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

Contexts

1899 Irish Literary Theatre founded
1899 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Work(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Winston Churchill</td>
<td><em>London to Ladysmith via Pretoria</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph Conrad</td>
<td><em>Lord Jim</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.G. Wells</td>
<td><em>Love and Mr. Lewisham</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rudyard Kipling</td>
<td><em>Kim</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.G. Wells</td>
<td><em>The First Men in the Moon</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alice Meynell</td>
<td><em>Later Poems</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E(dith) Nesbit</td>
<td><em>Five Children and It</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beatrix Potter</td>
<td><em>The Tales of Peter Rabbit</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bernard Shaw</td>
<td><em>Mrs. Warren’s Profession</em> (first private performance, Stage Society. Shaw completed the original version of the play in 1892; it was first published in <em>Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant</em> 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)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1900, the 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

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Authors and Titles</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1903 | Samuel Butler, *The Way of All Flesh*  
Joseph Conrad, *Typhoon and Other Stories* |
| 1904 | J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up*  
Aubrey Beardsley, *Under the Hill* (unexpurgated version published as *The Story of Venus and Tannhauser* in 1907)  
A.C. Bradley, *Shakespearean Tragedy*  
G.K. Chesterton, *The Napoleon of Notting Hill*  
Joseph Conrad, *Nostromo: A Tale of the Seaboard*  
Sara Jeannette Duncan, *The Imperialist*  
Thomas Hardy, *The Dynasts: A Drama of the Napoleonic Wars* (first part; third and final part published in 1908)  
W.H. Hudson, *Green Mansions*  
"Saki" (Hector Hugh Munro), *Reginald* |
| 1905 | Ernest Dowson, *The Poems of Ernest Dowson*  
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*  
Bernard Shaw, *Major Barbara*  
H.G. Wells, *Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul* |
| 1906 | H.W. Fowler and E.G. Fowler, *The King's English*  
John Galsworthy, *The Man of Property*  
E(dith) Nesbit, *The Railway Children* |
| 1907 | Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*  
J.M. Synge, *The Aran Islands*  
J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* |

1903 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

Orville and Wilbur Wright achieve a sustained flight in a power-driven airplane

1904 J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up*  
Aubrey Beardsley, *Under the Hill* (unexpurgated version published as *The Story of Venus and Tannhauser* in 1907)  
A.C. Bradley, *Shakespearean Tragedy*  
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1905 Ernest Dowson, *The Poems of Ernest Dowson*  
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*  
Bernard Shaw, *Major Barbara*  
H.G. Wells, *Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul*  

1905 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  

Aliens Act of 1905 implements measures designed to deter Jewish immigration  

Albert Einstein formulates his Theory of Special Relativity  

1907 Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*  
J.M. Synge, *The Aran Islands*  
J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* |

