

The Harvard Classics

The Five-Foot Shelf of Books

<https://archive.org/details/Harvard-Classics>

Arranged by Michael G. Maness
www.PreciousHeart.net

Harvard's influential President [Charles W. Eliot](#) said, "If you were to spend just 15 minutes a day reading the right books, a quantity that could fit on a five foot shelf, you could give yourself a proper liberal education." The publisher P. F. Collier and Son asked Eliot to assemble the right collection of works. The resulting 51-volume series was published in 1909 and called Dr. Eliot's Five Foot Shelf, which later came to be known as The Harvard Classics.

You can an old set off the internet for \$150-500. Or look at or download copies at the [Internet Archive](#) and [Project Gutenberg](#), which have links to all of the text in The Harvard Classics. In the links below, you have the actual books, the annotated Harvard Classics texts edited by Eliot himself.

There are four types of links for each set. The **PDF** is a document file of each book, scanned in and searchable with [Adobe Reader](#) – a very robust document. You can download a pdf to just about any device. The **Kindle** and **e-publish** versions work on a lot of readers too. The **Read Online** version takes you to a web site in your browser, tablet, or smart phone, and you can "flip" through pages without downloading. The "4.9M," etc., means MBs of size of the PDF only.

Fifteen Minutes a Day – Reading Guide

[00-PDF](#) - [00-Kindle](#) - [00-EPUB](#) - [00-Read Online](#) - 4.9M

1. Franklin, Woolman, Penn

His Autobiography, by Benjamin Franklin
The Journal of John Woolman, by John Woolman (1774 ed.)
Fruits of Solitude, by William Penn
[01-PDF](#) - [01-Kindle](#) - [01-EPUB](#) - [01-Read Online](#) - 17.8M

2. Plato, Epictetus, Marcu Aurelius

The Apology, Phaedo, and Crito, by Plato
The Golden Sayings, by Epictetus
The Meditations, by Marcus Aurelius
[02-PDF](#) - [02-Kindle](#) - [02-EPUB](#) - [02-Read Online](#) - 15.4M

3. Bacon, Milton's Prose, Thomas Browne

Essays, Civil and Moral, and New Atlantis, by Francis Bacon
Areopagitica and Tractate of Education, by John Milton
Religio Medici, by Sir Thomas Browne
[03-PDF](#) - [03-Kindle](#) - [03-EPUB](#) - [03-Read Online](#) - 15.6M

4. Complete Poems in English, Milton

Complete poems written in English, by John Milton
[04-PDF](#) - [04-Kindle](#) - [04-EPUB](#) - [04-Read Online](#) - 15.6M

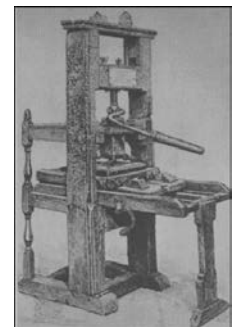
5. Essays and English Traits, Emerson

Essays and English Traits, by Ralph Waldo Emerson
[05-PDF](#) - [05-Kindle](#) - [05-EPUB](#) - [05-Read Online](#) - 21.3M



The Five-Foot Shelf, with its introductions, notes, guides to reading, and exhaustive indexes, may claim to constitute a reading course unparalleled in comprehensiveness and authority.

– Notes on the Lectures
William Allan Neilson



Franklin's Printing Press



Milton's Cottage Chalfont St. Giles

6. Poems and Songs, Robert Burns

Poems and songs, by Robert Burns
[06-PDF](#) - [06-Kindle](#) - [06-EPUB](#) - [06-Read Online](#) - 14.7M

7. Confessions of St. Augustine; Imitation of Christ, Kempis

The Confessions, by Saint Augustine
 The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas á Kempis
[07-PDF](#) - [07-Kindle](#) - [07-EPUB](#) - [07-Read Online](#) - 16.9M

