (December 1982), 489–95; excerpted and reprinted in *Literary Movements for Students*, Vol. 2, ed. David Galens (Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, 2003), pp.

When quoting material reprinted from a book that appears in a volume of *LMfS*, the following form may be used:

Perry, Margaret. “The Major Novels.” *Silence to the Drums: A Survey of the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance*. Greenwood Press, 1976, pp. 61–88; excerpted and reprinted in *Literary Movements for Students*, Vol. 2, ed. David Galens (Farmington Hills, MI: The Gale Group, 2003), pp.

We Welcome Your Suggestions

The editor of *Literary Movements for Students* welcomes your comments and ideas. Readers who wish to suggest movements to appear in future volumes, or who have other suggestions, are cordially invited to contact the editor. You may contact the editor via E-mail at: **ForStudentsEditors@gale.com**. Or write to the editor at:

Editor, Literary Movements for Students
The Gale Group
27500 Drake Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535

Literary Chronology

- c. 750 B.C.?: Homer, author representative of Classicism, flourishes about this time.
- c. 750 B.C.: *Iliad*, written by Homer and representative of Classicism, is created.
- c. 534 B.C.: Thespis, author representative of Greek Drama, flourishes about this time.
- c. 530 B.C.: Epicharmus, author representative of Greek Drama, is born.
- c. 525 B.C.: Aeschylus, author representative of Greek Drama, is born.
- c. 496 B.C.: Sophocles, author representative of Greek Drama, is born.
- c. 485 B.C.: Euripides, author representative of Greek Drama and Classicism, is born.
- 472 B.C.: *Prometheus Bound*, written by Aeschylus and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- 458 B.C.: *Oresteia*, written by Aeschylus and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 456 B.C.: Aeschylus, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- c. 450 B.C.: Aristophanes, author representative of Greek Drama, is born.
- c. 450 B.C.: Crates, author representative of Greek Drama, flourishes about this time.
- c. 445 B.C.: Eupolis, author representative of Greek Drama, flourishes about this time.
- 441 B.C.: *Antigone*, written by Sophocles and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 440 B.C.: Epicharmus, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- 431 B.C.: *Medea*, written by Euripides and representative of Classicism and Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 430 B.C.: Sophron, author representative of Greek Drama, flourishes about this time.
- 427 B.C.: *Oedipus the King*, written by Sophocles and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 420 B.C.: Cratinus, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- c. 420 B.C.: Phrynichus, author representative of Greek Drama, flourishes about this time.
- c. 414 B.C.: *Birds*, written by Aristophanes and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 411 B.C.: Eupolis, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- 411 B.C.: *Lysistrata*, written by Aristophanes and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 406 B.C.: Euripides, author representative of Greek Drama and Classicism, dies.
- c. 406 B.C.: Sophocles, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- c. 405 B.C.: *Bacchae*, written by Euripides and representative of Greek Drama, is produced posthumously.

- 405 B.C.:** *Frogs*, written by Aristophanes and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 401 B.C.:** *Oedipus at Colonus*, written by Sophocles and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 385 B.C.:** Aristophanes, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- c. 342 B.C.:** Menander, author representative of Greek Drama, is born.
- 317 B.C.:** *Dyscolus*, written by Menander and representative of Greek Drama, is produced.
- c. 292 B.C.:** Menander, author representative of Greek Drama, dies.
- 70 B.C.:** Vergil, author representative of Classicism, is born.
- 19 B.C.:** Vergil, author representative of Classicism, dies.
- c. 19 B.C.:** *Aeneid*, written by Vergil and representative of Classicism, is published.
- 1217:** Giovanni Bonaventure, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1259:** *The Soul's Journey into God*, written by Bonaventure and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- c. 1260:** Meister Eckhart, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1274:** Giovanni Bonaventure, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1293:** John Ruusbroec, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1295:** Henry Suso, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1300:** Richard Rolle, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1300:** Johannes Tauler, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- c. 1300–c. 1327:** Meister Eckhart's Sermons, written by Meister Eckhart and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1304:** Francesco Petrarch, author representative of Humanism, is born.
- c. 1327:** Meister Eckhart, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- c. 1334:** *The Exemplar*, written by Henry Suso and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1335:** *The Spiritual Espousals*, written by John Ruusbroec and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- c. 1340:** *The Fire of Love*, written by Richard Rolle and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1342:** Julian of Norwich, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1347:** Catherine of Siena, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1349:** Richard Rolle, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- c. 1350:** *Familiar Letters*, written by Francesco Petrarch and representative of Humanism, is published.
- c. 1350:** *Theologia Germanica*, written by an unknown author and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- c. 1350–c. 1400:** *The Cloud of Unknowing*, written by an unknown author and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1361:** Johannes Tauler, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1366:** Henry Suso, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- c. 1373:** *Revelations of Divine Love*, written by Julian of Norwich and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1374:** Francesco Petrarch, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- 1380:** Catherine of Siena, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1381:** John Ruusbroec, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1405:** Lorenzo Valla, author representative of Humanism, is born.
- c. 1416:** Julian of Norwich, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1433:** Marsilio Ficino, author representative of Humanism, is born.

