Book Summarys

**The Mayor of Casterbridge (Thomas Hardy)**

The book is a story on Mr. Henchard he works as a hay trusser and also is a drunk he sells her wife(Susan) to someone(Newson) later he regrets this and makes a pact that he won’t drink until he finds her wife, he later moves to Casterbridge where he becomes the Mayor of the Town, Susan comes to Casterbridge in search of Henchard after hearing rumors about him he finds him in the Three Mariners, where we also meet Donald Farfrae, as the story goes on he admits unto Henchard that she is his wife and that she has a daughter with him(Elizabeth Jane). Mr. Farfrae and Henchard meet after Donald assisted him in solving a problem with the bread issue, they become good friends and with time Mr Henchard grows fond of Farfrae as a very good friend of his, whom he confides over his personal life even about his second wife (Lucetta) and how he was confused about his situation. Susan, later, dies quietly on one Sunday morning, she leaves a letter behind to Henchard, stating that Elizabeth Jane is not his daughter and that her father is Mr. Newson, Henchard is devastated by this news and keeps it a secret from Elizabeth Jane. Lucetta returns to town to meet Henchard, the town grows fond of Donald Farfrae with his ability to solve its problems and sees no need for Mr Henchard anymore, Donald meets Lucetta, and they tend to spend time together and Lucetta’s feelings for Henchard waver of and grows fondly of Farfrae. Henchard is consumed by jealousy and anger as Donald takes his wife and his position in the council of members of Casterbridge and later the mayor, he becomes poor that he even sells his house, he breaks his oath and is back to being a drunk and one day he makes a scene in front of the whole city. He picks up a fight with Donald after the scene and he bests him during the fight later he feels so guilty that he just wants to apologize to Donald Henchard threatens to reveal their secret, but Lucetta meets him at the Ring and begs for his mercy. However, Jopp reveals the secret instead. The villager’s public ally shame Lucetta with the skimming on and she eventual dies from the emotional strain of possibly losing her husband's love. Mr. Newson comes to Casterbridge in search of Elizabeth and finds Mr. Henchard when he asks him about her, he says that Elizabeth Jane is dead, yet she was in the house taking a nap, this lie keeps haunting Henchard and he is afraid of Newson returning and finding out that it is a lie. He says goodbye unto Elizabeth Jane telling her not to forget about him and to remember him and that it wasn’t of the fact that Donald has asked for his hand in marriage. He leaves Casterbridge and becomes a hay trusser again, Elizabeth finds out the truth about his father and becomes angry at Henchard and knew why he left, later on, Elizabeth gets married to Donald and Henchard comes to watch the wedding he meets Elizabeth during the wedding but she is so angry at her that she cant forgive him, he leaves feeling so alone, Henchard dies and writes a will that Elizabeth Jane should not be notified of his death, but she becomes of his death

**Fifty shades of Grey (E. L. James)**

The book is a story of the love of Christian Grey and Anastacia steel, Anna meets Christian to interview him of an article for the school, she is taken with him just as she enters his office and so is Christian, after the past few days her mind keeps on lingering on the memories of Christian and one day as she was working she meets Christian, she helps him to access a few items in the hardware store and Christian asks him whether she did get everything from the article, Anna tells him that her friend whom the article belonged to had a hard time getting a photo of him, Christian tells her if she would like an original he would be willing to do that, he gives her his number. Anna calls Christian later on during the day arranging for the shoot at the hotel he is staying at, the following day after the shoot Christian asks Anna out for a cup of coffee and she agrees, while having coffee Anna notices how Christian tends not to open up about his life, they have a good time until when Christian asks him where she is incurable romantic which he admits to, Christian says that he cant do this with Anna and that she should steer clear away from him, Anna leaves him feeling torn up emotionally, for the past few days she thinks about Christian and one day when she is out celebrating the finishing of campus with her friend (Kate ), he calls Christian drunk thanking him for the books that he sent, but he already has copies of those, Christian asks for his whereabouts but Anna fails to mention, she tells Christian how he hurt him Christian notices that she is drunk and gets upset , he tracks for Annas location via her phone, he comes and picks her up and takes her to his hotel the next morning she wakes up and notices she is not in her bed and exactly notices that she is in Christians room, Christian enters the room after coming from a run and asks Christians whether they had sex. Christian tells Anna that they didn’t, and they just slept. Christian tells Anna why he can’t be with her and that he doesn’t do relationships, and that his relationship is usually singular, Anna asks him to enlighten him but he fails, he asks him to meet him today after work, they meet later on and Christian flies Anna to Seattle where he stays (Escala). Anna is impressed with his house, Christian reveals his playroom to Anna after warning him that she can leave if she pleases if she would like to, she enters the room shocked not saying anything to Christian until he asks Christian whether he is a sadist, he says no and says that he is a dominant and he does this with women who let him too. Later on, when discussing the NDA that Anna was to go through in order to start their relationship, Anna admits o being a virgin, Christian is shocked asking why as he knew that men must throw themselves around him, and he says never the ones he likes. Christians rectify the situation and have sex with her. Anna takes her time to think about the agreement to the terms until