8. Nine Greek Dramas

Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Furies, and Prometheus Bound, by Aeschylus
 Oedipus the King and Antigone, by Sophocles
 Hippolytus and The Bacchae, by Euripides
 The Frogs, by Aristophanes
[08-PDF](#) - [08-Kindle](#) - [08-EPUB](#) - [08-Read Online](#) - 13.9M

9. Letters and Treatises of Cicero and Pliny

On Friendship, On Old Age, and letters, by Cicero
 Letters, by Pliny the Younger
[09-PDF](#) - [09-Kindle](#) - [09-EPUB](#) - [09-Read Online](#) - 18.4M

10. Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith

The Wealth of Nations, by Adam Smith
[10-PDF](#) - [10-Kindle](#) - [10-EPUB](#) - [10-Read Online](#) - 25.6M

11. Origin of Species, Darwin

The Origin of Species, by Charles Darwin
[11-PDF](#) - [11-Kindle](#) - [11-EPUB](#) - [11-Read Online](#) - 24.6M

12. Plutarch's Lives

Lives, by Plutarch
[12-PDF](#) - [12-Kindle](#) - [12-EPUB](#) - [12-Read Online](#) - 18.5M

13. Aeneid, Virgil

Aeneid, by Virgil
[13-PDF](#) - [13-Kindle](#) - [13-EPUB](#) - [13-Read Online](#) - 15.8M

14. Don Quixote, Part 1, Cervantes

Don Quixote, Part 1, by Cervantes
[14-PDF](#) - [14-Kindle](#) - [14-EPUB](#) - [14-Read Online](#) - 23.1M

15. Pilgrim's Progress, Bunyan; Donne and Herbert

The Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan
 The Lives of Donne and Herbert, by Izaak Walton
[15-PDF](#) - [15-Kindle](#) - [15-EPUB](#) - [15-Read Online](#) - 17.0M

16. The Thousand and One Nights

Stories from the Thousand and One Nights
[16-PDF](#) - [16-Kindle](#) - [16-EPUB](#) - [16-Read Online](#) - 21.8M

17. Folklore and Fable, Aesop, Grimm, Anderson

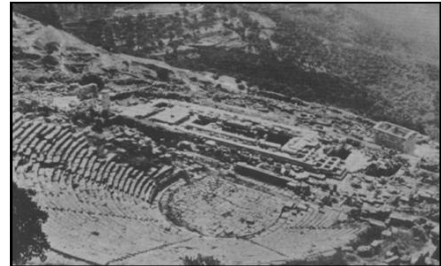
Fables, by Aesop
 Children's and Household Tales, by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
 Tales, by Hans Christian Andersen
[17-PDF](#) - [17-Kindle](#) - [17-EPUB](#) - [17-Read Online](#) - 16.3M

18. Modern English Drama

All for Love, by John Dryden
 The School for Scandal, by Richard Brinsley Sheridan
 She Stoops to Conquer, by Oliver Goldsmith



Emerson's library at Concord



Greek Theater at Delphi



Don Quixote



Bunyan's Great Heart

ALL FOR LOVE
 OR
 THE WORLD WELL LOST
 A TRAGEDY

The Cenci, by Percy Bysshe Shelley
 A Blot in the 'Scutcheon, by Robert Browning
 Manfred, by Lord Byron
[18-PDF](#) - [18-Kindle](#) - [18-EPUB](#) - [18-Read Online](#) - 15.1M

19. Faust, Egmont, etc., Doctor Faustus, Goethe, Marlowe

Faust, part 1, Egmont, and Hermann and Dorothea, by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
 Dr. Faustus, by Christopher Marlowe
[19-PDF](#) - [19-Kindle](#) - [19-EPUB](#) - [19-Read Online](#) - 13.1M

20. The Divine Comedy, Dante

The Divine Comedy, by Dante Alighieri
[20-PDF](#) - [20-Kindle](#) - [20-EPUB](#) - [20-Read Online](#) - 16.0M

21. I Promessi Sposi, Manzoni

I Promessi Sposi, by Alessandro Manzoni
[21-PDF](#) - [21-Kindle](#) - [21-EPUB](#) - [21-Read Online](#) - 28.4M

