The Road to Freedom: One Hundred Best Books for an Education

As recommended by Will Durant in *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time*

GROUP I. INTRODUCTORY

1. THOMSON, J. A., ***The Outline of Science***. 4v.
2. CLENDENING, LOGAN, ***The Human Body***.
*3. KELLOGG, J.H., ***The New Dietetics***; pp. 1-531, 975-1011.
4. JAMES, Wm., ***Principles of Psychology***. 2v.
*5. WELLS, H. G., ***The Outline of History***; chs. 1-14.
6. SUMNER, W. G., ***Folkways***.
7. FRAZER, SIR JAS., ***The Golden Bough***.

GROUP II. ASIA AND AFRICA

*8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, ***The Human Adventure***. 2v. vol. I, chs. 2-7.
5. WELLS, chs. 15-21, 26.
9. BROWN, BRIAN, ***The Wisdom of China***.
*10. The Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Amos, Micah, the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and Epistles of St. Paul.
*11. FAURE, ELIE, ***History of Art***. 4v. vol. I, chs. 1-3; vol. II, chs. 1-3.
12. WILLIAMS, H. S., ***History of Science***, 5v. bk. I, chs. 1-4.

GROUP III. GREECE

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. I, chs. 8-19.
5. WELLS, chs. 22-25.
13. BURY, J. B., ***History of Greece***. 2v.
14. HERODOTUS, ***Histories***. (Everyman Library.)
15. THUCYDIDES, ***The Peloponnesian War***. (Everyman Library.)
*16. PLUTARCH, ***Lives of Illustrious Men*** (esp. Lycurgus, Solon, Themistocles, Aristides, Pericles, Alcibiades, Demosthenes, Alexander).
17. MURRAY, G., ***Greek Literature***.
18. HOMER, ***Iliad***. Trans. Bryant. Selections.
19. HOMER, ***Odyssey***. Trans. Bryant. Selections.
20. AESCHYLUS, ***Prometheus Bound***. Trans. Eliz. Browning.
21. SOPHOCLES, ***Oedipus Tyrannus*** and ***Antigone***. Trans. Young. (Everyman Library.)
22. EURIPIDES, all plays so far translated by Gilbert Murray.
23. DIOGENES LAERTIUS ***Lives of the Philosophers***.
*24. PLATO, ***Dialogues***. Trans. Jowett. Esp. ***The Apology of Socrates, Phaedo***, and ***The Republic*** (sections 327-32, 336-77, 384-85, 392-426, 433-35, 481-83, 512-20, 572-95). 1v. ed. by Irwin Edman.
25. ARISTOTLE, ***Nicomachean Ethics***.
26. ARISTOTLE, ***Politics***.
12. WILLIAMS, ***History of Science***, bk. I, chs. 5-9.
11. FAURE, ***History of Art***, vol. I, chs. 4-7.

GROUP IV. ROME

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. I, chs. 20-30.
5. WELLS, chs. 27-29.
16. PLUTARCH, ***Lives*** (esp. Cato Censor, Tiberius and Caius Gracchus, Marius, Sylla, Pompey, Cicero, Caesar, Brutus, Antony).
27. LUCRETIUS, ***On the Nature of Things***. Trans. Munro. (Certain passages are admirably paraphrased in W. H. Mallock, ***Lucretius on Life and Death***.)
28. VIRGIL, ***Aeneid***. Trans. Wm. Morris. Selections.
*29. MARCUS AURELIUS, ***Meditations***. (Everyman Library.)
12. WILLIAMS, bk. I chs. 10-11.
11. FAURE, vol. I ch. 8.
*30. GIBBON, E., ***Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire***. 6v. (Everyman Library.) Esp. chs. 1-4, 9-10, 14, 15-24, 26-28, 30-31, 35-36, 44, 71.