**The Great Gatsby (F Scott Fitzgerald)** (May - August 2022)

We see the story from Nick’s point of view he moves to the mid-west selling bonds, and Nick later dates Jordan Baker in the book Jay Gatsby is a self-famed man in the first chapters he is portrayed to be rich, and his descendants (mid-western San-Fransisco), he was in the army, studied at Oxford University, and his neighbours admired his wealth (cars, house, champagne-drenched parties). Jay Gatsby is in love with Daisy Buchanan she is the wife of Tom Buchanan, she doesn’t love Tom and only married him after Gatsby returned to the war, on the night of her wedding day she drank herself into numbness to marrying Tom she is faithful to Tom, but Tom is unfaithful he has a mistress Miss Wilson (Myrtle) wife to Mr. Wilson. Jay Gatsby is just a name that he was given by Cody his name is James Gatz who was from a farm in North Dakota, his family wasn’t rich he acquired the wealth from Dan Cody, a wealthy copper mogul, one day when Cody went out with his boat Jay rowed out to warn him about an impending storm. The grateful Cody took young Gatz, who gave his name as Jay Gatsby, on board his yacht as his personal assistant. Jay Gatsby wasn’t a drunk as he would watch Cody from the effects of alcohol. Jay Gatz couldn’t marry Daisy because he wasn’t rich. Nick is invited to lunch by Gatsby where he meets Mr. Wolfsheim, Gatsby tells Nick to invite Daisy for coffee and he does when she comes Nick leaves them alone, Daisy is given a tour of Gatsby’s mansion she cries over the expensive shirts as she says she has never seen them before, from then on she starts to come to see Gatsby and they have an affair. Gatsby and Nick go to Toms house where Daisy admits to Tom that she never loved him and that she always loved Gatsby, Tom says that its all nonsense and that Gatsby is a criminal and that he had him investigated and Gatsby and Wolfsheim bought side street drug store and sold grain alcohol over the counter. Daisy breaks down and says it’s not really true that she never loved Tom, Tom sees that he has won and he sends Daisy and Gatsby to drive home together on the way back Nick, Tom and Jordan discover there has been an accident and that Myrtle has been hit and killed by Gatsby’s car. Gatsby explains that Daisy was the one driving the car and he’s covering up for her. Myrtle’s husband(Wilson) who owns the gas station tracks down the car that hit her wife, Tom tells him that the yellow car belonged to Gatsby and he goes to Gatsby’s house where he finds him floating in the pool and shoots him and then shoots himself using his rifle. Nick tries to get people to come to the funeral but hardly anyone comes and Meyer Wolfsheim says that “ Let us try to show our friendship for a man when he is alive and not when he is dead” Gatsby’s father comes to the funeral (Henry Gatz) he marvels at his son’s house and he shows Nick a book with a self-improvement schedule that belonged to Gatsby. Nick breaks up with Jordan Baker over the phone and moves back to Midwest.

Gatsby dies because he’s obsessed with the past because he can’t let go of Daisy not because of their relationship now but because of the relationship they had back then when Gatsby was poor and in the army and had this beautiful rich girl fell for him. Part of Gatsby’s attraction to Daisy stems from what she represented for his money and the upper class he thinks by winning Daisy he can prove to himself that he belongs to the upper class. He embodies the American idea that “No matter where you come from even if you are poor you can become anything” but the book shows this idea is somewhat of a lie because Gatsby has to resort to crime to make money and he is murdered pursuing his dream

**Styling Words**

1. The quiet lights in the houses were humming out into the darkness...

Frankenstein Mary Shelley The Modern Prometheus(August 19th-October12th)