1907 Rudyard Kipling becomes the first British winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature  

Robert Baden-Powell founds the Boy Scouts; the Girl Guides are founded two years later
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Literature (Authors, Titles)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1908 | Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives' Tale*  
      E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View*  
      Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*  
      Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* | 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 | 1909 | Ford Motor Company begins production of the Model T |
| 1910 | E.M. Forster, *Howards End*  
      Bertrand Russell and A.N. Whitehead, *Principia Mathematica*  
      H.G. Wells, *The History of Mr. Polly* | 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, *The Innocence of Father Brown*  
      Katherine Mansfield, *In a German Pension*  
      Mary Ward, *The Case of Richard Meynell* | 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, *Play-Making*  
      Stephen Leacock, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*  
      Isaac Rosenberg, *Night and Day*  
      Saki, *The Unbearable Bassingtown*  
      May Sinclair, *Feminism* | 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events and Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>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, <em>The Rite of Spring</em>. Suffragette Emily Davidson throws herself in front of a horse ridden by King George V during the Epsom Derby and is killed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated, sparking the outbreak of World War I. First battle of Ypres.</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>Coalition government formed in Britain. Second battle of Ypres.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
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<td>------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 1917 | Rupert Brooke, *Selected Poems*  
      | T.S. Eliot, *Prufrock and Other Observations*  
      | William Butler Yeats, *The Wild Swans at Coole, Other Verses, and a Play in Verse* (revised edition, containing additional poems—notably “An Irish Airman Foresees His Death”—published 1919) |
| 1918 | Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*  
      | Marie Stopes, *Married Love*  
      | Lytton Strachey, *Eminent Victorians* |
| 1919 | Joseph Conrad, *The Arrow of Gold*  
      | T.S. Eliot, *Poems*  
      | John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*  
      | Somerset Maugham, *The Moon and Sixpence*  
      | Siegfried Sassoon, *The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon*  
      | H.G. Wells, *The Outline of History*  
      | P.G. Wodehouse, *My Man Jeeves*  
      | Virginia Woolf, *Night and Day* |
| 1920 | Hugh Lofting, *The Story of Dr. Dolittle*  
      | Katherine Mansfield, *Bliss, and Other Stories* |
| 1921 | Agatha Christie, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*  
      | John Galsworthy, *To Let*  
      | Aldous Huxley, *Crome Yellow*  
      | D.H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*  
      | Rafael Sabatini, *Scaramouche: A Romance of the French Revolution*  
      | Bernard Shaw, *Back to Methuselah*  
      | Lytton Strachey, *Queen Victoria* |

1917 February revolution overthrows Czar Nicholas II in Russia; October revolution brings the Bolsheviks to power  
United States enters World War I

1918 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  
German spring offensive is stopped at the Marne, turning the tide in the War  
11 November Armistice brings an end to World War I

1919 Conflict in Ireland and the proclamation of an Irish Free State  
Treaty of Versailles imposes reparations on Germany  
Sex Disqualification Removal Act removes a variety of legal barriers; the first woman Member of Parliament is admitted to the House of Commons

1920 Formation of the League of Nations (without American participation, after the US Senate refuses to ratify the Treaty of Versailles)  
Public radio broadcasting stations set up in both the United States and Britain
1922 Jane Austen, *Love & Friendship* (sic) and Other Early Works
G.K. Chesterton, *Eugenics, and Other Evils*
G.K. Chesterton, *The Man Who Knew Too Much, and Other Stories*
T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*
John Galsworthy, *The Forsyte Saga*
Frank Harris, *My Life and Loves*
Katherine Mansfield, *The Garden-Party, and Other Stories*

1923 Arnold Bennett, *Riceyman Steps*
Elizabeth Bowen, *Encounters*
Joseph Conrad, *The Rover*

1924 E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
D.H. Lawrence, *England, My England*
A.A. Milne, *When We Were Very Young*
I.A. Richards, *Principles of Literary Criticism*
Bernard Shaw, *Saint Joan*

1925 Jane Austen, *Sanditon*
Noel Coward, *Hay Fever: A Comedy*
Howard Laski, *A Grammar of Politics*
Somerset Maugham, *The Painted Veil*
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

1926 Agatha Christie, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*
T.E. Lawrence, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*
A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*
Sean O’Casey, *The Plough and the Stars*

1927 “Jean Rhys” (Ella Gwendolen Rhys Williams), *The Left Bank and Other Stories*
Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*

1928 “Radclyffe Hall” (Marguerite Antonia Radclyffe-Hall), *The Well of Loneliness*
D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (printed privately in Italy; first printed in the United Kingdom in 1960)
A.A. Milne, *The House at Pooh Corner*
J.B. Priestley, *Apes and Angels*
Laura Riding, *Love as Love, Death as Death*
Bernard Shaw, *The Intelligent Woman’s Guide to Socialism and Capitalism*
Virginia Woolf, *Orlando: A Biography*
William Butler Yeats, *The Tower*

