

THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY

# WORLD LITERATURE



## The Norton Anthology of World Literature

#### SHORTER SECOND EDITION

VOLUME 1



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### Preface

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Shorter Second Edition, offers many new works from around the world and a fresh new format that responds to contemporary needs. The global reach of this anthology encompasses important works from Asia and Africa, central Asia and India, the Near East, Europe, and North and South America—all presented in the light of their own literary traditions, as a shared heritage of generations of readers in many countries and as part of a network of cultural and literary relationships whose scope is still being discovered. With this edition, we institute a shift in title that reflects the way the anthology has grown. In altering the current title to The Norton Anthology of World Literature, we do not abandon the anthology's focus on major works of literature or a belief that these works especially repay close study. It is their consummate artistry, their ability to express complex signifying structures that give access to multiple dimensions of meaning, meanings that are always rooted in a specific setting and cultural tradition but that further constitute, upon comparison, a thoughtprovoking set of perspectives on the varieties of human experience. Readers familiar with the anthology's one-volume predecessor, whose size reflected the abundance of material contained within it, will welcome the new boxed format, which divides the anthology's contents into two portable and attrac-

For pedagogical reasons, our structure is guided by the broad continuities of different cultural traditions and the literary or artistic periods they recognize for themselves. This means that chronology advises but does not dictate the order in which works appear. If Western tradition names a certain time slot "the Renaissance" or "the Enlightenment" (each term implying a shared set of beliefs), that designation has little relevance in other parts of the globe; similarly, "vernacular literature" does not have the same literaryhistorical status in all traditions; and "classical" periods come at different times in India, China, and western Europe. We find that it is more useful to start from a tradition's own sense of itself and the specific shape it gives to the community memory embodied as art. Occasionally there are displacements of absolute chronology: Petrarch, for example, belongs chronologically with Boccaccio and Chaucer, and Rousseau is a contemporary of Voltaire. Each can be read as a new and dissonant voice within his own century, a foil and balance for accepted ideas, or he can be considered as part of a powerful new consciousness, along with those indebted to his thought and example. In the first and last sections of the anthology, for different pedagogical purposes, we have chosen to present diverse cultural traditions together. The first section, "The Invention of Writing and the Earliest Literatures," introduces students to the study of world literature with works from three different cultural traditions—Babylonian, Egyptian, Judaic—each among the oldest works that have come down to us in written form, each in

its origins reaching well back into a preliterate past, yet directly accessible as an image of human experience and still provocative at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The last section, "The Twentieth Century," reminds us that separation in the modern world is no longer a possibility. Works in the twentieth century are demonstrably part of a new global consciousness, itself fostered by advances in communications, that experiences reality in terms of interrelationships, of boundaries asserted or transgressed, and of the creation of personal and social identity from the interplay of sameness and difference. We have tried to structure an anthology that is usable, accessible, and engaging in the classroom—that clarifies patterns and relationships for your students, while leaving you free to organize selections from this wealth of material into the themes, genres, topics, and special emphases that best fit your needs.

In renewing this edition, we have taken several routes: introducing new authors, choosing an alternate work by the same author when it resonates with material in other sections or speaks strongly to current concerns, and adding small sections to existing larger pieces to fill out a theme or narrative line or to suggest connections with other texts. What follows is an overview of these changes.

