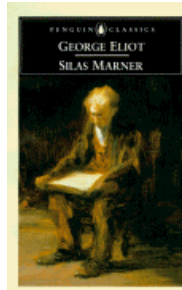



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Literary Classics Book Discussions

The Literary Classics Book Discussion Group meets once a month at the Wayne Public Library at 461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470.

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Silas Marner

By *Eliot, George*

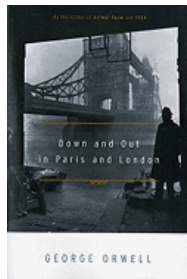
Editor McNulty

Editor Carroll, David

1997-01 - Penguin Books

9780140434804 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Exiled by superstition and betrayal from Lantern Yard, and cut off from faith and human love, for fifteen years the solitary simple-hearted weaver Silas Marner has plied his loom in Raveloe and devoted himself to the amassing of a hoard of golden guineas. Silas's chance of redemption, when it appears one New Year's Eve, is intimately connected with the fate of Godfrey Cass, son of the village Squire. Clandestinely married, then blackmailed by his dissolute brother Dunstan, Godfrey like Silas has been trapped by his past, from which he is seeking to escape. Humorous, richly symbolic, subtly characterized and meticulously plotted, George Eliot's 'sudden inspiration' in this slim novel of rural England cut across her plans for Romola, her vast Italian Renaissance epic. In his introduction to this new edition David Carroll explores the connection, discussing Silas Marner as 'a novel about a legend and its creation', and a key linking work in all George Eliot's fiction. ...[More](#)



Down and Out in Paris and London

By *Orwell, George*

1972-03 - Mariner Books

9780156262248 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This unusual fictional account, in good part autobiographical, narrates without self-pity and often with humor the adventures of a penniless British writer among the down-and-out of two great cities. In the tales of both cities we learn some sobering Orwellian truths about poverty and society.

...More



The Voyage Out

By *Woolf, Virginia*

2003-02 - Harvest Books

9780156028059 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Voyage Out (1915) is the story of a rite of passage. When Rachel Vinrace embarks for South America on her father's ship she is launched on a course of self-discovery in a modern version of the mythic voyage. Virginia Woolf knew all too well the forms that she was supposed to follow when writing of a young lady's entrance into the world, and she struggled to subvert the conventions, wittily and assiduously, rewriting and revising the novel many times. The finished work is not, on the face of it, a 'portrait of the artist'. However, through The Voyage Out readers discover Woolf as an emerging and original artist: not identified with the heroine, but present everywhere in the social satire, the lyricism, and the patterning of consciousness.

...More



Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

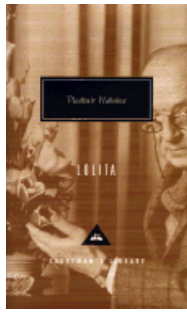
By *Carroll, Lewis*

Illustrator *Tenniel, John*

1946-10 - Grosset & Dunlap

9780448060040 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Tale in which a little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. ...More



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Lolita

By *Nabokov, Vladimir*

Illustrator Amis, Martin

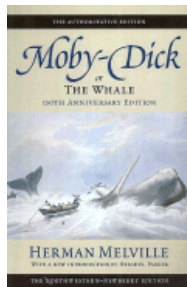
1993-03 - Everyman's Library

9780679410430 [Check Our Catalog](#)

With an Introduction by Martin Amis

When it was published in 1955, *Lolita* immediately became a cause celebre because of the freedom and sophistication with which it handled the unusual erotic predilections of its protagonist. But Vladimir Nabokov's wise, ironic, elegant masterpiece owes its stature as one of the twentieth century's novels of record not to the controversy its material aroused but to its author's use of that material to tell a love story almost shocking in its beauty and tenderness.

Awe and exhilaration--along with heartbreak and mordant wit--abound in this account of the aging Humbert Humbert's obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze. *Lolita* is also the story of a hypercivilized European colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar America, but most of all, it is a meditation on love--love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation. ...[More](#)



Moby-Dick: Or the Whale

By *Melville, Herman*

Foreword by Parker, Hershel

Editor Hayford, Harrison

2001-09 - Northwestern University Press

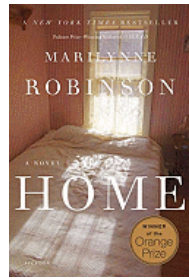
9780810119116 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This edition of *Moby-Dick*, released in honor of the book's 150th anniversary, is the authoritative text of one of the world's great adventure stories. A crew of whalers sets out in pursuit of a fierce white whale that had cost their captain his leg on a previous expedition. Their names ring through the canon of American literature: Ishmael, the narrator; Queenpeg, a South Seas harpooner; Starbuck, the sober and serious chief mate; and above all Captain Ahab, part Faust and part Job, leading his men to the ends of the earth- and the destiny he will share with his foe.