22. The Odyssey, Homer

The Odyssey, by Homer
[22-PDF](#) - [22-Kindle](#) - [22-EPUB](#) - [22-Read Online](#) - 15.5M

23. Two Years Before the Mast, Dana

Two Years Before the Mast, by Richard Henry Dana, Jr.
[23-PDF](#) - [23-Kindle](#) - [23-EPUB](#) - [23-Read Online](#) - 20.5M

24. On The Sublime, French Revolution, etc., Burke

On Taste, On the Sublime and Beautiful, by Edmund Burke
 Reflections on the French Revolution, by Edmund Burke
 A Letter to a Noble Lord, by Edmund Burke
[24-PDF](#) - [24-Kindle](#) - [24-EPUB](#) - [24-Read Online](#) - 21.8M

25. Autobiography, etc., Essays and Addresses, J.S. Mill, T. Carlyle

Autobiography, by John Stuart Mill
 On Liberty, by John Stuart Mill
 Characteristics, by Thomas Carlyle
 Inaugural Address at Edinburgh, by Thomas Carlyle
 Sir Walter Scott, by Thomas Carlyle
[25-PDF](#) - [25-Kindle](#) - [25-EPUB](#) - [25-Read Online](#) - 23.3M

26. Continental Drama

Life is a Dream, by Pedro Calderón de la Barca
 Polyeucte, by Pierre Corneille
 Phèdre, by Jean Racine
 Tartuffe, by Molière
 Minna von Barnhelm, by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
 William Tell, by Friedrich von Schiller
[26-PDF](#) - [26-Kindle](#) - [26-EPUB](#) - [26-Read Online](#) - 16.5M

27. English Essays: Sidney to Macaulay

[27-PDF](#) - [27-Kindle](#) - [27-EPUB](#) - [27-Read Online](#) - 19.0M

28. Essays: English and American

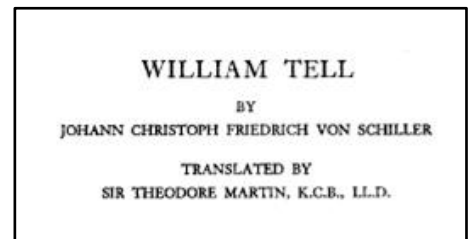
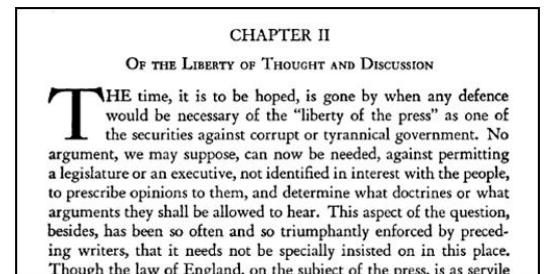
[28-PDF](#) - [28-Kindle](#) - [28-EPUB](#) - [28-Read Online](#) - 22.3M

29. Voyage of the Beagle, Darwin

The Voyage of the Beagle, by Charles Darwin
[29-PDF](#) - [29-Kindle](#) - [29-EPUB](#) - [29-Read Online](#) - 26.5M

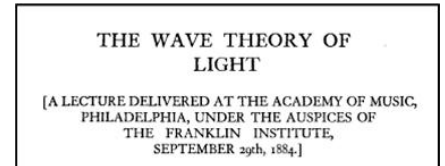


Apotheosis of Homer



30. Faraday, Hermholtz, Kelvin, Newcomb, Etc.

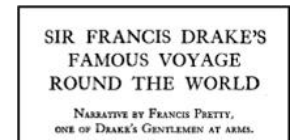
The Forces of Matter and The Chemical History of a Candle, by Michael Faraday
 On the Conservation of Force and Ice and Glaciers, by Hermann von Helmholtz
 The Wave Theory of Light and The Tides, by Lord Kelvin
 The Extent of the Universe, by Simon Newcomb
 Geographical Evolution, by Sir Archibald Geikie
[30-PDF](#) - [30-Kindle](#) - [30-EPUB](#) - [30-Read Online](#) - 17.4M