#### Volume 1

Four new pieces, including Akhenaten's "Hymn to the Sun," have been added to our selection of Egyptian poetry. The Epic of Gilgamesh is now offered in Benjamin Foster's recent verse translation. The passages from Genesis and Exodus in the Hebrew Bible are newly translated by Robert Alter and now include the stories of Abraham and Sarah and of Moses receiving the Law. Job is newly translated by Raymond Scheindlin. (The familiar and influential cadence of the King James version is retained in our selections from the Psalms and the Song of Songs.) Selections from Homer's Iliad—in a dynamic recent translation by Stanley Lombardo—are newly added to the anthology, joining *The Odyssey*, which is now offered in Robert Fagles's widely praised translation. An expanded selection of Sappho's lyrics are now translated by Anne Carson, and Plato's Apology, by C. D. Reeve. The selections from the Chinese "Classic of Poetry" are now translated by Stephen Owen. The Rāmāyana of Vālmīki is now offered in an increased selection and a new and exceptionally accessible translation by Swami Venkatesananda. Our selection from Barbara Stoler Miller's translation of The Bhaghavad-Gītā is also increased. The selections from both Catullus and Ovid have been augmented, and both are newly offered in translations by Charles Martin. Richmond Lattimore translates the selections from the New Testament. The section "India's Classical Age,"previously consisting of only the Sanskrit drama Sakuntala—now contains selections from Vișnușarman's Pancatantra, Bhartrhari's Śatakatrayam, Amaru's Amarusataka, and Somadeva's Kathāsaritsāgara, thus providing a more wide-ranging and teachable introduction to this cultural moment. The surah "Jonah" has been added to an already extensive selection from the Koran, and the poet-mystic Jalâloddin Rumi, is newly added to this edition. One of the anthology's new complete texts is Beowulf, in Seamas Heaney's celebrated new translation. Marie de France is now represented by two

lais—"Lanval" and "Laüstic"—in a translation by Glyn S. Burgess and Keith Busby. Dante's *Inferno* is now offered in Mark Musa's translation, and a new illustration provides students with a "map" of Dante's hell. Boccaccio's *Decameron* is now represented by three newly selected tales: the first tale of the first day (Ser Cepperello), the eighth story of the fifth day (Nastagio), and the tenth story of the tenth day (Griselda), and the entire selection is newly offered in G. H. McWilliams's translation.  $N\bar{o}$  drama is now represented by two plays by the great theorist of  $N\bar{o}$ , Zeami Motokiyo: *Atsumori* and *Haku Rakuten*. Montaigne's essay "Of the Powers of the Imagination" has been newly added, as have a few famous episodes (and the important "Prologue" to Part II) from Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.

#### Volume 2

Our collection of Chinese vernacular literature adds a selection from Wu Ch'eng-en's Monkey. Rousseau's Confessions is offered in an expanded selection and in a new translation by I. M. Cohen. We are especially pleased to offer Goethe's Faust, Part I, in Martin Greenberg's remarkable translation. Newly included lyric poets from the nineteenth century are Friedrich Hölderlin, John Keats, Heinrich Heine, Giacomo Leopardi, Victor Hugo, and Arthur Rimbaud. Our selection of Walt Whitman now adds "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking." Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler is now offered in a new translation by Rick Davis and Brian Johnston. The twentieth-century selection begins with another new complete work, Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. The poets William Butler Yeats and Federico García Lorca are newly included. Virginia Woolf is now represented by chapters two and three of A Room of Her Own. Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis is offered in a new translation by Michael Hoffman. Closing out our selection, in addition to Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, still offered in its entirety, are newly included short stories by Albert Camus, Tadeusz Borowski, Mahasweta Devi. Gabriel García Márquez, Nawal el Saadawi, and Leslie Marmon Silko.

The Shorter Second Edition contains all of the pedagogical support to which our users are accustomed: maps, time lines, pronunciation glossaries. and, of course, the informative introductions and notes. The thirty-two color plates new to this edition are captioned and broadly coordinated with each period. In addition, The Norton Anthology of World Literature now provides free access to Norton Literature Online, Norton's extensive online resource for students of literature. Each section of The Norton Anthology of World Literature has added new material to old favorites, allowing the teacher to keep tried-and-true works and also to experiment with different contexts and combinations. Some links are suggested by the organization of the table of contents, but there is no prescribed way of using the anthology, and we are confident that the materials presented here offer a wealth of viable options to support customized syllabi geared to specific student needs. A separate Instructor's Guide, with further suggestions and helpful guidance for new and experienced instructors alike, is available from the publisher on request.