1929
Robert Graves, *Goodbye to All That*
Graham Greene, *The Man Within*
Richard Hughes, *A High Wind in Jamaica*
Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own*

1929
Stock market crash in the United States and Britain triggers onset of the Great Depression
First presentation of the Academy Awards
Erich Remarque, *Im Westen Nichts Neues (All Quiet on the Western Front)*

1930
W.S. Auden, *Poems*
Samuel Beckett, *Whoroscope*
Noel Coward, *Private Lives: An Intimate Comedy*
J.B. Priestley, *Angel Pavement*

1930
Campaign of civil disobedience begins in India, under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi
First British Empire Games (later the Commonwealth Games) held in Canada

1931
Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*

1931
Spanish King Alfonso XIII abdicates and Spain becomes a republic
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
Statute of Westminster effectively grants full autonomy to Canada and other Dominions

1932
Stella Gibbons, *Cold Comfort Farm*
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

1932
The Nazis become the largest party in the German Parliament
Oswald Mosley founds a new British political party, the British Union of Fascists
Team led by Ernest Rutherford succeeds in artificially splitting atomic nuclei

1933
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*
Ivy Compton-Burnett, *More Women Than Men*
Walter Greenwood, *Love on the Dole*
James Hilton, *Lost Horizon*

1933
Adolph Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany; using the Reichstag fire as a pretext, he suspends civil liberties
“George Orwell” (Eric Arthur Blair), *Down and Out in Paris and London*

Anthony Powell, *From a View to a Death*

Stephen Spender, *Poems*

William Butler Yeats, *The Winding Stair, and Other Poems*

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1934

Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express*

Robert Graves, *I, Claudius*

James Hilton, *Good-bye Mr. Chips*

Bernard Shaw, *Prefaces*

Dylan Thomas, *18 Poems*

P.I. Travers, *Mary Poppins*

1934

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

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1935

“C.S. Forester” (Cecil Louis Troughton Smith), *The African Queen*

Graham Greene, *The Basement Room, and Other Stories*

George Orwell, *Burmese Days*

1936

Stevie Smith, *Novel on Yellow Paper*

1936

Popular front elected in Spain; Fascist forces led by Francisco Franco take up arms against the new government, and the Spanish Civil War begins

Olympic Games held in Berlin; African-American Jesse Owens wins four gold medals

Edward VIII abdicates in order to marry the divorced Wallis Simpson; George VI comes to the throne

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1937

W.H. Auden, *Spain*

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit; or, There and Back Again*

1937

Japanese-Chinese War begins as Japan invades Northern China

Spanish town of Guernica destroyed by German bombers (*Guernica* by Pablo Picasso famously depicts the horror of the attack)

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1938

Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart*

Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*

Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*

George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*

Dorothy Richardson, *Pilgrimage* (first publication as a complete work)

Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas*

1938

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Authors and Works</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Joyce Cary, <em>Mister Johnson</em>&lt;br&gt;Agatha Christie, <em>Ten Little Niggers</em> (serialized in the US in 1939 as <em>And Then There Were None</em> and issued in book form under that title in 1940; re-issued in Britain in 1965 under the title <em>Ten Little Indians</em>; American title <em>And Then There Were None</em> subsequently adopted in Britain and Commonwealth countries as well)&lt;br&gt;Monica Dickens, <em>One Pair of Hands</em>&lt;br&gt;T.S. Eliot, <em>The Family Reunion</em>&lt;br&gt;Christopher Isherwood, <em>Goodbye to Berlin</em>&lt;br&gt;James Joyce, <em>Finnegans Wake</em></td>
</tr>
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</table>

1939 Franco defeats the Republican Loyalists, and the Spanish Civil War ends

1939 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

1940 Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister; a coalition government is formed

1940 Germany occupies Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and France; Britain evacuates its forces from France at Dunkirk