**31. Autobiography, Benvenuto Cellini**

The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini
[31-PDF](#) - [31-Kindle](#) - [31-EPUB](#) - [31-Read Online](#) - 22.3M

32. Literary and Philosophical Essays

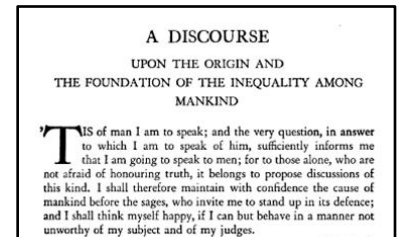
Essays, by Michel Eyquem de Montaigne
 Montaigne and What is a Classic?, by Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve
 The Poetry of the Celtic Races, by Ernest Renan
 The Education of the Human Race, by Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
 Letters upon the Aesthetic Education of Man, by Friedrich von Schiller
 Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Morals, by Immanuel Kant
 Byron and Goethe, by Giuseppe Mazzini
[32-PDF](#) - [32-Kindle](#) - [32-EPUB](#) - [32-Read Online](#) - 19.7M

**33. Voyages and Travels**

An account of Egypt from The Histories, by Herodotus
 Germany, by Tacitus
 Sir Francis Drake Revived, by Philip Nichols
 Sir Francis Drake's Famous Voyage Round the World, by Francis Pretty
 Drake's Great Armada, by Captain Walter Bigges
 Sir Humphrey Gilbert's Voyage to Newfoundland, by Edward Haies
 The Discovery of Guiana, by Sir Walter Raleigh
[33-PDF](#) - [33-Kindle](#) - [33-EPUB](#) - [33-Read Online](#) - 19.3M

**34. French and English Philosophers, Descartes, Voltaire, Rousseau, Hobbes**

Discourse on Method, by René Descartes
 Letters on the English, by Voltaire
 On the Inequality among Mankind, by Jean Rousseau
 Profession of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar, by Jean Rousseau
 Of Man, Being the First Part of Leviathan, by Thomas Hobbes
[34-PDF](#) - [34-Kindle](#) - [34-EPUB](#) - [34-Read Online](#) - 20.9M

**35. Chronicle and Romance, Froissart, Malory, Holinshead**

Chronicles, by Jean Froissart
 The Holy Grail, by Sir Thomas Malory
 A Description of Elizabethan England, by William Harrison
[35-PDF](#) - [35-Kindle](#) - [35-EPUB](#) - [35-Read Online](#) - 19.2M

36. Machiavelli, More, Luther

The Prince, by Niccolò Machiavelli
 The Life of Sir Thomas More, by William Roper
 Utopia, by Sir Thomas More
 The Ninety-Five Theses, To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, and On the Freedom of a Christian, by Martin Luther
[36-PDF](#) - [36-Kindle](#) - [36-EPUB](#) - [36-Read Online](#) - 19.5M



Luther – Diet of Worms, 1521

37. Locke, Berkeley, Hume

Some Thoughts Concerning Education, by John Locke
 Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous in

Opposition to Sceptics and Atheists, by George Berkeley
 An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, by David Hume
[37-PDF](#) - [37-Kindle](#) - [37-EPUB](#) - [37-Read Online](#) - 21.3M



The Right Rev. George Berkeley
 Lord Bishop of Cloyne, Ireland

38. Harvey, Jenner, Lister, Pasteur

The Oath of Hippocrates
 Journeys in Diverse Places, by Ambroise Paré
 On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals, by William Harvey
 The Three Original Publications on Vaccination Against Smallpox, by Edward Jenner
 The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever, by Oliver Wendell Holmes
 On the Antiseptic Principle of the Practice of Surgery, by Joseph Lister
 Scientific papers, by Louis Pasteur
 Scientific papers, by Charles Lyell
[38-PDF](#) - [38-Kindle](#) - [38-EPUB](#) - [38-Read Online](#) - 20.4M