## SWY

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## Phonetic Equivalents

For use with the Pronouncing Glossaries preceding most selections in this volume

a as in cat ah as in father ai as in light aw as in raw ay as in day e as in pet ee as in street ehr as in air er as in bird eu as in lurk g as in good i as in sit i as in joke **nh** a nasal sound (as in French vin,  $v\tilde{\epsilon}$ ) o as in pot oh as in no oo as in boot or as in hore ow as in now oy as in toy s as in mess ts as in ants u as in us zh as in vision



## Contents

PREFACE	XIX
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	XXII
PHONETIC EQUIVALENTS	XXIV
MAP: THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST, CA. 1000 B.C.E.	2
The Invention of Writing and	
the Earliest Literatures	3
TIME LINE	7
GILGAMESH (ca. 2500–1500 B.C.E.) [Translated by Benjamin R. Foster]	9
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POETRY (ca. 1500–ca. 1200 b.c.e.)	81
Akhenaten's "Hymn to the Sun"	83
The Leiden Hymns	87
[How splendid you ferry the skyways]	87
[God is a master craftsman]	88
[When Being began back in the days of the genesis]	88
[The mind of God is perfect knowing]	88
Love Songs	89
[My love is one and only, without peer]	89
[I wish I were her Nubian girl]	90
[Love, how I'd love to slip down to the pond]	90
[Why, just now, must you question your heart?]	91
[I was simply off to see Nefrus my friend]	91
[I think I'll go home and lie very still]	92
[Love of you is mixed deep in my vitals]	92
[Translated by John L. Foster]	
THE HEBREW BIBLE (ca. 1000–300 B.C.E.)	92
Genesis	97
Genesis 1–2 [The Creation—The Fall]	97
From Genesis 4 [The First Murder]	101
From Genesis 6–9 [The Flood]	101
From Genesis 11 [The Origin of Languages]	104
From Genesis 17–19 [Abraham and Sarah]	105
From Genesis 22 [Abraham and Isaac]	108
From Genesis 25, 27 [Jacob and Esau]	109
Genesis 37, 39–46 [The Story of Joseph]	112

From Exodus 19–20 [Moses Receives the Law]	122
[Translated by Robert Alter]	
From Job	124
Psalms [The King James Version]	150
Psalm 8	150
Psalm 19	151
Psalm 23	151
Psalm 104	152
Psalm 137	153
The Song of Songs	154
[The King James Version]	
MAP: GREECE AND WESTERN ASIA MINOR, CA. FIFTH CENTURY B.C.E.	160
Ancient Greece and the Formation of the	
Western Mind	161
TIME LINE	167
HOMER (eighth century B.C.E.)	169
The Iliad	176
Book I. [The Rage of Achilles]	176
From Book VI [Hector Returns to Troy]	191
From Book VIII [The Tide of Battle Turns]	200
Book IX [The Embassy to Achilles]	201
From Book XVI [Patroclus Fights and Dies]	216
Book XVIII [The Shield of Achilles]	227
Book XXII [The Death of Hector]	242
Book XXIV [Achilles and Priam]	255
[Translated by Stanley Lombardo]	
The Odyssey	274
Book I [Athena Inspires the Prince] Book II [Telemachus Sets Sail]	274
Book II [King Nestor Remembers]	285
Book IV [The King and Queen of Sparta]	295
Book V [Odysseus—Nymph and Shipwreck]	308
Book VI [The Princess and the Stranger]	328
Book VI [The Frincess and the Stranger] Book VII [Phaeacia's Halls and Gardens]	340
Book VII [A Day for Songs and Contests]	348
Book IX [In the One-Eyed Giant's Cave]	356
Book X [The Bewitching Queen of Aeaea]	370
Book XI [The Kingdom of the Dead]	384
Book XII [The Cattle of the Sun]	397
Book XIII [Ithaca at Last]	413
Book XIV [The Loyal Swineherd]	424
Book XV [The Prince Sets Sail for Home]	434 447
Book XVI [Father and Son]	447 460
Book XVII [Stranger at the Gates]	471
Book XVIII [The Beggar-King of Ithaca]	486
Book XIX [Penelope and Her Guest]	406