- 1444:** *Book of Elegances, or Elegances of the Latin Language*, written by Lorenzo Valla and representative of Humanism, is published.
- 1447:** Catherine of Genoa, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, is born.
- 1452:** Girolamo Savonarola, author representative of Humanism, is born.
- 1457:** Lorenzo Valla, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- 1463:** Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, author representative of Humanism, is born.
- c. 1466:** Desiderius Erasmus, author representative of Humanism and Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1469:** Niccolò Machiavelli, author representative of Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1478:** Baldassare Castiglione, author representative of Humanism, is born.
- c. 1478:** Sir Thomas More, author representative of Humanism and Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1494:** Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- c. 1494:** François Rabelais, author representative of Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1496:** *Oration on the Dignity of Man*, written by Giovanni Pico della Mirandola and representative of Humanism, is published posthumously.
- 1498:** Girolamo Savonarola, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- 1499:** Marsilio Ficino, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- 1500:** *Adages*, written by Desiderius Erasmus and representative of Humanism, is published.
- 1510:** Catherine of Genoa, author representative of the Medieval Mystics, dies.
- 1511:** *The Praise of Folly*, written by Desiderius Erasmus and representative of Renaissance Literature, is published.
- 1516:** *Utopia*, written by Sir Thomas More and representative of Humanism and Renaissance Literature, is published.
- c. 1522:** *The Spiritual Dialogue*, written by friends of Catherine of Genoa on the basis of Catherine's teachings and representative of the Medieval Mystics, is published.
- 1527:** Niccolò Machiavelli, author representative of Renaissance Literature, dies about this time.
- 1528:** *Book of the Courtier*, written by Baldassare Castiglione and representative of Humanism, is published.
- 1529:** Baldassare Castiglione, author representative of Humanism, dies.
- 1532:** *The Prince*, written by Niccolò Machiavelli and representative of Renaissance Literature, is published.
- 1533:** Michel de Montaigne, author representative of Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1535:** Sir Thomas More, author representative of Humanism and Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1536:** Desiderius Erasmus, author representative of Humanism and Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1547:** Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author representative of Renaissance Literature, is born about this time.
- 1553:** François Rabelais, author representative of Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1558:** Thomas Kyd, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, is born.
- 1559:** George Chapman, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, is born.
- 1564:** Christopher Marlowe, author representative of Elizabethan Drama and Renaissance Literature, is born.
- 1564:** William Shakespeare, author representative of Elizabethan Drama and Renaissance Literature, is born.
- c. 1572:** Thomas Dekker, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, is born.
- 1572:** Ben Jonson, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, is born.
- c. 1573:** Thomas Heywood, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, is born.
- 1580:** *The Essays*, written by Michel de Montaigne and representative of Renaissance Literature, is published.
- 1586:** *The Spanish Tragedy*, written by Thomas Kyd and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.
- c. 1587:** *Tamburlaine the Great*, written by Christopher Marlowe and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.