We see the story from Victor’s point of view he has very good parents who really love him as he’s the only one, they adopt Elizabeth whom Victor grows fond of they stay in Geneva where he makes a friend called Clerval is kind, loves writing poetry and are good friends with Victor, Victor tries to search for science that he can have a breakthrough in. He goes to the Ingolstadt campus where he becomes emersed in his studies. Henry comes to visit him one day asking him why he doesn’t write, Victor says that he had been immersed in School. Henry enrolled in the school( Oriental Languages), Victor Pursued to return home from the letters of his dad and cousin Elizabeth, he later finds out of the death of William he comes home with a very heavy heart from hearing this news, he is even shocked when he finds out that Justine Mortize faces the accusation of murdering William, Justine undergoes trial she confesses to the crime, believing that she will thereby gain salvation, but tells Elizabeth and Victor that she is innocent—and miserable. They remain convinced of her innocence, but Justine is soon executed. Victor becomes consumed with guilt, knowing that the monster he created and the cloak of secrecy within which the creation took place have now caused the deaths of two members of his family. She is executed, and Victor becomes increasingly melancholy that he even considers suicide but restrains himself. He wanders alone toward the valley of Chamonix, where he meets the creature he had created daemon, the creature beseeches him to go back to his hut, where he shares with Victor how his life has been so far and how he has struggled to survive with a man while living in the cottages. He saw how man was caring, and kind and also how man feared him as whenever he approached him they would end up running away because of his hideous face he was 8 feet tall and not good-looking, he learnt man’s methods of how to read and write his language, he, later on, becomes very angry about his creator Victor why would someone create him to live a world of isolation, a world where he couldn’t talk to anyone and people judged before they could even get to know him. He seeks revenge on his creator (Victor) he travels all the way to Geneva where Victor was, he travels during the night in order to avoid being seen by men, when he arrives, he visits a ban whereby he meets William and kills him once he discovers that there is a connection to Frankenstein, the creature implants false evidence at Justine Mortize making him look like the murderer. He hides in the caves he finishes narrating the story to Victor urging him to please make him a partner and making an oath that he will never disrupt man ever again and that he will stay in the woods away from the man. Victor agrees and he returns with Henry, his father tells him how he thinks that he and his cousin are to be wed, Victor isn’t so ecstatic about this he goes back to school while visiting England. After some time the daemon visits Victor asking whether he considered his offer, but victor does not agree to it at all. The daemon says that he will be with Victor on his wedding night, these words haunt Victor over the period of time and cuts himself from his family and Elizabeth. Later on, Elizabeth sends him a letter asking how he is fairing and asks him whether his heart belongs to another considering his so many travels, she tells Victor that he shouldn’t reply but when he comes back to Geneva and sees a smile she would know he is fine. They, later on, get married on their honeymoon Victor is so afraid and doesn’t even sleep with his wife remembering the daemon’s promise, the daemon kills Elizabeth and later on Victor’s Dad too he promises himself that he will avenge their death. He goes in search of the daemon in the north but he doesn’t get to keep this promise as he later dies while on the mission before he died he met There  [Walton](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/character/robert-walton/) and tells him his story. He entreats Walton to continue his search for vengeance after he is dead. Walton then regains control of the narrative, continuing the story in the form of further letters to his sister. He tells her that he believes in the truth of Victor’s story. He laments that he did not know Victor, who remains on the brink of death, in better days . One morning, Walton’s crewmen enter his cabin and beg him to promise that they will return to England if they break out of the ice in which they have been trapped ever since the night they first saw the monster’s sledge. Victor speaks up, however, and convinces the men that the glory and honor of their quest should be enough motivation for them to continue toward their goal. They are momentarily moved, but two days later they again entreat Walton, who consents to the plan of return.

Just before the ship is set to head back to England, Victor dies. Several days later, Walton hears a strange sound coming from the room in which Victor’s body lies. Investigating the noise, Walton is startled to find the monster, as hideous as Victor had described, weeping over his dead creator’s body. The monster begins to tell him of all his sufferings. He says that he deeply regrets having become an instrument of evil and that, with his creator dead, he is ready to die. He leaves the ship and departs into the darkness.

Children Of Virtue and Vengeance by Tomi Adeyimi(October 2022)

Zelie and Tzain burry baba at sea, magic is finally back in OrishaZélie struggles to use her magic during the ritual—she experiences flashbacks of the day Baba died, when Zélie inadvertently brought magic back to Orïsha not just for **[maji](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/terms/maji)** like her, but for some nobles now known as **[tîtáns](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/terms/titan)**. Zélie and Tzain, with the help of the mercenary **[Roën](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/characters/roen)**, plan to install their co-conspirator [**Amari**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/characters/amari), a tîtán and the runaway princess, on the throne with her mother [**Queen Nehanda**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/characters/queen-nehanda)’s blessing. Amari announces her rule when she learns that Nehanda is probably dead due to an attack on the capital city, Lagos, by a maji resistance group known as the **[Iyika](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/terms/iyika)**. During Amari’s announcement, however, Nehanda arrives, calls for Amari’s death, and reveals that she’s a wildly powerful tîtán—she almost brings a domed building crashing down on Amari and her group. Roën leaves when Amari can’t pay him for his help, and Zélie screeches that they have to leave the country. She mounts her **[lionaire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/terms/lionaire)**, [**Nailah**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/children-of-virtue-and-vengeance/characters), and gallops away, but flies off into a tree.