1940 Battle of Britain, and the Blitz of London

1940 Alfred Hitchcock’s *Rebecca*, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine, wins the Academy Award for Best Picture; Charlie Chaplin stars in *The Great Dictator*

1941 Germany invades the Soviet Union

1941 Virginia Woolf commits suicide

1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the United States enters the war against Japan and Germany

1941 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

1942 Anglo-American offensive against German armies in North Africa

1942 Beveridge Report recommends implementing a comprehensive system of government support (later nicknamed “the welfare state”)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Authors and Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1944 | Joyce Cary, *The Horse’s Mouth*  
T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*  
Somerset Maugham, *The Razor’s Edge* |
| 1945 | “Henry Green” (Henry Vincent Yorke), *Loving*  
George Orwell, *Animal Farm*  
Evelyn Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited* |
| 1946 | Mervyn Peake, *Titus Groan*  
Terence Rattigan, *The Winslow Boy*  
Dylan Thomas, *Deaths and Entrances* |
| 1947 | Malcolm Lowry, *Under the Volcano*  
J.B. Priestley, *An Inspector Calls* |

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 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 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 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
      | Graham Greene, *The Heart of the Matter*  
      | F.R. Leavis, *The Great Tradition*  
      | Alan Paton, *Cry the Beloved Country*  
      | Evelyn Waugh, *The Loved One*  
      | United States approves plan drawn up by General George C. Marshall (the “Marshall Plan”) to aid in the rebuilding of Europe  
      | State of Israel created in the former Palestine  
      | 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”)  
      | 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  
      | British Citizenship Act allows unrestricted immigration to Britain for citizens of Commonwealth nations  

1949  | Christopher Fry, *The Lady’s Not for Burning: A Comedy*  
      | George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*  
      | Judith Wright, *Woman to Man*  
      | North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed  
      | Newly formed republic of Ireland leaves the British Commonwealth  
      | Communist governments assume power in Hungary, East Germany, and China  
      | Simone de Beauvoir, *Le deuxième sex (The Second Sex)* published in France  
      | Devaluation of the British Pound from U.S. $4.03 to U.S. $2.80  
      | Soviet Union explodes an atomic bomb for the first time  

      | Doris Lessing, *The Grass is Singing*  
      | C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (first volume in the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, completed in 1956)  
      | “Nevil Shute” (Nevil Shute Norway), *A Town Like Alice*  
      | 1950-1953 War between Communist and Non-communist forces (backed respectively by the Soviet Union and the United States) in Korea
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Anthony Powell</td>
<td><em>A Question of Upbringing</em> (first volume of the <em>Dance to the Music of Time</em> sequence of 12 novels, completed in 1975)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C.P. Snow</td>
<td><em>The Masters</em></td>
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<td>&quot;Josephine Tey&quot; (Elizabeth Mackintosh)</td>
<td><em>The Daughter of Time</em></td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Samuel Beckett</td>
<td><em>En attendant Godot</em> (first publication; first published in English, as <em>Waiting for Godot</em>, in the USA in 1955, and in Britain in 1956)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kingsley Amis</td>
<td><em>Lucky Jim</em></td>
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<td>Ian Fleming</td>
<td><em>Casino Royale</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>L.P. Hartley</td>
<td><em>The Go-Between</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Kingsley Amis</td>
<td><em>Lucky Jim</em></td>
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<td>Ian Fleming</td>
<td><em>Casino Royale</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>L.P. Hartley</td>
<td><em>The Go-Between</em></td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>William Golding</td>
<td><em>Lord of the Flies</em></td>
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<td>Thom Gunn</td>
<td><em>Fighting Terms</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>P.K. Page</td>
<td><em>The Metal and the Flower</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dylan Thomas</td>
<td><em>Under Milk Wood</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J.R.R. Tolkien</td>
<td><em>The Fellowship of the Ring</em> (first part of <em>The Lord of the Rings</em> trilogy, completed in 1955)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Graham Greene</td>
<td><em>The Quiet American</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philip Larkin</td>
<td><em>The Less Deceived</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brian Moore</td>
<td><em>Judith Hearne</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;John Wyndham&quot; (J. B. Harris)</td>
<td><em>The Chrysalids</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Agatha Christie</td>
<td><em>The Mousetrap</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Samuel Beckett</td>
<td><em>Fin de partie</em> (first performed in French in London in 1957; published in English as <em>Endgame</em> in 1958)</td>
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1952 Britain explodes an atomic bomb