- 1592:** Michel de Montaigne, author representative of Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1592:** *The Jew of Malta*, written by Christopher Marlowe and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.
- 1593:** Christopher Marlowe, author representative of Elizabethan Drama and Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1594:** Thomas Kyd, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, dies.
- 1598:** *Everyman in His Humour*, written by Ben Johnson and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.
- 1600:** *Hamlet*, written by William Shakespeare and representative of Elizabethan Drama and Renaissance Literature, is published.
- 1600:** *The Shoemaker's Holiday*, written by Thomas Dekker and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.
- 1603:** *A Woman Killed with Kindness*, written by Thomas Heywood and representative of Elizabethan Drama, is published.
- 1605–1615:** *Don Quixote*, written by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra and representative of Renaissance Literature, is published.
- 1616:** William Shakespeare, author representative of Elizabethan Drama and Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1616:** Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author representative of Renaissance Literature, dies.
- 1631:** John Dryden, author representative of Neoclassicism, is born.
- 1632:** Thomas Dekker, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, dies.
- 1634:** George Chapman, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, dies.
- 1637:** Ben Jonson, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, dies.
- 1639:** Jean Racine, author representative of Classicism, is born.
- 1641:** Thomas Heywood, author representative of Elizabethan Drama, dies.
- 1660:** Daniel Defoe, author representative of Neoclassicism, is born.
- 1667:** *Andromaque*, written by Jean Racine and representative of Classicism, is published.
- 1668:** *Of Dramatick Poesie: An Essay*, written by John Dryden and representative of Neoclassicism, is published.
- 1694:** Voltaire, author representative of the Enlightenment, is born.
- 1699:** Jean Racine, author representative of Classicism, dies.
- 1700:** John Dryden, author representative of Neoclassicism, dies.
- 1709:** Samuel Johnson, author representative of Neoclassicism, is born.
- 1711:** David Hume, author representative of the Enlightenment, is born.
- 1712:** Jean-Jacques Rousseau, author representative of the Enlightenment, is born.
- 1712:** *The Rape of the Lock*, written by Alexander Pope and representative of Neoclassicism, is published.
- 1713:** Denis Diderot, author representative of the Enlightenment, is born.
- 1717:** Horace Walpole, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1719:** *Robinson Crusoe*, written by Daniel Defoe and representative of Neoclassicism, is published.
- 1727:** *Gulliver's Travels*, written by Jonathan Swift and representative of Neoclassicism, is published.
- 1731:** Daniel Defoe, author representative of Neoclassicism, dies.
- 1733:** Christoph Martin Wieland, author representative of the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1738:** *London*, written by Samuel Johnson and representative of Neoclassicism, is published.
- 1749:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, author representative of Classicism and the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1751–1765:** *Encyclopédie*, written by Denis Diderot and representative of the Enlightenment, is published.
- 1757:** William Blake, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1759:** *Candide*, written by Voltaire and representative of the Enlightenment, is published.
- 1760:** William Beckford, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.

- 1762:** *Émile*, written by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and representative of the Enlightenment, is published.
- 1762:** *The Social Contract*, written by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and representative of the Enlightenment, is published.
- 1764:** Ann Radcliffe, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1764:** *The Castle of Otranto*, written by Horace Walpole and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1770:** William Wordsworth, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1771:** Charles Brockden Brown, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1772:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1775:** Matthew Gregory Lewis, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1775:** Jane Austen, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1776:** David Hume, author representative of the Enlightenment, dies.
- 1776:** *Declaration of Independence*, written by Thomas Jefferson and others and representative of the Enlightenment, is published.
- 1778:** Jean-Jacques Rousseau, author representative of the Enlightenment, dies.
- 1778:** Voltaire, author representative of the Enlightenment, dies.
- 1780:** Charles Robert Maturin, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1784:** Denis Diderot, author representative of the Enlightenment, dies.
- 1784:** Samuel Johnson, author representative of Neoclassicism, dies.
- 1786:** *Vathek*, written by William Beckford and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1788:** George Gordon, Lord Byron, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1790–1832:** *Faust*, written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and representative of Classicism, is published.
- 1792:** Percy Bysshe Shelley, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1794:** *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, written by Ann Radcliffe and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1794:** *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, written by William Blake and representative of Romanticism, is published.
- 1795:** John Keats, author representative of Romanticism, is born.
- 1795:** *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*, written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and representative of the Bildungsroman, is published.
- 1795:** *The Monk*, written by Matthew Gregory Lewis and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1797:** Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author representative of Gothic Literature, Romanticism, and Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is born.
- 1797:** Horace Walpole, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1798:** *Wieland*, written by Charles Brockden Brown and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1799:** Honoré de Balzac, author representative of Realism, is born.
- 1803:** Ralph Waldo Emerson, author representative of Transcendentalism, is born.
- 1809:** Edgar Allan Poe, author representative of Gothic Literature, is born.
- 1810:** Charles Brockden Brown, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1810:** Margaret Fuller, author representative of Transcendentalism, is born.
- 1812:** Charles Dickens, author representative of Realism and the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1812–1818:** *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, written by George Gordon, Lord Byron and representative of Romanticism, is published.
- 1813:** Christoph Martin Wieland, author representative of the Bildungsroman, dies.
- 1813:** Søren Kierkegaard, author representative of Existentialism, is born.
- 1813:** *Pride and Prejudice*, written by Jane Austen and representative of Romanticism, is published.

