

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND BEYOND TEXTS AND CONTEXTS: A CHRONOLOGICAL CHART

In the chart below, dates generally refer to the year when a work was first made public, whether published in print or, in the case of dramatic works, made public through the first performance of a play. Where that date is known to differ substantially from the date of composition, the difference is generally noted. With medieval works, where there is no equivalent to the “publication” of later eras, where texts often vary greatly from one manuscript copy to another, and where knowledge of date of original composition is usually imprecise, the date that appears is an estimate of the date of the work’s origin in the written form included or referenced in the Broadview Anthology. Earlier oral or written versions are of course in some cases real possibilities.

Divisions in these chronological charts follow the divisions into six parts of the *Broadview Anthology*. For the convenience of those who may be focusing on only one period, but who may wish to look slightly beyond its boundaries as they are generally defined, there is in some cases an overlap between periods in these chronologies. The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century chart, for example, carries through to the end of the eighteenth century (thereby overlapping with the chart for The Age of Romanticism), and the chart for The Victorian Era begins several years before Victoria came to the throne.



TEXTS

1899 Helen Bannerman, *The Story of Little Black Sambo*
 Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
 Arthur Symons, *The Symbolist Movement in Literature*
 Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*
 Oscar Wilde, *An Ideal Husband*
 William Butler Yeats, *The Wind Among the Reeds*

CONTEXTS

1899 Irish Literary Theatre founded
 Sigmund Freud publishes *Die Traumdeutung (The Interpretation of Dreams)*
 1899-1902 South African War (also known as the Anglo-Boer War): an influx of British settlers to the Transvaal following the discovery of gold in 1885 had put pressure on relations between Britain and the independent republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal (South African Republic), both controlled by Dutch-descended Afrikaners. Tensions were exacerbated by the abortive 1896 Jameson raid (led by Starr Jameson of the Rhodesian police force), which was an attempt by the British to

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			incite expatriate British workers in the Transvaal to rebel against the local government. In the war itself, the British suffered several embarrassing defeats (leading many in Britain to question the government's colonial strategy) before finally overcoming the Afrikaner forces. The two republics were incorporated into the British Empire at war's end, but in 1912 South Africa was granted largely autonomous status as a dominion
1900	Winston Churchill, <i>London to Ladysmith via Pretoria</i> Joseph Conrad, <i>Lord Jim</i> H.G. Wells, <i>Love and Mr. Lewisham</i>	1900	Boxer Rebellion: this uprising in northern China was led by the Righteous Harmony Society (nicknamed the Boxers by Westerners), who were protesting the degree to which citizens and companies from Britain and other Western countries were given favorable treatment by the Qing dynasty. For some months the foreign compound in Beijing was under siege, but by year's end the rebellion had been suppressed (and numerous reprisals carried out)
1901	Miles Franklin, <i>My Brilliant Career</i> Rudyard Kipling, <i>Kim</i> H.G. Wells, <i>The First Men in the Moon</i>	1901	Queen Victoria dies; Edward VII succeeds to the throne First wireless communication across the Atlantic Factory Act forbids the employment in factories or workshops of children under the age of 12 Commonwealth of Australia formed
1902	Joseph Conrad, <i>Youth</i> Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> Rudyard Kipling, <i>Just So Stories for Little Children</i> Alice Meynell, <i>Later Poems</i> E(dith) Nesbit, <i>Five Children and It</i> Beatrix Potter, <i>The Tales of Peter Rabbit</i> Bernard Shaw, <i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i> (first private performance, Stage Society. Shaw completed the original version of the play in 1892; it was first published [in <i>Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant</i>] in 1898, and first performed publicly [and subsequently banned] in New York, 1905. The Lord Chamberlain's ban on its public performance in Britain was removed in 1924)		

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| 1903 | <p>Samuel Butler, <i>The Way of All Flesh</i>
 Joseph Conrad, <i>Typhoon and Other Stories</i></p> | 1903 | <p>Women's Social and Political Union (known as the "suffragettes") formed as a more militant breakaway group from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies</p> <p>Orville and Wilbur Wright achieve a sustained flight in a power-driven airplane</p> |
| 1904 | <p>J.M. Barrie, <i>Peter Pan: The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up</i>
 Aubrey Beardsley, <i>Under the Hill</i> (unexpurgated version published as <i>The Story of Venus and Tannhauser</i> in 1907)
 A.C. Bradley, <i>Shakespearean Tragedy</i>
 G.K. Chesterton, <i>The Napoleon of Notting Hill</i>
 Joseph Conrad, <i>Nostramo: A Tale of the Seaboard</i>
 Sara Jeannette Duncan, <i>The Imperialist</i>
 Thomas Hardy, <i>The Dynasts: A Drama of the Napoleonic Wars</i> (first part; third and final part published in 1908)
 W.H. Hudson, <i>Green Mansions</i>
 "Saki" (Hector Hugh Munro), <i>Reginald</i></p> | 1905 | <p>The Imperial Guard of Russia attacks a peaceful crowd of strikers and other demonstrators on "Bloody Sunday," killing approximately 1,000, injuring thousands more, and sparking an attempted revolution throughout the Russian Empire against the rule of Czar Nicholas II</p> <p>Aliens Act of 1905 implements measures designed to deter Jewish immigration</p> <p>Albert Einstein formulates his Theory of Special Relativity</p> |
| 1905 | <p>Ernest Dowson, <i>The Poems of Ernest Dowson</i>
 Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>The Return of Sherlock Holmes</i>
 Bernard Shaw, <i>Major Barbara</i>
 H.G. Wells, <i>Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul</i></p> | 1906 | <p>H.W. Fowler and F.G. Fowler, <i>The King's English</i>
 John Galsworthy, <i>The Man of Property</i>
 E(dith) Nesbit, <i>The Railway Children</i></p> |
| 1907 | <p>Joseph Conrad, <i>The Secret Agent</i>
 J.M. Synge, <i>The Aran Islands</i>
 J.M. Synge, <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i></p> | 1907 | <p>Rudyard Kipling becomes the first British winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature</p> <p>Robert Baden-Powell founds the Boy Scouts; the Girl Guides are founded two years later</p> |

