



# European Literature

Literature Study Guide Version 3.1

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Authors are listed roughly chronologically by the publication of their listed works.

## German

Answer	Major Works	Details
Friedrich <u>Schiller</u>	"Ode to Joy" The Robbers	"Ode to Joy" was used as the lyrics to Beethoven's ninth symphony; <i>The Robbers</i> is a play
Johann Wolfgang von <u>Goethe</u>	Faust The Sorrows of Young Werther	author of the <b>Sturm und Drang</b> movement; <b>Faust</b> is a scholar who trades his soul for the power of the demon <b>Mephistopheles</b> and seduces <b>Gretchen</b> (Margarete); <i>The Sorrows of Young Werther</i> culminates in Werther killing himself when <b>Lotte</b> (Charlotte) marries Albert instead of him
<u>Grimm</u> Brothers	Children's and Household Tales	collection of fairy tales including "Hansel and Gretel," "Rapunzel," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Snow White"
Thomas <u>Mann</u>	Death in Venice The Magic Mountain Buddenbrooks	in <i>Death in Venice</i> , <b>Gustav von Aschenbach</b> obsesses over the Polish boy <b>Tadzio</b>
Erich Maria <u>Remarque</u>	All Quiet on the Western Front	<b>Paul Bäumer</b> and his classmates are inspired by the teacher <b>Kantorek</b> to join the German army during World War I
Berthold <u>Brecht</u>	Mother Courage and Her Children	play about the Thirty Years War
Hermann <u>Hesse</u>	The Glass Bead Game Steppenwolf Siddhartha	<i>The Glass Bead Game</i> is about <b>Joseph Knecht</b> reaching the rank of <b>Magister Ludi</b> ; <i>Steppenwolf</i> is about <b>Harry Haller</b> in the <b>Magic Theater</b>
Günter <u>Grass</u>	The Tin Drum	<b>Oskar Matzarath</b> chooses to stop growing at age three

## Italian

Answer	Major Works	Details
<u>Dante</u> Alighieri	The Divine Comedy	<b>Dante</b> himself narrates a journey through Hell (in the section <b>Inferno</b> ), Purgatory ( <b>Purgatorio</b> ), and Heaven ( <b>Paradiso</b> ); he is guided by the poet <b>Virgil</b> through Inferno and part of Paradiso, where he is handed off to <b>Beatrice</b>
<u>Petrarch</u>	Il Canzoniere	collection of sonnets, many dedicated to <b>Laura</b>
Giovanni <u>Boccaccio</u>	The Decameron	short story collection framed as a gathering of ten young men and women who tell stories to pass the time while avoiding the Black Death
Luigi <u>Pirandello</u>	Six Characters in Search of an Author	a group of six strange people, including the <b>Mother</b> , <b>Father</b> , and <b>Stepdaughter</b> , interrupt the <b>Manager's</b> play rehearsal
Italo <u>Calvino</u>	If on a winter's night a traveller	
Umberto <u>Eco</u>	The Name of the Rose Foucault's Pendulum	<i>The Name of the Rose</i> is a detective novel featuring the friar <b>William of Baskerville</b>

## French

Answer	Major Works	Details
<u>Molière</u>	Tartuffe	pen name of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin
<u>Voltaire</u>	Candide	pen name of François-Marie Arouet; <i>Candide</i> satirizes Gottfried Leibnitz's <b>optimist</b> philosophy with the character <b>Doctor Pangloss</b> , who teaches Candide and <b>Cunegonde</b> that " <b>all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds</b> "
<u>Stendahl</u>	The Red and the Black	pen name of Marie-Henri Beyle
Honoré de <u>Balzac</u>	The Human Comedy	<i>The Human Comedy</i> is an interrelated series of books about and named for characters like <b>Père Goriot</b> and <b>Eugénie Grandet</b> , often with <b>Eugène de Rastignac</b> involved
Alexandre <u>Dumas</u>	The Count of Monte Cristo The Three Musketeers	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> is about <b>Edmond Dantès</b> using that noble title to get revenge on men who framed him as a Bonapartist, had him imprisoned in the <b>Château d'If</b> , and ended his engagement to <b>Mercédès</b> ; <i>The Three Musketeers</i> are <b>Athos</b> , <b>Porthos</b> , and <b>Aramis</b> , who team up with <b>D'Artagnan</b>
Gustave <u>Flaubert</u>	Madame Bovary	<b>Emma Bovary</b> is unhappily married to the country doctor <b>Charles</b> , and has affairs with <b>Léon Dupuis</b> and <b>Rodolphe Boulanger</b> before killing herself with arsenic
Charles <u>Baudelaire</u>	The Flowers of Evil	poetry collection with sections like " <b>Spleen and Ideal</b> " and " <b>The Drunken Boat</b> "
Victor <u>Hugo</u>	Les Misérables The Hunchback of Notre Dame	<i>Les Misérables</i> is about the ex-convict <b>Jean Valjean</b> , who is pursued by Inspector <b>Javert</b> , raises <b>Cosette</b> , and saves her fiancé during the 1832 June Rebellion; <i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame</i> is <b>Quasimodo</b> , who is raised by Archdeacon <b>Claude Frollo</b> , after being switched as a baby with <b>Esmeralda</b>
Jules <u>Verne</u>	Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas Around the World in Eighty Days	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues</i> is about <b>Pierre Aronnax</b> aboard <b>Captain Nemo's</b> submarine, the <b>Nautilus</b> , and <i>Around the World</i> is about <b>Phileas Fogg</b> and his manservant <b>Passepartout</b>
Guy de <u>Maupassant</u>	"The Necklace" "Ball of Fat"	in "The Necklace," <b>Mathilde Loisel</b> works for ten years to replace the necklace she borrowed from <b>Madame Forestier</b> , then learns it's fake
Marcel <u>Proust</u>	In Search of Lost Time	seven-volume novel; there are many alternate translations of the title <i>A la recherche du temps perdu</i>
Albert <u>Camus</u>	The Stranger The Plague	in <i>The Stranger</i> , the seemingly wooden and indifferent <b>Meursault</b> is executed for shooting an Arab man on a beach
Jean-Paul <u>Sartre</u>	No Exit	Sartre was an existentialist philosopher; <i>No Exit</i> is an existentialist play
Eugene <u>Ionesco</u>	The Bald Soprano Rhinoceros	Romanian-French playwright