- 1817:** Jane Austen, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1817:** Henry David Thoreau, author representative of Transcendentalism, is born.
- 1818:** *Frankenstein*, written by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and representative of Romanticism, Gothic Literature, and Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is published.
- 1818:** Matthew Gregory Lewis, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1819:** "To Autumn," written by John Keats and representative of Romanticism, is published.
- 1819:** George Eliot, author representative of Realism, is born.
- 1819:** Walt Whitman, author representative of Transcendentalism, is born.
- 1820:** *Melmoth the Wanderer*, written by Charles Robert Maturin and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1820:** *Prometheus Unbound*, written by Percy Bysshe Shelley and representative of Romanticism, is published.
- 1821:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, author representative of Existentialism and Realism, is born.
- 1821:** Gustave Flaubert, author representative of Realism, is born.
- 1821:** John Keats, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1821:** Charles Baudelaire, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1822:** Percy Bysshe Shelley, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1823:** Ann Radcliffe, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1824:** Charles Robert Maturin, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1824:** George Gordon, Lord Byron, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1827:** William Blake, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1828:** Leo Tolstoy, author representative of Realism, is born.
- 1828:** Jules Verne, author representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is born.
- 1832:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, author representative of Classicism and the Bildungsroman, dies.
- 1834:** "The Fall of the House of Usher," written by Edgar Allan Poe and representative of Gothic Literature, is published.
- 1834:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1835:** Mark Twain, author representative of the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1836:** *Nature*, written by Ralph Waldo Emerson and representative of Transcendentalism, is published.
- 1837:** William Dean Howells, author representative of Realism, is born.
- 1840:** Émile Zola, author representative of Naturalism and Realism, is born.
- 1842:** Stéphane Mallarmé, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1842–1855:** *The Human Comedy*, written by Honoré de Balzac and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1844:** William Beckford, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1844:** Paul Verlaine, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1845:** *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, written by Margaret Fuller and representative of Transcendentalism, is published.
- 1847:** *Jane Eyre*, written by Charlotte Brontë and representative of the Bildungsroman, is published.
- 1848:** Joris-Karl Huysmans, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1849:** August Strindberg, author representative of Expressionism, is born.
- 1849:** Edgar Allan Poe, author representative of Gothic Literature, dies.
- 1849–1850:** *David Copperfield*, written by Charles Dickens and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1850:** Honoré de Balzac, author representative of Realism, dies.
- 1850:** Guy de Maupassant, author representative of Realism, is born.

- 1850:** William Wordsworth, author representative of Romanticism, dies.
- 1850:** Margaret Fuller, author representative of Transcendentalism, dies.
- 1851:** Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author representative of Romanticism, Gothic Literature, and Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, dies.
- 1852:** *The Blithedale Romance*, written by Nathaniel Hawthorne and representative of Transcendentalism, is published.
- 1854:** Arthur Rimbaud, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1854:** *Walden*, written by Henry David Thoreau and representative of Transcendentalism, is published.
- 1855:** Søren Kierkegaard, author representative of Existentialism, dies.
- 1855:** *Leaves of Grass*, written by Walt Whitman and representative of Transcendentalism, is published.
- 1856:** H. Rider Haggard, author representative of Colonialism, is born.
- 1857:** Joseph Conrad, author representative of Colonialism, is born.
- 1857:** *Madame Bovary*, written by Gustave Flaubert and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1857:** *Flowers of Evil*, written by Charles Baudelaire and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1861:** *Great Expectations*, written by Charles Dickens and representative of the Bildungsroman, is published.
- 1862:** Maurice Maeterlinck, author representative of Symbolism, is born.
- 1862:** Henry David Thoreau, author representative of Transcendentalism, dies.
- 1864:** Frank Wedekind, author representative of Expressionism, is born.
- 1865:** Rudyard Kipling, author representative of Colonialism, is born.
- 1866:** H. G. Wells, author representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is born.
- 1866:** *Crime and Punishment*, written by Fyodor Dostoevsky and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1867:** Charles Baudelaire, author representative of Symbolism, dies.
- 1868:** W. E. B. Du Bois, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1870:** Charles Dickens, author representative of Realism and the Bildungsroman, dies.
- 1870:** Frank Norris, author representative of Naturalism, is born.
- 1870:** *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, written by Jules Verne and representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is published.
- 1871:** James Weldon Johnson, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1871:** Stephen Crane, author representative of Naturalism, is born.
- 1871:** Theodore Dreiser, author representative of Naturalism, is born.
- 1871–1872:** *Middlemarch*, written by George Eliot and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1874:** Amy Lowell, author representative of Imagism, is born.
- 1874:** *Songs without Words*, written by Paul Verlaine and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1875:** Thomas Mann, author representative of the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1875–1877:** *Anna Karenina*, written by Leo Tolstoy and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1876:** *The Afternoon of a Faun*, written by Stéphane Mallarmé and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1878:** Georg Kaiser, author representative of Expressionism, is born.
- 1879:** E. M. Forster, author representative of Colonialism, is born.
- 1880:** “Ball of Fat,” written by Guy de Maupassant and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1880:** George Eliot, author representative of Realism, dies.
- 1880:** Gustave Flaubert, author representative of Realism, dies.
- 1880:** Aleksandr Blok, author representative of Symbolism, is born.