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1908	Arnold Bennett, <i>The Old Wives' Tale</i> E.M. Forster, <i>A Room with a View</i> Kenneth Grahame, <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> Lucy Maud Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	1908	Olympic Games in London
		1909	People's budget introduced by the Liberal government of Prime Minister Herbert Asquith and Chancellor of the Exchequer David Lloyd George. This budget was revolutionary in its measures to redistribute wealth more equitably in British society; its provisions included a graduated income tax—a measure that was rejected by the House of Lords Hunger strike by imprisoned suffrage activists Ford Motor Company begins production of the Model T
1910	E.M. Forster, <i>Howards End</i> Bertrand Russell and A.N. Whitehead, <i>Principia Mathematica</i> H.G. Wells, <i>The History of Mr. Polly</i>	1910	Landmark exhibition of post-impressionist art in London, organized by Roger Fry Union of South Africa granted dominion status Edward VII dies; George V comes to the throne
1911	G.K. Chesterton, <i>The Innocence of Father Brown</i> Katherine Mansfield, <i>In a German Pension</i> Mary Ward, <i>The Case of Richard Meynell</i>	1911	Health and unemployment insurance introduced through the National Insurance Act Constitutional crisis over the power of the House of Lords results in the Parliament Act, restricting the Lords' power to veto House of Commons legislation Q'ing dynasty (the last monarchy in China) overthrown in a revolution led by Sun Yat-sen; a new republic is established
1912	William Archer, <i>Play-Making</i> Stephen Leacock, <i>Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town</i> Isaac Rosenberg, <i>Night and Day</i> Saki, <i>The Unbearable Bassington</i> May Sinclair, <i>Feminism</i>	1912	Major suffragette demonstrations in London Extension of copyright restrictions in Britain to fifty years after the death of the author Norwegian expedition led by Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole and returns safely; rival expedition led by Robert Scott of Britain reaches the Pole a month later, and all members of the

			expedition succumb to sickness and starvation as they attempt to return
1913	J.M. Barrie, <i>Quality Street</i> D.H. Lawrence, <i>Love Poems and Others</i> D.H. Lawrence, <i>Sons and Lovers</i> Leonard Woolf, <i>The Village in the Jungle</i>	1913	Bill providing for Irish Home Rule is passed twice by the House of Commons and both times defeated in the House of Lords First performance of Igor Stravinsky's revolutionary ballet, <i>The Rite of Spring</i> Suffragette Emily Davidson throws herself in front of a horse ridden by King George V during the Epsom Derby and is killed
1914	J.M. Barrie, <i>The Admirable Crichton</i> Joseph Conrad, <i>Chance</i> James Joyce, <i>Dubliners</i> first issue of <i>Blast: Review of the Great English Vortex</i> (edited by Wyndham Lewis) Bernard Shaw, <i>Common Sense About the War</i> Bernard Shaw, <i>Pygmalion</i> (first performed in English; performed in German in Vienna the previous year) H.G. Wells, <i>The War That Will End War</i>	1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated, sparking the outbreak of World War I First battle of Ypres
1915	John Buchan, <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i> Joseph Conrad, <i>Victory</i> Ford Madox Ford, <i>The Good Soldier</i> D.H. Lawrence, <i>The Rainbow</i> Somerset Maugham, <i>Of Human Bondage</i> Alice Meynell, <i>Poems on the War</i> Dorothy Richardson, <i>Pointed Roofs</i> (first volume of the <i>Pilgrimage</i> series) Virginia Woolf, <i>The Voyage Out</i>	1915	Coalition government formed in Britain Second battle of Ypres
1916	John Buchan, <i>Greenmantle</i> Thomas Hardy, <i>Selected Poems</i> James Joyce, <i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> Ada Levenson, <i>Love at Second Sight</i> H.G. Wells, <i>Mr. Britling Sees It Through</i> H.G. Wells, <i>Easter</i>	1916	Easter rising in Dublin Battles of Verdun and the Somme Evacuation of Australian and British forces from Gallipoli in Turkey after a disastrous expedition First use of tanks in warfare Establishment in India of Home Rule Leagues, pressing for independence from British Colonial Rule Carl Jung, <i>Psychology of the Unconscious</i>