Book XX [Portents Gather]	51
Book XXI [Odysseus Strings His Bow]	520
Book XXII [Slaughter in the Hall]	53
Book XXIII [The Great Rooted Bed]	542
Book XXIV [Peace]	55
[Translated by Robert Fagles]	
SAPPHO OF LESBOS (born ca. 630 B.C.E.) Lyrics	562
[Deathless Aphrodite of the spangled mind]	56
[Some men say an army of horse]	569
[He seems to me equal to gods]	566
[Stars around the beautiful moon]	567
[Eros shook my mind]	567
[You came and I was crazy for you]	567
[I simply want to be dead]	567
[Often turning her thoughts here]	568
[As the sweetapple reddens on a high branch]	569
[Like the hyacinth in the mountains]	569
[Moon has set]	569
[Translated by Anne Carson]	
SOPHOCLES (ca. 496–406 B.C.E.)	579
Oedipus the King	573
[Translated by Robert Fagles]	
EURIPIDES (480–406 B.C.E.)	614
Medea	616
[Translated by Rex Warner]	
PLATO (429-347 B.C.E.)	646
The Apology of Socrates	648
[Translated by C. D. Reeve]	
ARISTOTLE (384–322 B.C.E.)	660
From Poetics	670
[Translated by James Hutton]	,
MAP: CHINA DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, CA. 250 B.C.E.	676
Poetry and Thought in Early China	677
TIME LINE	682
CLASSIC OF POETRY (ca. 1000-600 B.C.E.)	684
I. Fishhawk	686
XX. Plums Are Falling	686
XXIII. Dead Roe Deer	687
XXVI. Boat of Cypress	687
XLII. Gentle Girl	688
LXIV. Quince	688
LXXVI. Chung-tzu. Please	680

LXXXI. I Went along the Broad Road LXXXII. Rooster Crows	689 689
CXL. Willows by the Eastern Gate CCXLV. She Bore the Folk [Translated by Stephen Owen]	690 690
CONFUCIUS (551–479 B.C.E.) From Analects [Translated by D. C. Lau]	692 695
CHUANG CHOU (ca. 369–286 B.C.E.) Chuang Tzu Chapter 2. Discussion on Making All Things Equal [Translated by Burton Watson]	7°3 7°5 7°5
MAP: INDIA, 1200 B.C.E.—100 C.E.	714
India's Heroic Age	715
TIME LINE	721
THE RĀMĀYAŅA OF VĀLMĪKI (ca. 550 B.C.E.) From Book 2. Ayodhyā From Book 3. Āraṇya From Book 6. Yuddha [Translated by Swami Venkatesananda]	723 728 735 754
THE BHAGAVAD-GĪTĀ (first century B.C.E.)  From The First Teaching [Arjuna's Dejection]  From The Second Teaching [Philosophy and Spiritual Discipline]  From The Third Teaching [Discipline of Action]  From The Sixth Teaching [The Man of Discipline]  From The Eleventh Teaching [The Vision of Krishna's Totality]  [Translated by Barbara Stoler Miller]	762 765 768 771 775 777
MAP: THE ROMAN EMPIRE, CA. 117	782
The Roman Empire	783
TIME LINE	786
CATULLUS (84?–54? B.C.E.)  Lyrics  5 [Lesbia, let us live only for loving]  2 [Sparrow, you darling pet of my beloved]  51 [To me that man seems like a god in heaven]  86 [Many find Quintia stunning. I find her attractive]  87 [No other woman can truthfully say she was cherished]	788 789 789 789 789 79° 79°
<ul> <li>109 [Darling, we'll both have equal shares in the sweet love you offer]</li> <li>83 [Lesbia hurls abuse at me in front of her husband]</li> <li>70 [My woman says there is no one whom she'd rather marry]</li> <li>72 [You used to say that you wished to know only Catullus]</li> </ul>	79° 79° 791