GROUP V. THE AGE OF CHRISTIANITY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, chs. 1-11.
5. WELLS, chs. 30-34.
30. GIBBON, chs. 37-38, 47-53, 55-59, 64-65, 68-70.
*31. OMAR KHAYYAM, ***Rubaiyat***. Fitzgerald's paraphrase.
32. MOORE, GEO., ***Heloise and Abelard***. 2v.
33. DANTE, ***Divine Comedy***. Trans. Longfellow, or C. E. Norton.
*34. TAINE, H., ***History of English Literature***, bk. I.
35. CHAUCER, G., ***Canterbury Tales***. (Everyman Library.) Selections.
36. ADAMS, H., ***Mont St. Michel and Chartres***.
12. WILLIAMS, bk. II, chs. 1-3.
11. FAURE, vol. II, chs. 4-9.
37. GRAY, C., ***History of Music***, chs. 1-3, 5.

GROUP VI. THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

5. WELLS, ch. 35.
38. SYMONDS, J. A., ***The Renaissance in Italy***, 7v.
39. CELLINI, B., ***Autobiography***. Trans. Symonds.
40. VASARI, G., ***Lives of the Painters and Sculptors***. 4v. Esp. Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli, Fra Angelico, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo.
41. HOFFDING, H., ***History of Modern Philosophy***. 2v. Sections on Bruno and Machiavelli.
42. MACHIAVELLI, N., ***The Prince***.
37. GRAY, chs. 6, 8.

GROUP VII. EUROPE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, chs. 13-14.
43. SMITH, P., ***The Age of the Reformation***.
44. FAGUET, E., ***The Literature of France***; sections on the 16th century.
45. RABELAIS, ***Gargantua and Pantagruel***.
*46. MONTAIGNE, ***Essays***. 3v. (Everyman Library.) Esp. ***Of Coaches***, ***Of the Incommodity of Greatness***, ***Of Vanity***, and ***Of Experience***.
47. CERVANTES, ***Don Quixote***.
*48. SHAKESPEARE:, ***Plays***. Esp. ***Hamlet***, ***Lear***, ***Macbeth***, ***Othello***, ***Romeo and Juliet***, ***Julius Caesar***, ***Henry IV***, ***Merchant of Venice***, ***As You Like It***, ***Midsummer Night's Dream***, ***Timon of Athens***, and ***The Tempest***.
34. TAINE, bk. II, chs. 1-4.
37. GRAY, chs. 4, 7.
12. WILLIAMS, bk. II, chs. 4-8.
11. FAURE, vol. III, chs. 4-6.

GROUP VIII. EUROPE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, ch. 15.
44. FAGUET, sections on the seventeenth century.
49. LA ROCHEFOUCAULD, ***Reflections***.
50. MOLIERE, ***Plays***. Esp. ***Tartuffe***, ***The Miser***, ***The Misanthrope***, ***The Bourgeois Gentleman***, ***The Feast of the Statue*** (***Don Juan***).
*51. BACON, F., ***Essays***. All. (Everyman Library.)
52. MILTON, J., ***Lycidas***, ***L'Allegro***, ***Il Penseroso***, ***Sonnets***, ***Areopagitica***, and selections from ***Paradise Lost***.
12. WILLIAMS, bk. II, chs.9-13.
41. HOFFDING, sections on Bacon, Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, and Leibnitz.
53. HOBBES, ***Leviathan***. (Everyman Library.)
54. SPINOZA, ***Ethics*** and ***On the Improvement of the Understanding***. (Everyman Library.)
11. FAURE, vol. IV, chs. 1-4.
37. GRAY, chs. 9-10.

