

19th Century Classics

[Pride and Prejudice](#) by Jane Austen

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young Elizabeth Bennet copes with the romantic entanglements of her four sisters and her growing feelings for Mr. Darcy, a proud and brooding gentleman.

[Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass](#) by Lewis Carroll

When Alice follows a strange rabbit down a rabbit hole and passes through a looking glass, she experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters, including the Mad Hatter and the fiendish Queen of Hearts.

[The Last of the Mohicans](#) by James Fenimore Cooper

Set against the backdrop of the French and Indian War, this is the story of two sisters' perilous journey through the wilderness near Lake Champlain to join their father at Fort William Henry, and a Mohican brave's struggle to protect them from an evil Huron.

[A Tale of Two Cities](#) by Charles Dickens

After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the aging Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette.

[Crime and Punishment](#) by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Raskolnikov, an impoverished student living in the gloomy slums of St. Petersburg, must endure relentless physical and mental punishments as retribution for his act of murder.

[Middlemarch](#) by George Eliot

George Eliot's imaginative understanding and intelligent perception of Victorian provincial life is displayed through her subtle portrayal of middle class characters like Dorothea Brooke, who is trapped in a loveless marriage and finds her attempts to defy social conventions inhibited by the strict nature of her surroundings.

[Madame Bovary](#) by Gustave Flaubert

An unhappily married woman, Emma Bovary's unfulfilled dreams of romantic love and desperation to escape the ordinary boredom of her life lead her to a series of desperate acts, including adultery, in a classic novel set against the backdrop of nineteenth-century bourgeois France.

[Tess of the D'Urbervilles](#) by Thomas Hardy

When her family learns that they may be descendants of the wealthy D'Urbervilles, young Tess is unwittingly packed off and directed to win favor, and her fate is sealed when she meets the handsome Alec D'Urberville.

[The Portrait of a Lady](#) by Henry James

Isabel Archer is one of the greatest heroines in all literature -- an American heiress just arrived in Europe, high-spirited, independent, and faced with a tragic choice. She is courted by three men: an English aristocrat, an American gentleman, and a sensitive expatriate. Her invalid cousin becomes her benefactor and adviser.

[Moby-Dick](#) by Herman Melville

The fanatical and ruthless Captain Ahab, seeking revenge on the great white whale that had crippled him, sends his crew on dangerous quest to find and kill Moby-Dick, in the nineteenth-century novel about life aboard a whaling ship.

[Frankenstein](#) by Mary Shelley

A monstrous and deadly creature assembled by Dr. Frankenstein from parts of dead bodies develops a mind of his own as he learns to loathe himself and hate his creator, in the classic story of science and the search for the origins of life.

[Anna Karenina](#) by Leo Tolstoy

This classic mid-19th-century masterpiece tells of the doomed love affair between the sensuous and rebellious Anna and the dashing officer, Count Vronsky. Tragedy unfolds as Anna rejects her passionless marriage and endures the hypocrisies of society.

[Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea](#) by Jules Verne

A thrilling-and prophetic-voyage into the depths of the unknown aboard Captain Nemo's legendary submarine Nautilus, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* explores the limitless possibilities of the imagination-and the darkest labyrinth of human nature.

[The War of the Worlds](#) by H.G. Wells

The first modern-day science-fiction story about the possibilities of intelligent life on distant planets follows an English astronomer, an artilleryman, a country curate, and others, as they struggle to survive and stop the invasion of Earth by Martians in 1894.

[The Picture of Dorian Gray](#) by Oscar Wilde

An exquisitely beautiful young man in Victorian England retains his youthful and innocent appearance over the years while his portrait reflects both his age and evil soul as he pursues a life of decadence and corruption.

[The House of Mirth](#) by Edith Wharton

Lily Bart's quest to find a husband who can satisfy her cravings for endless admiration and all the trappings of the rich comes to a scandalous end when she is accused of being a wealthy man's mistress.