

Lifetime Reading List in Chronological Order

Part 1: Antiquity

For those who want to read only the minimum necessary to have a good background in the Classics, I have starred in red (*) the texts likely to be most useful in understanding later authors.

Date Read	Author's Life Span	Author and Title
	c. 2150-2000 B.C.	* The Epic of Gilgamesh
	c. 1200-100 B.C.	* Old Testament (Selected Books) [Authorized King James Version] * Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy * Historical Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Ezra Nehemiah, Esther * Wisdom Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon * Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel * Minor Prophets: Hosea, Amos
	fl. 750-675 B.C.	* Homer: The Iliad
		* Homer: The Odyssey
	after 700 B.C.	Homeric Hymns
	fl. 700-650 B.C.	Hesiod: The Shield of Herakles
		* Hesiod: Works and Days
		* Hesiod: Theogony
	6 th c. B.C.	Aesop: Fables
	6 th c. B.C.	Confucius: Analects
	c. 590 B.C.	Sappho: Lyrics
	c. 522-448 B.C.	* Pindar: Odes
	523?-456 B.C.	* Aeschylus: Agamemnon (Orestes Trilogy 1)
		* Aeschylus: The Libation Bearers (Orestes Trilogy 2)
		* Aeschylus: The Eumenides (Orestes Trilogy 3)
		* Aeschylus: Prometheus Bound
		Aeschylus: The Suppliant Maidens
		Aeschylus: The Persians
		Aeschylus: The Seven Against Thebes
	496?-406 B.C.	* Sophocles: Oedipus the King
		* Sophocles: Oedipus at Colonus
	496?-406 B.C.	* Sophocles: Antigone

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		Sophocles: Ajax
		Sophocles: The Women of Trachis
		Sophocles: Electra
		Sophocles: Philoctetes
	484?-406 B.C.	* Euripides: Alcestis (438 B.C.)
		* Euripides: Medea (431 B.C.)
		Euripides: The Heracleidae (The Children of Heracles)
		* Euripides: Hippolytus (428 B.C.)
		Euripides: Andromache
		Euripides: Hecuba (c. 425 B.C.)
		Euripides: The Suppliant Women (c. 424 B.C.)
		Euripides: Heracles (c. 420 B.C.)
		Euripides: Ion
		Euripides: The Trojan Women (415 B.C.)
		Euripides: Iphigenia in Tauris
		Euripides: Electra (413 B.C.)
		Euripides: Helen (412 B.C.)
		Euripides: The Phoenician Women (c. 410 B.C.)
		Euripides: Orestes (408 B.C.)
		Euripides: The Bacchae
		Euripides: Iphigenia in Aulis
		Euripides: The Cyclops
	c. 484-425 B.C.	* Herodotus: The Histories (selections) (441 B.C.)
	c. 460-400 B.C.	* Thucydides: The Peloponnesian Wars (selections) (c. 400 B.C.)
	430 B.C.	Pericles: Funeral Oration (in Thucydides: History of the Peloponnesian War, Book II, chapters 34-56)
	c. 450-380 B.C.	Sun-tzu: The Art of War
	450?-380? B.C.	* Aristophanes: The Clouds (423 B.C.)
	450?-380? B.C.	* Aristophanes: The Wasps (422 B.C.)

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		* Aristophanes: The Birds (414 B.C.)
		* Aristophanes: Lysistrata (411 B.C.)
		* Aristophanes: The Frogs (405 B.C.)
	c. 430-? B.C.	* Xenophon: Anabasis (The Persian Expedition)
		Xenophon: Cyropaedia (The Education of Cyrus)
		Xenophon: Oeconomicus (Household Management)
	427?-347? B.C.	Plato: Euthyphro
		Plato: Apology (c. 399 B.C.)
		Plato: Crito
		* Plato: Phaedo
		* Plato: Symposium
		* Plato: Republic (selections) (c . 375 B.C.)
		Plato: Timaeus
	384-322 B.C.	Aristotle: Physics (selections)
		Aristotle: Metaphysics (selections)
		Aristotle: Psychology (selections)
		* Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics (selections)
		Aristotle: Politics (selections)
		* Aristotle: Poetics
	383-322 B.C.	Demosthenes: The Philippics
	fl. c. 300 B.C.	Euclid: The Elements (Books I-VI)
	c. 3 rd c. B.C.	* Apollonius of Rhodes: The Voyage of the Argo
	342- 291 B.C.	* Menander: Epitrepontes (Men at Arbitration)
		Menander: Dyskolos (The Grouch)
		Menander: Aspis (The Shield)
		Menander: Georgos (The Farmer)
		Menander: Dis Exapaton (Twice a Swindler)
	342- 291 B.C.	Menander: Encheiridion (The Dagger)