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GROUP IX. EUROPE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, chs. 16-21.
5. WELLS, chs. 26-27.
44. FAGUET, sections on the eighteenth century.
55. SAINTE-BEUVE, ***Portraits of the l8th Century***.
56. VOLTAIRE, ***Works***. I-vol. ed. Esp. ***Candide***, ***Zadig***, and essays on ***Toleration and History***.
57. ROUSSEAU, J.J., ***Confessions***.
58. TAINE, H., ***Origins of Contemporary France***. 6v. vols. I-IV.
*59. CARLYLE, ***The French Revolution***. 2v. (Everyman Library.)
34. TAINE, ***History of English Literature***, bk. Ill, chs. 4-7.
*60. BOSWELL, ***Life of Samuel Johnson***. 2v. (Everyman Library.)
61. FIELDING, H., ***Tom Jones***. (Everyman Library, 2v.)
62. STERNE, L., ***Tristram Shandy***. (Everyman Library.)
*63. SWIFT, J., ***Gulliver's Travels***. (Everyman Library.)
64. HUME, D., ***Treatise on Human Nature***. 2v. (Everyman Library.) Esp. bks. II and III.
65. WOLLSTONECRAFT, MARY, ***Vindication of the Rights of Woman***.
66. SMITH, ADAM, ***The Wealth of Nations***. 2v. (Everyman Library.) Selections.
12. WILLIAMS, bk. II, chs. 14-15.
41. HOFFDING, sections on the eighteenth century.
11. FAURE, vol. IV, chs. 5-6.
37. GRAY, chs. 11-12.

GROUP X. EUROPE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, chs. 22-28.
5. WELLS, chs. 38-39.
58. TAINE, ***Origins of Contemporary France***. vol. V, ***The Modern Regime,*** pp. 1-90.
67. LUDWIG, E., ***Napoleon***.
68. BRANDES, G., ***Main Currents of 19th Century Literature***. 6v.
*69. GOETHE, ***Faust***.
70. ECKERMANN, ***Conversations with Goethe***.
71. HEINE, ***Poems***. Trans. Louis Untermeyer.
34. TAINE, ***History of English Literature,*** bks. IV-V.
*72. KEATS, ***Poems***.
*73. SHELLEY, ***Poems***.
*74. BYRON, ***Poems***.
44. FAGUET, sections on the nineteenth century.
75. BALZAC, ***Père Goriot***.
*76. FLAUBERT, ***Works***. I-vol. ed. Esp. Mme. Bovary and Salambo.
77. HUGO, ***Les Miserables***.
78. FRANCE, ANATOLE, ***Penguin Isle***.
79. TENNYSON, ***Poems***.
80. DICKENS, ***Pickwick Papers***.
81. THACKERAY, ***Vanity Fair***.
82. TURGENEV, ***Fathers and Sons***.
83. DOSTOIEVSKI, ***The Brothers Karamazov***.
84. TOLSTOI, ***War and Peace***.
85. IBSEN, ***Peer Gynt***.
12. WILLIAMS, bks. III-IV
86. DARWIN, ***Descent of Man***.
41. HOFFDING, sections on the nineteenth century.
87. BUCKLE, ***Introduction to the History of Civilization in England***. Esp. part I, chs. 1-5, 15.
88. SCHOPENHAUER, ***Works***. I-vol. ed.
89. NIETZSCHE, ***Thus Spake Zarathustra***.
11. FAURE, vol. IV, chs. 7-8.
37. GRAY, chs. 13-17.

GROUP XI. AMERICA

*90. BEARD, C. and M., ***The Rise of American Civilization***. 2v.
91. POE, ***Poems and Tales***.
92. EMERSON, ***Essays***.
93. THOREAU, ***Walden***.
*94. WHITMAN, ***Leaves of Grass***.
95. LINCOLN, ***Letters and Speeches***.

GROUP XII. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

8. BREASTED and ROBINSON, vol. II, chs. 29-30.
5. WELLS, chs. 40-41.
96. ROLLAND, R. ***Jean Christophe***. 2v.
*97. ELLIS, H., ***Studies in the Psychology of Sex***. vols. I, II, III, VI.
*98. ADAMS, H., ***The Education of Henry Adams***.
99. BERGSON, ***Creative Evolution***.
*100. SPENGLER, O., ***Decline of the West***. 2v.

* Books marked with a star are recommended for purchase. Number of books starred: 27; number of volumes in the list: 151. Time required for reading: 4 years at 7 hours per week, 10 hours per volume.