1952 Death of George V; Elizabeth II assumes the throne

1954 Defeat of French forces in Vietnam at Dien Bien Phu; Communist forces occupy Hanoi

1954 End of post-war rationing in Britain

1956 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

Revolution in Hungary against Communist Rule is suppressed by the Soviet Union

European Economic Community (or "Common Market") formed in Europe

Ghana becomes the first of many former British colonies in Africa to be granted full independence (and membership in the British Commonwealth)
The Twentieth Century and Beyond

John Braine, *Room at the Top*
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*

D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* (first publication in Britain of the unexpurgated edition)
Brian Moore, *The Luck of Ginger Coffey*
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 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  "John le Carré" (David John Moore Cornwell), *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*  
P.G. Wodehouse, *Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves* (last in the series of Jeeves novels)  
1963  American President John F. Kennedy assassinated  
United States becomes involved militarily in the fight against Communist forces Vietnam

1964  Philip Larkin, *The Whitsun Weddings*  
Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*  
1964  China explodes an atomic bomb

1965  Samuel Beckett, *Imagination Dead Imagine*  
Margaret Drabble, *The Millstone*  
T.S. Eliot, *To Criticize the Critic, and Other Writings*  
James Ngugi (later Ngugi wa Thiong'o), *The River Between*  
Harold Pinter, *The Homecoming*  
Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*  
1965  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  
Widespread civil rights marches in United States; passage of the Civil Rights Act  
American military involvement in Vietnam begins to escalate

1966  John Fowles, *The Magus*  
Seamus Heaney, *Death of a Naturalist*  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
1967  The "Six Day War": in response to Egyptian threats Israel attacks Egypt and inflicts a massive defeat

1967  Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*  
P.D. James, *Unnatural Causes*  
Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*  
1967  The Beatles, *Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*  
Sexual Offences Act makes male homosexual acts legal in Britain

1968  Assassinations in the United States of Democratic politician Robert F. Kennedy and of civil rights leader Martin Luther King  
"Prague Spring" of new freedoms in Czechoslovakia under Alexander Dubček crushed by Soviet invasion  
Tet offensive by North Vietnam exposes the vulnerability of South Vietnamese and American forces
16 The Twentieth Century and Beyond

1969 John Cleese and Graham Chapman, Monty Python’s Flying Circus (television program aired 1969-74)
John Fowles, The French Lieutenant’s Woman

1971 Margaret Atwood, Power Politics
E.M. Forster, Maurice (written 1913-14 but only published posthumously)
Geoffrey Hill, Mercian Hymns

1972 P.D. James, An Unsuitable Job for a Woman

1969 American Neil Armstrong becomes the first human on the moon

1971 Student and labor unrest in support of left-wing causes in Europe, notably in France

1969 Student protests and a growing movement in opposition to the Vietnam War in the United States

1971 Commonwealth Immigration Act of 1968 denies Kenyan Asians holding British passports the right to immigrate to Britain

1972 “Bloody Sunday” in Derry, Northern Ireland: British soldiers kill thirteen civilians participating in a banned but peaceful civil rights march

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1972 American President Richard Nixon visits China, thus easing tensions between Communist China and Western powers

1972 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*
“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*

1975  Margaret Thatcher becomes leader of the Conservative Party

1975  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

1979  Revolution in Iran: the Shah is deposed and Ayatollah Khomeini comes to power at the head of an Islamic fundamentalist regime