**Thomas Hardy Far from the Madding Crowd(December 2022-)**

The book begins by introducing a farmer called Gabriel “Oak ” he is 28 years old , a bachelor he has a farm of 200 sheep. Before being a farmer he worked as a bailiff, Gabrielle watches a young woman one night, Gabriel falls asleep in his shepherd's hut with the windows closed but the hearth still lit; he nearly dies from smoke inhalation but the woman breaks in and saves his life. He thanks her and asks her name; she refuses to tell him outright, challenging him to find it out for himself.

He later finds out that her name is Bathsheba Everdene , Gabrielle goes to Everdene aunt Mrs. Hurst as she asks for Everdene hands in marriage but the aunt tells him that she already has too many lovers, Gabrielle approaches Everdene and asks for her hand in marriage but she says no as she does not love him but Gabrielle tells her that he will always love her.

Bathsheba Everdeen leaves for weatherbury, He finds "that there is no regular path for getting out of love as there is for getting in" and loves her all the more once she is gone Gabrielle has two sheepdogs, a loyal and reliable one named George and George's son, who is still learning to herd sheep and is often too enthusiastic. One night, on one of the rare occasions when Gabriel goes to sleep in his own bed rather than in the fields, he wakes in the middle of the night to the sound of sheep bells clanging wildly. He goes outside and follows their footprints to the edge of a steep chalk pit: Looking in, he sees hundreds of dying sheep and mangled sheep carcasses; the younger dog has unwittingly chased them over the edge in his zeal. Ruined financially without his sheep, Gabriel can no longer farm. However, he does not immediately dwell upon his own misfortune: His first impulse is to pity the gentle ewes and their unborn lambs; his second impulse is to thank God that Bathsheba did not marry him, for he wishes only prosperity for her. He regretfully shoots the dog, pays his debts, and finds himself with nothing more than his clothes.

Chapter Six begins two months later at a hiring fair for farm laborers, including shepherds, bailiffs (men who run a farm and oversee the workers), carters, waggoners, and thatcher’s. Hardy describes the 200-300-man group as a whole and then focuses in on one particular man, who turns out to be Gabriel. After unsuccessfully advertising himself as a bailiff, he resignedly offers his shepherding skills for hire; still no one gives him a job. Finally, he earns a little money by playing his flute for the passers-by, and he decides to try another fair the next day.

He falls asleep in a wagon and wakes up to find it moving toward Weatherbury, where Bathsheba has settled. He allows it to take him most of the way and then slips out of the wagon unseen. Intending to continue on to Weatherbury on foot, he pauses when he sees a strange light and realizes something large is on fire in the distance. A crowd gathers helplessly around a straw-rick (a large stack of straw, wheat, or other grain) but Gabriel knows just what to do; without regard to his own safety, he coordinates the effort to extinguish the fire, climbing himself to the top of the rick to stamp out the flames with his shepherd's crook. In the meantime, two women watch the proceedings, one of whom is the mistress of the farm. Once Gabriel has put out the fire, she asks him how she can repay him. He approaches her and asks if she has need of a shepherd's services; when she lifts her veil, the two figures stare at each other in astonished recognition he sees that it Bathsheba Everdeene .

Bathsheba decides to hire him, and she asks him to speak to the bailiff, a bad-tempered man. As Gabriel walks through the forest to an inn called Warren's Malthouse, he comes across a "slim girl, rather thinly clad" who asks him not to say that he has seen her. As he reaches to give her a shilling, seeing that she is poor and worrying she may be cold, he touches her arm by mistake: We read, "Gabriel's fingers alighted on the young woman's wrist. It was beating with a throb of tragic intensity. He had frequently felt the same hard, quick beat in the femoral artery of his lambs when overdriven. It suggested a consumption too great of a vitality which, to judge from her figure and stature, was already too little." Gabriel passes her and joins the other farm laborer’s in the malthouse.

Bathsheba has a visitor Mr. Bold wood she requests an audience from Maryan Money(a servant to Bathsheba) the man is in his 40 a farmer at little Weatherbury. In this chapter, Bathsheba reveals that he has received a lot of proposals but has never said Yes.