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| <p>1917 Rupert Brooke, <i>Selected Poems</i>
 T.S. Eliot, <i>Prufrock and Other Observations</i>
 William Butler Yeats, <i>The Wild Swans at Coole</i>,
 <i>Other Verses</i>, and <i>a Play in Verse</i> (revised
 edition, containing additional poems—
 notably “An Irish Airman Foresees His
 Death”—published 1919)</p> | <p>1917</p> | <p>February revolution overthrows Czar Nicholas
 II in Russia; October revolution brings the
 Bolsheviks to power</p> <p>United States enters World War I</p> |
| <p>1918 Gerard Manley Hopkins, <i>Poems of Gerard
 Manley Hopkins</i>
 Marie Stopes, <i>Married Love</i>
 Lytton Strachey, <i>Eminent Victorians</i></p> | <p>1918</p> | <p>Representation of the People Act extends the
 vote to all men over 21, to women
 householders, and to wives of householders who
 are over the age of 30. In 1928, the franchise is
 extended to all women above the age of 21</p> <p>German spring offensive is stopped at the
 Marne, turning the tide in the War</p> <p>11 November Armistice brings an end to World
 War I</p> |
| <p>1919 Joseph Conrad, <i>The Arrow of Gold</i>
 T.S. Eliot, <i>Poems</i>
 John Maynard Keynes, <i>The Economic
 Consequences of the Peace</i>
 Somerset Maugham, <i>The Moon and Sixpence</i>
 Siegfried Sassoon, <i>The War Poems of Siegfried
 Sassoon</i>
 H.G. Wells, <i>The Outline of History</i>
 P.G. Wodehouse, <i>My Man Jeeves</i>
 Virginia Woolf, <i>Night and Day</i></p> | <p>1919</p> | <p>Conflict in Ireland and the proclamation of an
 Irish Free State</p> <p>Treaty of Versailles imposes reparations on
 Germany</p> <p>Sex Disqualification Removal Act removes a
 variety of legal barriers; the first woman
 Member of Parliament is admitted to the House
 of Commons</p> |
| <p>1920 Hugh Lofting, <i>The Story of Dr. Dolittle</i>
 Katherine Mansfield, <i>Bliss</i>, and <i>Other Stories</i></p> | <p>1920</p> | <p>Formation of the League of Nations (without
 American participation, after the US Senate
 refuses to ratify the Treaty of Versailles)</p> <p>Public radio broadcasting stations set up in both
 the United States and Britain</p> |
| <p>1921 Agatha Christie, <i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i>
 John Galsworthy, <i>To Let</i>
 Aldous Huxley, <i>Crome Yellow</i>
 D.H. Lawrence, <i>Women in Love</i>
 Rafael Sabatini, <i>Scaramouche: A Romance of the
 French Revolution</i>
 Bernard Shaw, <i>Back to Methuselah</i>
 Lytton Strachey, <i>Queen Victoria</i></p> | <p>1921</p> | |

<p>1922</p> <p>Jane Austen, <i>Love & Freindship</i> (sic) and <i>Other Early Works</i> G.K. Chesterton, <i>Eugenics, and Other Evils</i> G.K. Chesterton, <i>The Man Who Knew Too Much, and Other Stories</i> T.S. Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i> John Galsworthy, <i>The Forsyte Saga</i> Frank Harris, <i>My Life and Loves</i> James Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i> (first edition, published in Paris) Katherine Mansfield, <i>The Garden-Party, and Other Stories</i></p>	<p>1923</p> <p>Arnold Bennett, <i>Riceman Steps</i> Elizabeth Bowen, <i>Encounters</i> Joseph Conrad, <i>The Rover</i></p>	<p>1924</p> <p>E.M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i> D.H. Lawrence, <i>England, My England</i> A.A. Milne, <i>When We Were Very Young</i> I.A. Richards, <i>Principles of Literary Criticism</i> Bernard Shaw, <i>Saint Joan</i></p>	<p>1924</p> <p>First Labour Party government in Britain (led by Ramsay MacDonald)</p> <p>André Breton, <i>Manifeste du Surréalisme</i> (<i>Surrealist Manifesto</i>)</p>
<p>1925</p> <p>Jane Austen, <i>Sanditon</i> Noel Coward, <i>Hay Fever: A Comedy</i> Howard Laski, <i>A Grammar of Politics</i> Somerset Maugham, <i>The Painted Veil</i> Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> William Butler Yeats, <i>A Vision</i> (revised edition published in 1937)</p>	<p>1926</p> <p>Agatha Christie, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> T.E. Lawrence, <i>Seven Pillars of Wisdom</i> A.A. Milne, <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> Sean O’Casey, <i>The Plough and the Stars</i></p>	<p>1927</p> <p>“Jean Rhys” (Ella Gwendolen Rhys Williams), <i>The Left Bank and Other Stories</i> Virginia Woolf, <i>To the Lighthouse</i></p>	<p>1926</p> <p>General strike to protest the working conditions of coal miners lasts 9 days, but is broken up by troops; the coal miners are forced to settle</p> <p>1927</p> <p>Economic collapse in Germany, fueled by hyper-inflation</p> <p>First nonstop flight between New York and Paris completed by Charles Lindbergh</p>
<p>1928</p> <p>“Radclyffe Hall” (Marguerite Antonia Radclyffe-Hall), <i>The Well of Loneliness</i> D.H. Lawrence, <i>Lady Chatterley’s Lover</i> (printed privately in Italy; first printed in the United Kingdom in 1960)</p>			<p>1928</p> <p>Right to vote granted to all women over 21</p> <p>Publishers of Radclyffe Hall’s <i>The Well of Loneliness</i> charged under the Obscene Publications Act</p>

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	<p>A.A. Milne, <i>The House at Pooh Corner</i> J.B. Priestley, <i>Apes and Angels</i> Laura Riding, <i>Love as Love, Death as Death</i> Bernard Shaw, <i>The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism</i> Virginia Woolf, <i>Orlando: A Biography</i> William Butler Yeats, <i>The Tower</i></p>		<p>Thomas Hardy dies.</p>
1929	<p>Robert Graves, <i>Goodbye to All That</i> Graham Greene, <i>The Man Within</i> Richard Hughes, <i>A High Wind in Jamaica</i> Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i></p>	1929	<p>Stock market crash in the United States and Britain triggers onset of the Great Depression</p> <p>First presentation of the Academy Awards</p> <p>Erich Remarque, <i>Im Westen Nichts Neues (All Quiet on the Western Front)</i></p>
1930	<p>W.S. Auden, <i>Poems</i> Samuel Beckett, <i>Whoroscope</i> Noel Coward, <i>Private Lives: An Intimate Comedy</i> J.B. Priestley, <i>Angel Pavement</i></p>	1930	<p>Campaign of civil disobedience begins in India, under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi</p> <p>First British Empire Games (later the Commonwealth Games) held in Canada</p>
1931	<p>Virginia Woolf, <i>The Waves</i></p>	1931	<p>Spanish King Alfonso XIII abdicates and Spain becomes a republic</p> <p>Britain abandons the practice of linking the value of its currency to a fixed amount of gold (the gold standard) in the face of economic depression, financial indebtedness, and the relative economic strength of the world's new economic power, the United States</p> <p>Statute of Westminster effectively grants full autonomy to Canada and other Dominions</p>
1932	<p>Stella Gibbons, <i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> Aldous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i></p>	1932	<p>The Nazis become the largest party in the German Parliament</p> <p>Oswald Mosley founds a new British political party, the British Union of Fascists</p> <p>Team led by Ernest Rutherford succeeds in artificially splitting atomic nuclei</p>
1933	<p>Vera Brittain, <i>Testament of Youth</i> Ivy Compton-Burnett, <i>More Women Than Men</i> Walter Greenwood, <i>Love on the Dole</i> James Hilton, <i>Lost Horizon</i></p>	1933	<p>Adolph Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany; using the Reichstag fire as a pretext, he suspends civil liberties</p>