85 [I hate & love. And if you should ask how I can do both] 75 [To such a state have I been brought by your mischief,	791
my Lesbia]	791
8 [Wretched Catullus! You have to stop this nonsense]	791
58 [Lesbia, Caelius—yes, our darling]	792
11 [Aurelius & Furius, true comrades]	792
76 [If any pleasure can come to a man through recalling]	793
[Translated by Charles Martin]	175
VIRGIL (70–19 B.C.E.)	794
The Aeneid	795
Book I	795
[Prologue]	795
[Aeneas Arrives in Carthage]	797
Book IV [The Passion of the Queen]	804
From Book VI [Aeneas in the Underworld]	825
From Book VIII [The Shield of Aeneas]	831
From Book XII [The Death of Turnus]	835
[Translated by Robert Fitzgerald]	
OVID (43 B.C.E.–17 C.E.)	840
Metamorphoses	844
Book I	844
[Proem]	844
[The Creation]	844
[Apollo and Daphne]	846
[Jove and Io]	850
Book II	855
[Jove and Europa]	855
Book V	857
[Ceres and Proserpina]	857
Book IX	866
[Iphis and Isis]	866
Book X	870
[Pygmalion]	870
[Venus and Adonis]	877
[Translated by Charles Martin]	
MAP: THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY, 30–600	882
From Roman Empire to Christian Europe	883
TIME LINE	885
THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE: THE NEW TESTAMENT (ca. 1st century)	887
Luke 2 [The Birth and Youth of Jesus]	888
Matthew 5–7 [The Teaching of Jesus; The Sermon on the Mount]	890
Luke 15 [The Teaching of Jesus; Parables]	894
From Matthew 13 [Why Jesus Teaches in Parables]	895
From Matthew 26 [The Betrayal of Jesus]	897
Matthew 27 [The Trial and Crucifivion of Jesus]	800

#### xii / Contents

Matthew 28 [The Resurrection] [Translated by Richmond Lattimore]	901
AUGUSTINE (354–43°)	902
Confessions	903
From Book I [Childhood]	903
From Book II [The Pear Tree]	907
From Book III [Student at Carthage]	909
From Book VI [Worldly Ambitions]	910
From Book VIII [Conversion]	914
[Translated by F. J. Sheed]	
MAP: INDIA, 100–1200	918
India's Classical Age	919
TIME LINE	924
VIŞŅUŚARMAN (second or third century)	926
Pañcatantra	928
From Book I. The Loss of Friends	928
From Book III. Crows and Owls	931
From Book V. Ill-Considered Action [Translated by Arthur W. Ryder]	934
BHARTRHARI (fifth century)	935
Śatakatrayam	937
4 [Wise men are consumed by envy]	937
7 [A splendid palace, wanton maids]	937
11 [A gem carved by the jeweler's stone]	937
34 [Like clusters of blossoms]	937
35 [When silent, the courtier is branded dumb]	937
70 [Knowledge is man's crowning mark]	938
76 [Armlets do not adorn a person]	938
85 [Why all these words and empty prattle?]	938
102 [A melodious song]	938
148 [So I have roamed through perilous lands]	938
155 [We savored no pleasure]	939
166 [You are a king of opulence]	939
172 [Should I sojourn in austerity] 190 [Earth his soft couch]	939
191 [Why do men need scriptures revealed, remembered]	939
[Translated by Barbara Stoler Miller]	940
AMARU (seventh century)	940
Amaruśataka	941
23 [Lying on the same bed]	941
34 [She's just a kid]	942
38 [When anger was a crease in the brow]	942
57 [My girl]	942
69 [At first]	943