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*

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*

1985
Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*
Tony Harrison, *V*
Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

1982
Falklands War between Britain and Argentina
Richard Attenborough’s *Gandhi* wins the Academy Award for Best Picture over Steven Spielberg’s *E.T.*

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
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, *My Beautiful Laundrette*
- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonizing the Mind*

### 1987
- Bruce Chatwin, *The Songlines*
- Roddy Doyle, *The Commitments* (first volume of *The Barrydown Trilogy*, completed in 1991 with the publication of *The Van*)
- Carol Ann Duffy, *Selling Manhattan*
- Jeanette Winterson, *The Passion*

### 1988
- David Lodge, *Nice Work*
- Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

### 1989
- Martin Amis, *London Fields*
- Julian Barnes, *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
- Grace Nichols, *Lazy Thoughts of a Lazy Woman, and Other Poems*

### 1990
- A.S. Byatt, *Possession*

### 1991
- Pat Barker, *Regeneration* (first of trilogy of First World War novels, completed in 1995 with the publication of *The Ghost Road*)
- Alan Bennett, *The Madness of George III*
- Linton Kwesi Johnson, *Tings an’ Times*
- Jackie Kay, *The Adoption Papers*
- Medbh McGuckian, *Marconi’s Cottage*
- Ben Okri, *The Famished Road*
- Tim Winton, *Cloudstreet*

### 1993
- Roddy Doyle, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*
- Carol Ann Duffy, *Mean Time*
- Vikram Seth, *A Suitable Boy*

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**1986** Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union

**1987**
- Soviet army withdraws from Afghanistan
- Iran’s leader Ayatollah Khomeini issues a fatwa against Salman Rushdie after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*
- 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

**1991**
- Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia declare independence, 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
- Czechoslovakia peacefully separates into the Czech Republic and Slovakia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Tom Stoppard</td>
<td><em>Arcadia</em></td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Irvine Welsh</td>
<td><em>Trainspotting</em></td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Rohinton Mistry</td>
<td><em>A Fine Balance</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Roddy Doyle</td>
<td><em>The Woman Who Walked into Doors</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Helen Fielding</td>
<td><em>Bridget Jones’ Diary</em></td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Graham Swift</td>
<td><em>Last Orders</em></td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Bernardine Evaristo</td>
<td><em>Lara</em></td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Ian McEwan</td>
<td><em>Enduring Love</em></td>
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<td>Conor McPherson</td>
<td><em>The Weir</em></td>
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<td>J.K. Rowling</td>
<td><em>Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone</em></td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Arundhati Roy</td>
<td><em>The God of Small Things</em></td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Will Self</td>
<td><em>Great Apes</em></td>
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Arab-Islamist terrorists explode a car bomb in the parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York, killing six people.

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.

1994 Nelson Mandela becomes President of South Africa following the country’s first fully free elections.

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.

Channel tunnel ("Chunnel") opens, connecting Britain and France.

Fighting intensifies in the Balkans, especially in Bosnia, where Serbian forces engage in “ethnic cleansing” of the Muslim population.

1995 American anti-government terrorist Timothy McVeigh bombs the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring over 800.

1995 Tony Blair leads “New Labour” to victory and becomes Prime Minister.

Princess Diana dies in a car crash in Paris.

Britain cedes Hong Kong to China.

Scotland Act creates a new Scottish Parliament (a parallel Welsh Assembly is created the following year).
1998
John Bayley, *Iris*
Michael Frayn, *Copenhagen*
Seamus Heaney, *Beowulf*
Ted Hughes, *Birthday Letters*

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, *White Teeth*

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, *True History of the Kelly Gang*
Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

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.

Kyoto Protocol on climate change opened for signature.

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

2004  Tsunami in the Indian Ocean kills approximately 250,000

2005  Terrorist attacks in London kill 52 and injure over 700

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