	<p>“George Orwell” (Eric Arthur Blair), <i>Down and Out in Paris and London</i> Anthony Powell, <i>From a View to a Death</i> Stephen Spender, <i>Poems</i> William Butler Yeats, <i>The Winding Stair, and Other Poems</i></p>		<p>Nazi government begins setting up concentration camps</p>
1934	<p>Agatha Christie, <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> Robert Graves, <i>I, Claudius</i> James Hilton, <i>Good-bye Mr. Chips</i> Bernard Shaw, <i>Prefaces</i> Dylan Thomas, <i>18 Poems</i> P.I. Travers, <i>Mary Poppins</i></p>	1934	<p>Widespread “purges” of those suspected of anti-government sympathies begin in the Soviet Union; by the end of the decade, Josef Stalin’s government kills between ten and twenty million Soviet citizens</p>
1935	<p>“C.S. Forester” (Cecil Louis Troughton Smith), <i>The African Queen</i> Graham Greene, <i>The Basement Room, and Other Stories</i> George Orwell, <i>Burmese Days</i></p>		
1936	<p>Stevie Smith, <i>Novel on Yellow Paper</i></p>	1936	<p>Popular front elected in Spain; Fascist forces led by Francisco Franco take up arms against the new government, and the Spanish Civil War begins</p> <p>Olympic Games held in Berlin; African-American Jesse Owens wins four gold medals</p> <p>Edward VIII abdicates in order to marry the divorced Wallis Simpson; George VI comes to the throne</p>
1937	<p>W.H. Auden, <i>Spain</i> George Orwell, <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i> J.R.R. Tolkien, <i>The Hobbit; or, There and Back Again</i></p>	1937	<p>Japanese-Chinese War begins as Japan invades Northern China</p> <p>Spanish town of Guernica destroyed by German bombers (<i>Guernica</i> by Pablo Picasso famously depicts the horror of the attack)</p>
1938	<p>Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Death of the Heart</i> Daphne du Maurier, <i>Rebecca</i> Graham Greene, <i>Brighton Rock</i> George Orwell, <i>Homage to Catalonia</i> Dorothy Richardson, <i>Pilgrimage</i> (first publication as a complete work) Virginia Woolf, <i>Three Guineas</i></p>	1938	<p>Munich Agreement allows Germany to annex the Sudenland from Czechoslovakia; British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain proclaims that Hitler’s ambitions have now been satisfied and “Peace in our time” has been achieved</p>

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| <p>1939</p> | <p>Joyce Cary, <i>Mister Johnson</i>
 Agatha Christie, <i>Ten Little Niggers</i> (serialized in the US in 1939 as <i>And Then There Were None</i> and issued in book form under that title in 1940; re-issued in Britain in 1965 under the title <i>Ten Little Indians</i>; American title <i>And Then There Were None</i> subsequently adopted in Britain and Commonwealth countries as well)
 Monica Dickens, <i>One Pair of Hands</i>
 T.S. Eliot, <i>The Family Reunion</i>
 Christopher Isherwood, <i>Goodbye to Berlin</i>
 James Joyce, <i>Finnegans Wake</i></p> | <p>1939</p> | <p>Franco defeats the Republican Loyalists, and the Spanish Civil War ends</p> <p>Germany occupies the rest of Czechoslovakia, and then occupies Poland; war is declared on 3 September as Britain, France, and other allies resolve to stop German expansionism</p> |
| <p>1940</p> | <p>Graham Greene, <i>The Power and the Glory</i>
 Arthur Koestler, <i>Darkness at Noon</i>
 C.P. Snow, <i>Strangers and Brothers</i>
 Christina Stead, <i>The Man Who Loved Children</i></p> | <p>1940</p> | <p>Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister; a coalition government is formed</p> <p>Germany occupies Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and France; Britain evacuates its forces from France at Dunkirk</p> <p>Battle of Britain, and the Blitz of London</p> <p>Alfred Hitchcock's <i>Rebecca</i>, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine, wins the Academy Award for Best Picture; Charlie Chaplin stars in <i>The Great Dictator</i></p> |
| | | <p>1941</p> | <p>Germany invades the Soviet Union</p> <p>Virginia Woolf commits suicide</p> <p>Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the United States enters the war against Japan and Germany</p> <p>Nazi government in Germany undertakes the systematic extermination of all Jewish people in German-controlled territory; by 1945, approximately six million have been murdered in the gas chambers of Nazi death camps</p> |
| | | <p>1942</p> | <p>Anglo-American offensive against German armies in North Africa</p> <p>Beveridge Report recommends implementing a comprehensive system of government support (later nicknamed "the welfare state")</p> |