Melville was heavily influenced and inspired by his experiences at sea; first as a young cabin boy on the whaler, *Achushnet*, and later in the US Navy sailing the Atlantic and South Seas. *Typee* and its sequel, *Omoo*, were accounts of his capture and subsequent captivity at the hands of a tribe of cannibals in the South Pacific Marquesas Islands. Both works were highly successful and thus the lukewarm reaction to *Moby-Dick* upon its release in 1851 was a blow to Melville, who had set out to write a "mighty book" on a "mighty theme." It was not until the 1920's that *Moby-Dick* began to finally receive the critical attention it richly deserved. Today, *Moby-Dick* is recognized as one of the premier epics in American literary history and

indeed the ultimate tale of obsession and revenge.

This text of Moby-Dick is an Approved Text of the Center for Scholarly Editions (Modern Language Association of America).
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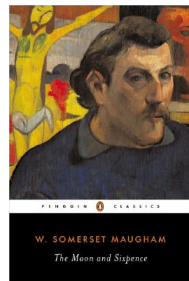
Home

By *Robinson, Marilynne*

2009-09 - Picador USA

9780312428549 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Gilead" pens a moving and healing book about families, family secrets, and the passing of the generations. ...More



The Moon and Sixpence

By *Maugham, W. Somerset*

Introduction by *Calder, Robert*

2005-12 - Penguin Books

9780143039341 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"The Moon and Sixpence, published in 1919, was one of the novels that galvanized W. Somerset Maugham's reputation as a literary master. It follows the life of one Charles Strickland, a bourgeois city gent whose dull exterior conceals the soul of a genius. Compulsive and impassioned, he abandons his home, wife, and children to devote himself slavishly to painting. In a tiny studio in Paris, he fills canvas after canvas, refusing to sell or even exhibit his work. Beset by poverty, sickness, and his own intransigent, unscrupulous nature, he drifts to Tahiti, where, even after being blinded by leprosy, he produces some of his most extraordinary works of art. Inspired by the life of Paul Gauguin, "The Moon and Sixpence is an unforgettable" study of a man possessed by the need to create regardless of the cost to himself and to others. ...More



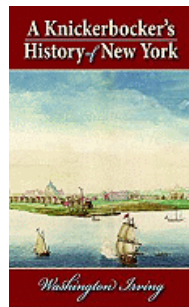
Salem's Lot

By *King, Stephen*

2000-03 - San Val

97808881037203 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This repackaged edition of one of King's early classics revolves around the town of Jerusalem's Lot, a town that knows darkness--the heavy silence of terrifying images dancing in and out of the shadows; the stark white faces, huge empty eyes, and long gnarled hands that reach out with lustful insistence; and the paralyzing fear of a hideous peril more dreadful than death. ...More



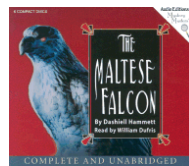
A Knickerbocker's History of New York

By *Irving, Washington*

2009-12 - Pelican Publishing Company

9781589806986 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Being the only Authentic History of the Times that ever hath been published." -from the frontispiece This single-volume reissue is an exact replication of the two-volume first edition and marks the 200th anniversary of the first publication of Washington Irving's satirical classic. Considered the first major contribution to American comic literature, Irving's debut book lampoons the customs, culture, and political climate of New York during the early nineteenth century. Following a foreword by Brian Jay Jones, esteemed author of *Washington Irving: An American Original*, Irving's satire begins with the creation of the world and conjures the discovery of what would eventually become New York. He examines the rise and fall of the Dutch Dynasty, the reigns of Governors William the Testy and Wouter Van Twiller, and the rule of Peter Stuyvesant. His frank observations are just as humorous for a contemporary audience as they were in 1809. Using the pseudonym "Diedrich Knickerbocker," Washington Irving (1783-1859) was a twenty-six-year-old lawyer when he published this sardonic story, which immediately established him as an American literary celebrity. During his career, the native New Yorker created the classics *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*. ...[More](#)



The Maltese Falcon

By *Hammett, Dashiell*

Read by *Dufris, William*

2004-01 - BBC Audiobooks America

9781572703643 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"The Maltese Falcon is considered Dashiell Hammett's finest novel. the story introduces detective Sam Spade, a man of few words who displays little emotion. Hired by a woman--Miss Wonderly--to locate her sister, Spade gives the assignment to his partner Miles Archer. Archer tails the missing sister's companion, and within a single evening both Archer and the man have been shot dead. As Spade pursues the mystery of his partner's death, he is drawn into a circle of colorful characters: Miss Wonderly, who lies prettily and pathologically about everything a fat, well-dressed man named Gutman; a jumpy man named Cairo; and an extremely stupid, impulsive gunman. All of them are in competition to find the legendary, jewel-encrusted Maltese Falcon, hidden for many centuries. As they get closer and closer to the statue, Spade gets closer and closer to identifying the person who murdered his partner. ...[More](#)