## Ancient Roman

Answer	Major Works	Details
<u>Catullus</u>		addressed love poems to <b>Lesbia</b> and adapted poems by <b>Sappho</b>
<u>Virgil</u>	The Aeneid	the adventures of the mythical hero <b>Aeneas</b>
<u>Horace</u>		poet of the phrases " <b>carpe diem</b> " (seize the day) and " <b>dulce et decorum est pro patria mia</b> " (it is sweet and proper to die for one's homeland)
<u>Ovid</u>	Metamorphoses	mythical stories, many of which are about transformations

## Ancient Greek

Answer	Major Works	Details
<u>Homer</u>	The Odyssey The Iliad	epic poems about the Trojan War ( <i>The Iliad</i> ) and the Ithacan hero Odysseus's journey home from it ( <i>The Odyssey</i> )
<u>Sappho</u>	"Hymn to Aphrodite"	Sappho was a poet from the island of Lesbos whose poetry addressed to both men and women gave us the modern term "lesbian"
<u>Aeschylus</u>	The Oresteia	playwright of tragedies; the <i>Oresteia</i> is a trilogy about the train of death in the family of <b>Agamemnon</b> , <b>Clytemnestra</b> , <b>Orestes</b> , and <b>Electra</b>
<u>Sophocles</u>	Oedipus Rex	playwright of tragedies; in <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (Oedipus the King), Oedipus is the king of Thebes who learns he has killed his father and married his mother, <b>Jocasta</b>
<u>Euripides</u>	Medea	playwright of tragedies; in <i>Medea</i> , the title lover of the hero <b>Jason</b> , who gets revenge on him when he tries to leave her for <b>Glauce</b> , the daughter of King <b>Creon</b>
<u>Aristophanes</u>	The Frogs Lysistrata The Clouds The Birds	playwright of comedies that are usually named for their <b>chorus</b> ; in <i>The Frogs</i> , <b>Dionysus</b> and his servant <b>Xanthias</b> travel to the underworld to bring back a great playwright to restore the golden age of Athenian drama, and the chorus is a group of frogs who chant " <b>brekekekax-koax-koax</b> ;" in <i>Lysistrata</i> , Athenian and Spartan women refuse to sleep with their husbands until they end the Peloponnesian War

## Other

Answer	Major Works	Details
Miguel de <u>Cervantes</u>	Don Quixote	Spanish; Don Quixote is a hidalgo (gentleman) who is so obsessed with novels about knights that he imagines he is one and takes <b>Sancho Panza</b> on bizarre adventures in which he fights <b>windmills</b> and a barber pretending to be the <b>Knight of the White Moon</b>
Hans Christian <u>Andersen</u>	"The Little Mermaid" "The Emperor's New Clothes" "The Ugly Duckling"	Danish author of fairy tales
Henrik <u>Ibsen</u>	A Doll's House Hedda Gabler	Norwegian playwright; in <i>A Doll's House</i> , <b>Nora Helmer</b> is blackmailed by <b>Krogstad</b> and eventually leaves her husband, <b>Torvald</b> , <b>slamming the door</b> behind her
August <u>Strindberg</u>	Miss Julie	Swedish playwright
Franz <u>Kafka</u>	The Metamorphosis The Trial	Bohemian; in <i>The Metamorphosis</i> , <b>Gregor Samsa</b> wakes up as a giant insect
Karel <u>Čapek</u>	R.U.R.	Czech; <i>R.U.R.</i> stands for Rossum's Universal Robots
Federico García <u>Lorca</u>	Blood Wedding "Lament for the Death of a Bullfighter"	Spanish playwright; <i>Blood Wedding</i> is part of his <b>Rural Trilogy</b> of plays; "Lament for the Death of a Bullfighter" is a poem
Milan <u>Kundera</u>	The Unbearable Lightness of Being	Czech-French
Jose <u>Saramago</u>	Blindness	Portuguese