			Mission to India by Sir Stanford Cripps meets with widespread resistance from the “Quit India” movement
		1943	German armies defeated in North Africa and at Stalingrad in Russia
			Allied armies invade Italy and defeat Hitler’s ally, fascist dictator Benito Mussolini
1944	Joyce Cary, <i>The Horse’s Mouth</i> T. S. Eliot, <i>Four Quartets</i> Somerset Maugham, <i>The Razor’s Edge</i>	1944	Allied invasion of German-controlled France begins in Normandy on 4 June; Paris liberated 25 August
			V-Bombs dropped on London
			Jewish uprising against Nazi oppression in Warsaw, Poland
			Education Act makes secondary education mandatory
1945	“Henry Green” (Henry Vincent Yorke), <i>Loving</i> George Orwell, <i>Animal Farm</i> Evelyn Waugh, <i>Brideshead Revisited</i>	1945	Allied fire-bombing of Dresden and other German cities kills tens of thousands
			Russian armies enter Berlin 20 April; Allied victory in Europe declared 8 May
			Labour Party under Clement Attlee defeats Winston Churchill and the Conservatives
			American President Harry Truman orders atomic bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima and (a few days later) Nagasaki; Japan surrenders 14 August
			United Nations Charter is ratified
1946	Mervyn Peake, <i>Titus Groan</i> Terence Rattigan, <i>The Winslow Boy</i> Dylan Thomas, <i>Deaths and Entrances</i>		
1947	Malcolm Lowry, <i>Under the Volcano</i> J.B. Priestley, <i>An Inspector Calls</i>	1947	Partition of India into two independent states: Muslim-dominated Pakistan and Hindu-dominated India; confusion and widespread conflict follows, leaving approximately one million dead and forcing millions more to relocate

<p>1948</p>	<p>Robert Graves, <i>The White Goddess: A Historical Grammar of Poetic Myth</i> Graham Greene, <i>The Heart of the Matter</i> F.R. Leavis, <i>The Great Tradition</i> Alan Paton, <i>Cry the Beloved Country</i> Evelyn Waugh, <i>The Loved One</i></p>	<p>1948</p>	<p>United States approves plan drawn up by General George C. Marshall (the “Marshall Plan”) to aid in the rebuilding of Europe</p> <p>State of Israel created in the former Palestine</p> <p>Status of Berlin—jointly controlled by the Soviet Union and the Western Allies (the United States, the United Kingdom, and France) after the end of World War II—becomes a major issue between the powers; Soviet armies blockade the city and the Western powers respond with a large-scale effort to supply West Berlin by air (the “Berlin Airlift”)</p> <p>Afrikaner Nationalist Party assumes power in South Africa, with a platform of apartheid—the separation of whites from non-whites on terms that discriminate against blacks in particular</p> <p>British Citizenship Act allows unrestricted immigration to Britain for citizens of Commonwealth nations</p>
<p>1949</p>	<p>Christopher Fry, <i>The Lady’s Not for Burning: A Comedy</i> George Orwell, <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> Judith Wright, <i>Woman to Man</i></p>	<p>1949</p>	<p>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed</p> <p>Newly formed republic of Ireland leaves the British Commonwealth</p> <p>Communist governments assume power in Hungary, East Germany, and China</p> <p>Simone de Beauvoir, <i>Le deuxième sexe</i> (<i>The Second Sex</i>) published in France</p> <p>Devaluation of the British Pound from U.S. \$4.03 to U.S. \$2.80</p> <p>Soviet Union explodes an atomic bomb for the first time</p>
<p>1950</p>	<p>T.S. Eliot, <i>The Cocktail Party: A Comedy</i> Doris Lessing, <i>The Grass is Singing</i> C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (first volume in the <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> series, completed in 1956) “Nevil Shute” (Nevil Shute Norway), <i>A Town Like Alice</i></p>	<p>1950-1953</p>	<p>War between Communist and Non-communist forces (backed respectively by the Soviet Union and the United States) in Korea</p>

1951	<p>Anthony Powell, <i>A Question of Upbringing</i> (first volume of the <i>Dance to the Music of Time</i> sequence of 12 novels, completed in 1975)</p> <p>C.P. Snow, <i>The Masters</i></p> <p>“Josephine Tey” (Elizabeth Mackintosh), <i>The Daughter of Time</i></p>	
1952	<p>Samuel Beckett, <i>En attendant Godot</i> (first publication; first published in English, as <i>Waiting for Godot</i>, in the USA in 1955, and in Britain in 1956)</p>	<p>1952</p> <p>Britain explodes an atomic bomb</p> <p>Death of George V; Elizabeth II assumes the throne</p>
1953	<p>Kingsley Amis, <i>Lucky Jim</i></p> <p>Ian Fleming, <i>Casino Royale</i></p> <p>L.P. Hartley, <i>The Go-Between</i></p>	
1954	<p>William Golding, <i>Lord of the Flies</i></p> <p>Thom Gunn, <i>Fighting Terms</i></p> <p>P.K. Page, <i>The Metal and the Flower</i></p> <p>Dylan Thomas, <i>Under Milk Wood</i></p> <p>J.R.R. Tolkien, <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (first part of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> trilogy, completed in 1955)</p>	<p>1954</p> <p>Defeat of French forces in Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu; Communist forces occupy Hanoi</p> <p>End of post-war rationing in Britain</p>
1955	<p>Graham Greene, <i>The Quiet American</i></p> <p>Philip Larkin, <i>The Less Deceived</i></p> <p>Brian Moore, <i>Judith Hearne</i></p> <p>“John Wyndham” (J. B. Harris), <i>The Chrysalids</i></p>	
1956	<p>Agatha Christie, <i>The Mousetrap</i></p>	<p>1956</p> <p>Suez Crisis: Britain and France invade Egypt in response to Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser’s nationalizing of the Suez Canal; by the end of the year Britain and France had been forced to back down</p> <p>Revolution in Hungary against Communist Rule is suppressed by the Soviet Union</p> <p>European Economic Community (or “Common Market”) formed in Europe</p> <p>Ghana becomes the first of many former British colonies in Africa to be granted full independence (and membership in the British Commonwealth)</p>
1957	<p>Samuel Beckett, <i>Fin de partie</i> (first performed in French in London in 1957; published in English as <i>Endgame</i> in 1958)</p>	