Bathsheba holds a meeting informing his workers that he fired the bailiff and there wont be any as he will be overseeing that everything runs well, he conducts an analysis of the workers and assigns Gabriel an assistant known as Cain.

Chapter 11 reveals what has happened to Fanny Robin; here we see her arrive at the barracks of Sergeant Troy, many miles north of Weatherbury. The narrator describes the scene from a distance; we see Fanny as "a spot" almost lost in the snow. She throws snowballs at a window to get the sergeant's attention, and they have a brief conversation in which she reminds him that he has promised to marry her. He responds callously but agrees to uphold his promise. When he shuts his window, the other soldiers are laughing.

 the next chapter, it is market-day, and Bathsheba tries out her new role of farmer. The only woman in the group, she nonetheless comports herself well. The only man oblivious to her beauty is Mr. Bold wood, who does not look at her once, as Liddy remarks on the way home. When Bathsheba and Liddy are at home on Sunday, Bathsheba is about to send a valentine to a young boy when Liddy suggests that she send it to Bold wood instead. On a whim Bathsheba agrees to settle this by flipping a book and it settles on sending the letter to Bold wood and so she sends it with a seal saying MARRY ME. When Mr. Bold wood receives the letter he is in distress wondering who would have sent out the letter he opens Gabrielles letter thinking that it might have been his, Mr. Oak reads the letter from Fanny Robin saying that she is coming to Weatherbury and is also getting married to sergeant Troy , Mr. Bold wood asks Mr . Oak about his letter and whether he could decipher the owner of the letter. He tells him its Bathsheba Everdeen handwriting.

Bathsheba Everdene

1. Indecisive – She doesn’t really know what she wants
2. Non-conformist- She doesn’t conform to how things should be, things should only conform to her plans.

Gabrial Oak

1. Decisive- He knows what he wants, he straight up asks Bathsheba to marry him
2. Hardworking- while working at Bathsheba’s farm we see how hardworking he is.

Troy (sergeant)

1. Charming – He is bold about his affections towards Elizabeth Everdene, he behaves in a friendly, respectful and pleasant way that attracts Bathsheba.

Styles

1. His gaze was too strong to be received point blank
2. She colored with embarrassment

The Secret Garden By Frances Hodgson Burnet

The book unravels the magic of a secret garden, the book introduces us to Mary Lennox a child who is proud, looks down on her servants and always expects to do what is right by her. Her parents circurmed to their wounds due to Cholera. She later on goes to live with the uncle at Misslthwaite manor here she makes a friend Martha at first they didn’t kick of their friendship at a high note because back in India where she lived servants were used to doing what she says and not talking back at her. Mary later on discovers the gardens she spends most of her ideal time in the garden , through the book we see her change while she is going to the garden( she wanted to be up before the sun and see the day start, she becomes good friends with Martha, Her appetite improves (when she was in India she didn’t have much of an appetite)) She makes friends with Marthas brother (Dickon) who Mary always enjoys his company. Dickon is an animal charmer and has always had a way with animals as they have always been fond of him, Mary is fascinated by that and asks Dickon to help him with the Garden (Mary found the key to the secret Garden). One night Mary is awakened by screams she seeks out to see whom it is when she does she meets Colin the son to his Uncle(Mr. Craven ) , when Colin sees Mary she is amazed asking who she is they get to know each other and Mary promises her that she will come and visit the following day. When Mary tells Martha about Colin she tells Mary that she must never tell Mrs . Medlock(Housekeeper) that she knows as she might get in trouble for that, she described Colin as someone who is a loner(he always wished to be alone), unwell(Colin couldn’t walk and he stayed in a wheeler where he was pushed )Through the novel we see that Mary is a light that is shimmering in Colins life , Colin starts laughing, Colin stops causing tantrums, Colin starts going outside for fresh air. Colin meets Dickon whom Mary always spoke so highly about that one day he got jealous when Mary put off his plans to meet with Colin and decided to meet with Dickon. Colin met Dickon and was also fascinated with Dickon’s ability to charm animals he grew fond of him and they started spending time together the three of them( Mary, Colin and Dickon) . They introduced Colin to the Secret Garden where they spent most of there days, it is there where Colin discovered the magic, he had an unwavering faith that the garden had some sought of effect on him an effect which would want him to get better. Dickon showed him exercises that he learnt from the greatest wrestler on how to making your muscles grow, Colin would practice the exercises everyday he came to the garden and with time he was well able to walk, he got stronger every day to a point that he reached he decided to tell his Father, when his Dad saw him walking he was amazed and so was the entire household.

The garden lesson.

Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)