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		Menander: The Girl from Samos (tr. Erich G. Turner)
	287?-212 B.C.	Archimedes: Scientific Writings (The Sand-Reckoner)
	c. 270 B.C.	* Theocritus: Idyls
	c. 254-184 B.C.	* Plautus: Miles Gloriosus (The Braggart Soldier) (211 B.C.)
		Plautus: Captivi (The Prisoners of War)
		* Plautus: Amphitryo
		Plautus: Menaechmi
		Plautus: Asinaria
		Plautus: Aulularia (The Pot of Gold)
		Plautus: Casina
		Plautus: Rudens
	c. 195-159 B.C.	* Terence: Andria (The Girl From Andros) (166 B.C.)
		* Terence: Hecyra (The Mother-in-Law) (165 B.C.)
		Terence: Heautontimorumenos (The Self-Tormentor) (163 B.C.)
		Terence: Phormio (161 B.C.)
		* Terence: The Eunuch (161 B.C.)
		Terence: Adelphoe (The Brothers) (160 B.C.)
	fl. c. 150 B.C.	Moschus: Europa
	fl. c. 100 B.C.	Bion of Smyrna: Epitaph on Adonis
	102-44 B.C.	Julius Caesar: Gallic War
		Julius Caesar: Civil War
	96?-55 B.C.	* Lucretius: On the Nature of Things
	106-43 B.C.	Cicero: Tusculan Disputations
		Cicero: On Moral Duties
		* Cicero: On the Orator
		* Cicero: On the Nature of the Gods
	86-35 B.C.	Sallust: Jugurthine War
		Sallust: Conspiracy of Catiline

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	c. 84-54 B.C.	Catullus: Lyrics
	70-19 B.C.	* Virgil: Aeneid
		Virgil: Georgics
		Virgil: Eclogues
	65-8 B.C.	* Horace: Odes (selections)
		* Horace: The Art of Poetry
	59 B.C.-A.D. 17	* Livy: A History of Rome (selections)
	43 B.C.-A.D. 17	* Ovid: Metamorphoses
		Ovid: The Art of Love
		Ovid: The Cure for Love
	4 B.C.-A.D. 65	* Seneca: Hercules Furens
		Seneca: Troades
		* Seneca: Medea
		Seneca: Hippolytus
		Seneca: Oedipus
		Seneca: Agamemnon
		* Seneca: Thyestes
		Seneca: Hercules Oetaeus
		Seneca: Phoenissae
		Seneca: Octavia
		Seneca: Moral Epistles (selections)
	A.D. 20-66	Petronius: The Satyricon
	c. AD 37-after 97	Josephus: The Jewish War
	A.D. 23-79	Pliny the Elder: Natural History: Book 20 (Medicines from Garden Plants) and Book 37 (Jewels & Precious Stones)
	A.D. 39-65	Lucan: Pharsalia: Books 1, 5, 6
	early 1 st c. A.D.	"Longinus": On the Sublime
	A.D. 35-100	Quintilian: The Orator's Education: Vol. I: Books 1-2
	mid-1 st c. A.D.	Chariton: Chaireas and Kallirhoe