- John Braine, *Room at the Top*
 Lawrence Durrell, *Justine* (first volume of *The Alexandria Quartet*, completed in 1962)
 Ted Hughes, *The Hawk in the Rain*
 John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
 Nevil Shute, *On the Beach*
 Stevie Smith, *Not Waving but Drowning*
- 1958 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- 1959 Samuel Beckett, *Krapp's Last Tape*
 Ian Fleming, *Goldfinger*
 Alan Sillitoe, *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner*
- 1959 Rebel forces led by Fidel Castro overthrow Batista's dictatorship in Cuba
- 1960 Stan Barstow, *A Kind of Loving* (first volume of the Vic Brown trilogy, completed in 1976)
 D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (first publication in Britain of the unexpurgated edition)
 Brian Moore, *The Luck of Ginger Coffey*
 Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls* (first volume of *The Country Girls* trilogy, completed in 1964)
 Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party*
 Harold Pinter, *The Caretaker*
- 1961 Leonard Cohen, *The Spice Box of Earth*
 V.S. Naipaul, *A House For Mr. Biswas*
 Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
- 1961 Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union becomes the first human in space
 Berlin Wall constructed
 American invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs fails to overthrow Castro's government
- 1962 Alan Bennett, *Beyond the Fringe*
 "Anthony Burgess" (John Anthony Burgess Wilson), *A Clockwork Orange*
 Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*
 Derek Walcott, *In a Green Night*
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis: in the wake of the Bay of Pigs invasion of its ally, the Soviet Union began secretly to build missile launching sites in Cuba. When American reconnaissance flights detected this activity, American President John F. Kennedy demanded that the Soviets withdraw the missiles and put into effect a naval blockade of Cuba. Six days later, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles, provided that the United States also remove the missiles it had deployed in Turkey, near the Soviet border

1963	<p>“John le Carré” (David John Moore Cornwell), <i>The Spy Who Came in from the Cold</i> P.G. Wodehouse, <i>Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves</i> (last in the series of Jeeves novels)</p>	1963	<p>American President John F. Kennedy assassinated</p> <p>United States becomes involved militarily in the fight against Communist forces Vietnam</p>
1964	<p>Philip Larkin, <i>The Whitsun Weddings</i> Margaret Laurence, <i>The Stone Angel</i></p>	1964	<p>China explodes an atomic bomb</p>
1965	<p>Samuel Beckett, <i>Imagination Dead Imagine</i> Margaret Drabble, <i>The Milkstone</i> T.S. Eliot, <i>To Criticize the Critic, and Other Writings</i> James Ngugi (later Ngūgĩ wa Thiong’o), <i>The River Between</i> Harold Pinter, <i>The Homecoming</i> Sylvia Plath, <i>Ariel</i></p>	1965	<p>Ian Smith, Prime Minister of the former British colony of Rhodesia, unilaterally declares independence from Britain in response to British attempts to persuade his government to end systemic racial discrimination against the black majority</p> <p>Widespread civil rights marches in United States; passage of the Civil Rights Act</p> <p>American military involvement in Vietnam begins to escalate</p>
1966	<p>John Fowles, <i>The Magus</i> Seamus Heaney, <i>Death of a Naturalist</i> Jean Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i></p>		
1967	<p>Roald Dahl, <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> P.D. James, <i>Unnatural Causes</i> Tom Stoppard, <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i></p>	1967	<p>The “Six Day War”: in response to Egyptian threats Israel attacks Egypt and inflicts a massive defeat</p> <p>The Beatles, <i>Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band</i></p> <p>Sexual Offences Act makes male homosexual acts legal in Britain</p>
		1968	<p>Assassinations in the United States of Democratic politician Robert F. Kennedy and of civil rights leader Martin Luther King</p> <p>“Prague Spring” of new freedoms in Czechoslovakia under Alexander Dubček crushed by Soviet invasion</p> <p>Tet offensive by North Vietnam exposes the vulnerability of South Vietnamese and American forces</p>

			Student and labor unrest in support of left-wing causes in Europe, notably in France
			Student protests and a growing movement in opposition to the Vietnam War in the United States
			Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1968 denies Kenyan Asians holding British passports the right to immigrate to Britain
1969	John Cleese and Graham Chapman, <i>Monty Python's Flying Circus</i> (television program aired 1969-74) John Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>	1969	American Neil Armstrong becomes the first human on the moon
			Britain sends troops to quell unrest in Northern Ireland
			Britain liberalizes divorce laws, introducing "no-fault" divorce
1971	Margaret Atwood, <i>Power Politics</i> E.M. Forster, <i>Maurice</i> (written 1913-14 but only published posthumously) Geoffrey Hill, <i>Mercian Hymns</i>		
1972	P.D. James, <i>An Unsuitable Job for a Woman</i>	1972	"Bloody Sunday" in Derry, Northern Ireland: British soldiers kill thirteen civilians participating in a banned but peaceful civil rights march
			American President Richard Nixon visits China, thus easing tensions between Communist China and Western powers
			Richard Nixon is re-elected President of the United States, but it is discovered that his campaign has used a variety of "dirty tricks" against the rival Democratic Party. The ensuing outrage over the "dirty tricks" and over efforts to cover them up became known as the Watergate Scandal (after the hotel where Republican Party operatives were caught breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic Party), and it prompted Nixon's resignation in 1974
		1973	Britain, Ireland, and Denmark join the European Economic Community