39. Famous Prefaces

[39-PDF](#) - [39-Kindle](#) - [39-EPUB](#) - [39-Read Online](#) - 21.9M

40. English Poetry 1: Chaucer to Gray

[40-PDF](#) - [40-Kindle](#) - [40-EPUB](#) - [40-Read Online](#) - 13.7M

41. English Poetry 2: Collins to Fitzgerald

[41-PDF](#) - [41-Kindle](#) - [41-EPUB](#) - [41-Read Online](#) - 15.0M

42. English Poetry 3: Tennyson to Whitman

[42-PDF](#) - [42-Kindle](#) - [42-EPUB](#) - [42-Read Online](#) - 14.9M

43. American Historical Documents

[43-PDF](#) - [43-Kindle](#) - [43-EPUB](#) - [43-Read Online](#) - 22.0M

44. Sacred Writings 1

Confucian: The sayings of Confucius
 Hebrew: Job, Psalms, and Ecclesiastes
 Christian I: Luke and Acts
[44-PDF](#) - [44-Kindle](#) - [44-EPUB](#) - [44-Read Online](#) - 19.2M

45. Sacred Writings 2

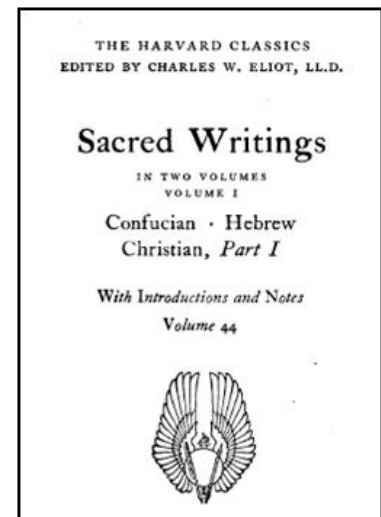
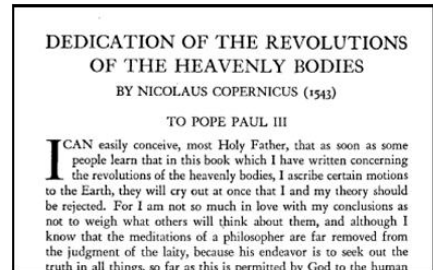
Christian II: Corinthians I and II and hymns
 Buddhist: Writings
 Hindu: The Bhagavad-Gita
 Mohammedan: Chapters from the Koran
[45-PDF](#) - [45-Kindle](#) - [45-EPUB](#) - [45-Read Online](#) - 20.2M

46. Elizabethan Drama 1

Edward the Second, by Christopher Marlowe
 Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth, and The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
[46-PDF](#) - [46-Kindle](#) - [46-EPUB](#) - [46-Read Online](#) - 16.4M

47. Elizabethan Drama 2

The Shoemaker's Holiday, by Thomas Dekker
 The Alchemist, by Ben Jonson
 Philaster, by Beaumont and Fletcher
 The Duchess of Malfi, by John Webster
 A New Way to Pay Old Debts, by Philip Massinger
[47-PDF](#) - [47-Kindle](#) - [47-EPUB](#) - [47-Read Online](#) - 16.2M



Shakespeare and friends

48. Thoughts and Minor Works, Pascal

Thoughts, letters, and minor works, by Blaise Pascal

[48-PDF](#) - [48-Kindle](#) - [48-EPUB](#) - [48-Read Online](#) - 18.6M

49. Epic and Saga

Beowulf

The Song of Roland

The Destruction of Dá Derga's Hostel

The Story of the Volsungs and Niblungs

[49-PDF](#) - [49-Kindle](#) - [49-EPUB](#) - [49-Read Online](#) - 15.4M

50. Introduction, Reader's Guide, Indexes

[50-PDF](#) - [50-Kindle](#) - [50-EPUB](#) - [50-Read Online](#) - 25.4M

51. Lectures

The last volume contains sixty lectures introducing and summarizing the covered fields: history, poetry, natural science, philosophy, biography, prose fiction, criticism and the essay, education, political science, drama, travelogues, and religion.

[51-PDF](#) - [51-Kindle](#) - [51-EPUB](#) - [51-Read Online](#) - 21.6M

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