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	c. A.D. 50-early 2 nd c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New Testament: (selected books) [Authorized King James Version] * Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John * History: Acts * Pauline Epistles: Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Timothy, Titus * The General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, Jude * Apocalypse: The Revelation of St. John the Divine
	c. A.D. 60-140	* Juvenal: Satires (selections)
	c. A.D. 56-120?	Tacitus: Annals
		* Tacitus: Histories (selections)
	A.D. 46?-120	* Plutarch: Lives of the Noble Greeks and Romans (selections)
	A.D. 75-160	Suetonius: Lives of the Caesars
	fl. 1 st -2 nd c. A.D.	Epictetus: Discourses
		Epictetus: Enchiridion (Handbook)
	100-165	Justin Martyr: Dialogue with Trypho
		Justin Martyr: First Apology
	A.D. 120-180	Marcus Aurelius: Meditations
	fl. c. A.D. 150	Pausanias: Description of Greece: Vol. 1 (Attica and Corinth) [LCL]
	c. A.D. 120-?	* Lucian: The True History
		* Lucian: Charon
		* Dialogues of the Dead: Hermes and Charon; Charon, Hermes, and Shades; Charon, Menippus, Hermes
		Pseudo-Lucian: The Ass
	A.D. 121-180	Marcus Aurelius: Meditations
	fl. c. 150	* Apuleius: The Golden Ass
	A.D. 172-250	Philostratus: Life of Apollonius of Tyana
	fl. 2 nd c.	Ptolemy: The Almagest
	fl. 2 nd c.-3rd c.	Xenophon of Ephesus: An Ephesian Tale of Anthia and Habrocomes
	mid-2 nd c. A.D.	* Apollodorus: The Library of Greek Mythology
	205-269	Plotinus: Enneads (selections)
	c. A.D. 300	Achilles Tatius: Leucippe and Clitophon

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	3 rd c. A.D.	Heliodorus: Aithiopika or Theagenes and Chariclea
	3 rd c. A.D.	Longus: Daphnis and Chloe
	between 140-340	Pseudo-Callisthenes: The Alexander Romance

Other works of antiquity, not listed here, may be of interest to some readers.

These works and authors include the following:

Among the ancient Greeks: Archilochus of Paros (c. 650 B.C.); Tyrtaeus of Sparta (c. 650 B.C.); Solon of Athens (c. 640-559 B.C.); Alcman of Sparta (c. 630 B.C.); Stesichorus (c. 630-555 B.C.); Alcaeus of Lesbos (c. 600 B.C.); Anacreon of Teos (c. 563-478 B.C.); Simonides of Ceos (556-467 B.C.); Callimachus of Cyrene (c. 304-240 B.C.), *Hymns* and *Epigrams*; and many other poets with fragmentary literary remains.

Greeks from the Alexandrian age to the close of antiquity: the Greek Anthology (lyric poetry); the woman poet Anyte of Tegea (fl. c. 300 B.C.); the historian Polybius (c. 203-120 B.C.); the poet Meleager (c. 100 B.C.); Dioscorides, last of the great Alexandrian poets; the first century B.C. historian Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History*; Dionysius of Halicarnassus (1st c. B.C.), *Roman Antiquities*; Strabo (64/63 B.C.-A.D. 21?), *Geography* in 17 books; Josephus (c. AD 37-after 97), *Jewish Antiquities*; the physician Dioscorides Pedianus (1st c. A.D.), *Materia Medica*; the historian Arrian (c. A.D. 95-175), *Anabasis of Alexander*; and the epic poet Quintus of Smyrna (4th c. A.D.), *Posthomerica* in 14 books.

Among the Latins: Propertius (c. 50-16 B.C.), *Elegies*; Tibullus (c. 48-19 B.C.), *Elegies*; Martial (c. A.D. 40-104), *Epigrams*; Persius (c. A.D. 34-62), *Satires*; Manilius (late Augustan age), *Astronomica*; Ovid (43 B.C.-A.D. 17), *Heroides*, *Amores*, *Fasti*, *Tristia*, and other minor works; Statius (c. A.D. 45-96), *Silvae* and his epic poem *Thebaid*; and other minor epic poets, such as Silius Italicus (A.D. 25/6-101), *Punica*; and Valerius Flaccus (Flavian period), *Argonautica*.