- 1974 Philip Larkin, *High Windows*
- 1975 Alan Ayckbourn, *The Norman Conquests*
 John Cleese and Connie Booth, *Fawlty Towers*
 (first series; second series aired in 1979)
 David Lodge, *Changing Places*
 Ian McEwan, *First Love, Last Rites*
 J.H. Prynne, *High Pink on Chrome*
 Tom Stoppard, *Professional Foul* (first televised
 September 1977; published in book form
 1978)
 “William Trevor” (William Trevor Cox), *Angels
 at the Ritz, and Other Stories*
- 1978 Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Bookshop*
 Graham Greene, *The Human Factor*
 David Hare, *Plenty*
 Ian McEwan, *The Cement Garden*
 Iris Murdoch, *The Sea, the Sea*
- 1979 Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber, and Other
 Stories*
 Seamus Heaney, *Field Work*
 V.S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River*
 Craig Raine, *A Martian Sends a Postcard Home*
- 1980 Peter Shaffer, *Amadeus*
- 1975 Margaret Thatcher becomes leader of the
 Conservative Party
- Last American personnel leave Saigon as
 Communist forces take over all of the former
 South Vietnam
- 1979 “Winter of Discontent” in Britain as unions take
 industrial action in disputes concerning pay and
 other issues; Thatcher elected Prime Minister
 following the Conservative’s “Labour isn’t
 working” advertising campaign
- Revolution in Iran: the Shah is deposed and
 Ayatollah Khomeini comes to power at the head
 of an Islamic fundamentalist regime
- Soviet Union invades Afghanistan
- Sandinista forces in Nicaragua overthrow
 dictator Anastasio Somoza. The Nicaraguan
 Revolution was a key moment in a struggle
 during the 1970s and 1980s throughout much
 of Central America between business-friendly
 dictatorships (generally supported by the United
 States) and left-of-centre populist movements
 that the United States government generally
 sought to undermine
- 1980 End of Zimbabwe’s War of Independence;
 Robert Mugabe becomes Prime Minister

- Iraq invades Iran, beginning an eight-year war
- Solidarity Movement in Poland, led by Lech Walesa, begins to undermine Communist Rule
- 1981 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
- 1982 Eavan Boland, *Night Feed*
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*
Michael Frayn, *Noises Off*
Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*
- 1982 Falklands War between Britain and Argentina
- Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* wins the Academy Award for Best Picture over Steven Spielberg's *E. T.*
- 1983 J.M. Coetzee, *The Life and Times of Michael K.*
Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory*
Les Murray, *The People's Otherworld*
Graham Swift, *Waterland*
- 1984 Martin Amis, *Money*
Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot*
Anita Brookner, *Hotel du Lac*
Liz Lochhead, *Dreaming Frankenstein and Collected Poems*
- 1984 Miners strike in Britain. Even though the strike lasted a year—from March 1984 to March 1985—the miners were eventually forced to back down on most of their demands in the face of intransigence on the part of Thatcher's Conservative government. The strike had a considerable ripple effect on union-government and union-business relations in general
- Bombing of the Grand Hotel in Britain by the Irish Republican Army in an attempt to assassinate British Prime Minister Thatcher
- Indian troops storm the Golden Temple; Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated as a reprisal by Islamic militants
- 1985 Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
Tony Harrison, *V*
Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*
- 1985 New Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev launches *glasnost* and *perestroika* initiatives, bringing limited freedom of speech and limited economic freedom to the Soviet Union
- Massive famine in Ethiopia
- Plaza Accord: the American dollar and other currencies are devalued in relation to the currencies of Germany and Japan, in recognition of the great increase in strength of the economies of those two countries

1986	Hanif Kureishi, <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, <i>Decolonizing the Mind</i>	1986	Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union
1987	Bruce Chatwin, <i>The Songlines</i> Roddy Doyle, <i>The Commitments</i> (first volume of <i>The Barrydown Trilogy</i> , completed in 1991 with the publication of <i>The Van</i>) Carol Ann Duffy, <i>Selling Manhattan</i> Jeanette Winterson, <i>The Passion</i>		
1988	David Lodge, <i>Nice Work</i> Salman Rushdie, <i>The Satanic Verses</i>	1988	Soviet army withdraws from Afghanistan
1989	Martin Amis, <i>London Fields</i> Julian Barnes, <i>A History of the World in 10½ Chapters</i> Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i> Grace Nichols, <i>Lazy Thoughts of a Lazy Woman, and Other Poems</i>	1989	Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini issues a fatwa against Salman Rushdie after the publication of <i>The Satanic Verses</i> Freedom of Speech Movement in China is brutally suppressed in Beijing's Tiananmen Square as troops attack demonstrators, with estimates of the number killed ranging from 500 to more than 5,000 Communist governments overthrown in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania as the former "East Bloc" of Communist regimes crumbles with astonishing speed
1990	A.S. Byatt, <i>Possession</i>		
1991	Pat Barker, <i>Regeneration</i> (first of trilogy of First World War novels, completed in 1995 with the publication of <i>The Ghost Road</i>) Alan Bennett, <i>The Madness of George III</i> Linton Kwesi Johnson, <i>Tings an' Times</i> Jackie Kay, <i>The Adoption Papers</i> Medbh McGuckian, <i>Marconi's Cottage</i> Ben Okri, <i>The Famished Road</i> Tim Winton, <i>Cloudstreet</i>	1991	Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia declare indepen- dence, and are soon followed by other republics. By the end of the year, Russia has declared the Soviet Union to be no longer in existence, and the Communist Party in Russia is disbanded Iraq's invasion of Kuwait triggers the "Gulf War," in which American and allied forces defeat Saddam Hussein's army but do not attempt to remove him from power or to take over the entire country Repeal of the apartheid laws in South Africa
1993	Roddy Doyle, <i>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</i> Carol Ann Duffy, <i>Mean Time</i> Vikram Seth, <i>A Suitable Boy</i>	1993	Czechoslovakia peacefully separates into the Czech Republic and Slovakia

