



British Classics

Austen, Jane

Pride and Prejudice A93.pr

In this sparkling satire of love and matrimony, all five Bennett sisters require suitable husbands, to the chagrin of their harried parents, and all available suitors seem somehow deficient.

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre B781.j

After accepting a position as governess in Edward Rochester's home and falling in love with him, Jane begins to suspect that all is not what it seems, and that Thornfield Hall is haunted by a dreadful secret

Bronte, Emily

Wuthering Heights B782.w

When Lockwood is forced to shelter with his unsociable landlord, he learns the tragic story of Heathcliff's passionate love affair with Catherine, and why her ghost still haunts the bleak Yorkshire moors.

Butler, Samuel

The Way of All Flesh B97.w

The satiric saga of the Pontifexes outlines the struggles of its conscientious, freethinking sons against the hypocrisies of wealth, education, class, family and religion in Victorian England.

Collins, Wilkie

The Moonstone C69.mo

In the first police mystery, the disappearance of the Moonstone diamond on Rachel Verinder's birthday spurs an investigation by the dogged Sergeant Cuff, who uncovers more than simple theft.

Defoe, Daniel

Robinson Crusoe jD36.r

A castaway marooned on a desert island, Crusoe survives a harsh and primitive existence for nearly thirty years, relying on his English ingenuity and the help of a man called Friday. Inspired by a true story.

Dickens, Charles

Oliver Twist D55.o

By turns hilarious and terrifying, this tale of a young man determined to escape the life of a common pickpocket and to better his chances in the world features truly unforgettable characters.

Eliot, George

Middlemarch C88.mid

The panorama of nineteenth-century provincial society comes to life in a multi-faceted story of its inhabitants who, like Dorothea Brooks, search for happiness in love and significant lives.

Fielding, Henry

The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling F46.h

Young Tom takes readers on a roller coaster ride through eighteenth century British life, after his sexual exploits get him into trouble with his adoptive family and force him to seek his fortune in the world.

Forster, E. M.

A Passage to India F776.p

Three English newcomers to Chandrapore eagerly form a friendship with the educated Indian, Dr. Aziz, but jeopardize international relations when one of them accuses him of sexual assault.

Goldsmith, Oliver

The Vicar of Wakefield G572.i

As with Job, disaster strikes Dr. Primrose's fortune and family, but he suffers poverty and public humiliation with gentle patience, relying on his faith, wit and good natured outlook.

Graves, Robert

I, Claudius G782.i

The fictional lost autobiography of Emperor Tiberius Claudius reveals his intelligence and political savvy, amidst a decadent, cruel and superficial society that thinks him a stuttering idiot.

Greene, Graham

The Heart of the Matter G8297.h

Disaster looms beneath the thin veneer of civilized good cheer in British West Africa, when a scrupulously honest native police official jeopardizes his honor for the love of a woman.

Haggard, H. Rider

King Solomon's Mines H12.k

When a fellow explorer goes missing, Allan Quartermain and his daring companions embark on a perilous search that leads them to ancient treasure in the heart of darkest Africa in this ultimate adventure yarn.

Hardy, Thomas

Tess of the D'Urbervilles H223.t

While working in her wealthy cousin's house, Tess succumbs to his sexual advances. Will she bear alone the shame of childbirth and the condemnation of the man she loves?

Hudson, W. H.

Green Mansions H865.g

The creeping encroachment of European civilization on indigenous traditions is seen through young Abel's love for Rima, and their journey to her rain forest home across the dense terrain of South America.

Joyce, James

Dubliners J85.d

Both social critique and loving portrait of the everyday lives of urban dwellers at the dawn of the last century, these fifteen stories reflect the inherent self-sufficiency and strength of the Irish people.

Lawrence, D. H.

Sons and Lovers L428.s

Paul Morel's domineering mother runs life up into his early manhood, and threatens to doom him forever unless he disconnects from her neediness and recreates himself as a man.

Maugham, W. Somerset

Of Human Bondage M435.o

Philip Carey's search for freedom and self-actualization goes tragically awry when he his dreams and his heart are shattered by a destructive sexual obsession.

Orczy, Baroness

The Scarlet Pimpernel O65.s

Madame la Guillotine hovers menacingly over innocents in French prisons until their timely rescue by a swashbuckling masked avenger, known to the world and even his wife as an ignoble and foppish Englishman.

Powell, Anthony

A Dance to the Music of Time P8715.da

All the world's a stage, and this epic literary frolic, beginning just after World War I, features a large cast of British upper crust and bohemians moving through the rich and varied pageant of fifty years.

Scott, Sir Walter

Ivanhoe S431.i

While the dastardly King John threatens to usurp King Richard's throne, Ivanhoe returns from the Crusades to reclaim his inheritance, save a maiden in distress and team up with Robin Hood to defeat the Normans.

Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft

Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus jS545.f YA

Fascinated by the quest for eternal life, Victor plays God when his unnatural experiments with cadavers bring forth a new being into the world, and then forsakes his own creation, with horrifying results.

Stoker, Bram

Dracula B874.d

Eyewitness news reports and diary excerpts lend eerie credence to this nightmarish story of a shadowy man hunter who stalks London by night in search of fresh blood. Jack the Ripper, eat your heart out.

Swift, Jonathan

Gulliver's Travels S977.g

In this brilliant social and political satire, Lemuel Gulliver embarks on four fantastic voyages to strange lands governed by tiny men, giants, pedantic fools, and an enlightened race of intelligent horses.

Thackeray, William Makepeace

Vanity Fair T32.v

Social vanity and inequity are on full display as the lives of five Victorians are contrasted, compared, and held to the light like trinkets at a fair.

Trollope, Anthony

Barchester Towers T74.b

With wry humor and quirky characters, the author reveals the dangers of evangelical infighting as the incompetent new bishop, Dr. Proudie and the slimy curate, Slope, struggle for control of Barchester diocese.

Waugh, Evelyn

Brideshead Revisited W3573.b

Lord Sebastian Flyte, worldly scion of the aristocratic Marchmain clan, indulges in the mad decadence of the 1920's only to endure the mordant hangover of the 30's and the ageless ennui of alienated privilege.

Wells, H. G.

Invisible Man W465.im

Already uneasy about the mysterious bandage-wrapped newcomer Mr. Griffin, citizens of the town of Iping, wind up defenseless and petrified when his vengeful wrath takes murderous form.

Woolf, Virginia

Mrs. Dalloway W875.m

One day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway as she prepares to host a society party, proves to be fertile ground for fond remembrances, recriminations and musings on the life's splendid futility.

(This list is courtesy of the Seattle Public Library.)