- 1880:** *The Brothers Karamazov*, written by Fyodor Dostoevsky and representative of Existentialism, is published.
- 1881:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, author representative of Existentialism and Realism, dies.
- 1882:** James Joyce, author representative of Modernism and the Bildungsroman, is born.
- 1882:** Jessie Redmon Fauset, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1882:** Virginia Woolf, author representative of Modernism, is born.
- 1882:** Ralph Waldo Emerson, author representative of Transcendentalism, dies.
- 1883:** Franz Kafka, author representative of Existentialism and Expressionism, is born.
- 1883:** Eugene O'Neill, author representative of Expressionism, is born.
- 1883:** *The Story of an African Farm*, written by Olive Schreiner and representative of Colonialism, is published.
- 1884:** *Against the Grain*, written by Joris Huysmans and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1885:** Isak Dinesen, author representative of Colonialism, is born.
- 1885:** F. S. Flint, author representative of Imagism, is born.
- 1885:** Ezra Pound, author representative of Imagism and Modernism, is born.
- 1885:** *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, written by Mark Twain and representative of the Bildungsroman, is published.
- 1885:** *Germinal*, written by Émile Zola and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1886:** Alain Locke, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1886:** Hilda Doolittle, author representative of Imagism, is born.
- 1886:** John Gould Fletcher, author representative of Imagism, is born.
- 1886:** *Illuminations*, written by Arthur Rimbaud and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1887:** *She*, written by H. Rider Haggard and representative of Colonialism, is published.
- 1887:** Georg Trakl, author representative of Expressionism, is born.
- 1888:** T. S. Eliot, author representative of Modernism, is born.
- 1889:** Claude McKay, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1890:** *A Hazard of New Fortunes*, written by William Dean Howells and representative of Realism, is published.
- 1891:** Zora Neale Hurston, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1891:** Nella Larsen, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1891:** Arthur Rimbaud, author representative of Symbolism, dies.
- 1891:** *Spring's Awakening*, written by Frank Wedekind and representative of Expressionism, is published.
- 1892:** Richard Aldington, author representative of Imagism, is born.
- 1892:** J. R. R. Tolkien, author representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is born.
- 1892:** Walt Whitman, author representative of Transcendentalism, dies.
- 1893:** Guy de Maupassant, author representative of Realism, dies.
- 1893:** *Pelleas and Melisande*, written by Maurice Maeterlinck and representative of Symbolism, is published.
- 1894:** Jean Toomer, author representative of the Harlem Renaissance, is born.
- 1894:** Aldous Huxley, author representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is born.
- 1895:** Paul Eluard, author representative of Surrealism, is born.
- 1895:** *Jude the Obscure*, written by Thomas Hardy and representative of the Bildungsroman, is published.
- 1895:** *The Red Badge of Courage*, written by Stephen Crane and representative of Naturalism, is published.
- 1895:** *The Time Machine: An Invention*, written by H. G. Wells and representative of Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature, is published.
- 1896:** André Breton, author representative of Surrealism, is born.