	<p>Tom Stoppard, <i>Arcadia</i> Irvine Welsh, <i>Trainspotting</i></p>	<p>Arab-Islamist terrorists explode a car bomb in the parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York, killing six people</p>
		<p>Number of deaths from AIDS in the developed world peaks, with over 40,000 dying in the US alone; among the victims are tennis great Arthur Ashe and ballet legend Rudolf Nureyev</p>
		<p>1994 Nelson Mandela becomes President of South Africa following the country's first fully free elections</p>
		<p>Small United Nations peacekeeping force in Rwanda is unable to prevent genocide; approximately 800,000 die in a government-sanctioned killing spree by members of the majority Hutu group, attempting to exterminate members of the minority Tutsi group</p>
		<p>Channel tunnel ("Chunnel") opens, connecting Britain and France</p>
		<p>Fighting intensifies in the Balkans, especially in Bosnia, where Serbian forces engage in "ethnic cleansing" of the Muslim population</p>
<p>1995</p>	<p>Rohinton Mistry, <i>A Fine Balance</i></p>	<p>1995 American anti-government terrorist Timothy McVeigh bombs the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring over 800</p>
<p>1996</p>	<p>Roddy Doyle, <i>The Woman Who Walked into Doors</i> Helen Fielding, <i>Bridget Jones's Diary</i> Graham Swift, <i>Last Orders</i></p>	
<p>1997</p>	<p>Bernardine Evaristo, <i>Lara</i> Ian McEwan, <i>Enduring Love</i> Conor McPherson, <i>The Weir</i> J.K. Rowling, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> Arundhati Roy, <i>The God of Small Things</i> Will Self, <i>Great Apes</i></p>	<p>1997 Tony Blair leads "New Labour" to victory and becomes Prime Minister</p> <p>Princess Diana dies in a car crash in Paris</p> <p>Britain cedes Hong Kong to China</p> <p>Scotland Act creates a new Scottish Parliament (a parallel Welsh Assembly is created the following year)</p>

			Kyoto Protocol on climate change opened for signature
1998	John Bayley, <i>Iris</i> Michael Frayn, <i>Copenhagen</i> Seamus Heaney, <i>Beowulf</i> Ted Hughes, <i>Birthday Letters</i>	1998	Good Friday Agreement is approved through referendums both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland, bringing an end to the long-standing conflict
		1999	Land seizures and other repressive measures by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe set off a wave of protest, both within the country and worldwide
			Maastricht Treaty creates a European Monetary Union
			World population surpasses six billion
2000	Zadie Smith, <i>White Teeth</i>	2000	Worldwide Millennium celebrations: Britain marks the Millennium with the openings of the Millennium Dome, the Tate Modern Gallery, and the Millennium Bridge in London
			Vladimir Putin elected President of Russia
			Weeks of delay follow the United States's presidential election as votes are recounted and arguments made in court before the Supreme Court finally declares George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore
2001	Peter Carey, <i>True History of the Kelly Gang</i> Ian McEwan, <i>Atonement</i>	2001	Terrorist group Al Qaeda launches attacks in New York and Washington on 11 September, killing over 2,000 and sparking a wave of anti-terrorist activity worldwide
			United States, Britain, and allied countries overthrow the Taliban government in Afghanistan, in retaliation for their harboring Al Qaeda terrorists
			Netherlands becomes the world's first country to recognize same-sex marriage; by the end of 2005, Belgium, Canada, South Africa, and Spain pass similar legislation
			Race-based conflict in Bradford

		2002	Terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia, kill 202 people (including 88 Australians) and injure hundreds more
		2003	United States and Britain launch war against Iraq, allegedly over the issue of Iraq having concealed "weapons of mass destruction." Initially, the allied forces were able to take control of the full country quickly. An extended search revealed no evidence of "weapons of mass destruction," however, and a growing insurgency against the occupying forces made a mockery of American President Bush's early "mission accomplished" boast
		2003	Terrorist attacks in Madrid kill 191 and injure over 2,000
2004	Alan Hollinghurst, <i>The Line of Beauty</i> Colm Tóibín, <i>The Master</i>	2004	Tsunami in the Indian Ocean kills approximately 250,000
2005	Tim Crouch, <i>An Oak Tree</i> Carol Ann Duffy, <i>Rapture</i> Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>Never Let Me Go</i> Ian McEwan, <i>Saturday</i> Alice Oswald, <i>Woods etc.</i>	2005	Terrorist attacks in London kill 52 and injure over 700 China ends its practice of pegging the yuan to the value of the US dollar, in recognition of the great increase in the strength of its economy Annual number of AIDS-related deaths in Africa exceeds 2,000,000 for the first time; HIV infection rates in several African countries exceed 30% of the adult population
2006	John Banville, <i>The Sea</i> Alice Munro, <i>The View from Castle Rock</i> Colm Tóibín, <i>Mothers and Sons</i>	2006	Number killed in the government-sponsored violence in Darfur, Sudan, exceeds 400,000; world-wide efforts to end the genocide continue to be frustrated Alarm grows over global warming as 2005 is declared to have tied 2002 as the second-warmest year ever. (The warmest years in order since reliable records began to be kept in the mid-nineteenth century are, in order, 1998, 2002/2005, 2003, 2004, 2006.) Studies report that the world's polar ice caps may be melting at three times the rate previously thought

2007 Ian McEwan, *On Chesil Beach*

2007 British Prime Minister Tony Blair announces a phased withdrawal of British troops from the conflict in Iraq