

*The Oxford Book of English Verse* are excellent places to start. These older anthologies should be supplemented by more modern ones—for example, Selden Rodman's *One Hundred Modern Poems*, a collection widely available in paperback that extends the notion of a lyric poem in interesting ways. Since reading lyric poetry requires special skill, we would also recommend any of several available handbooks on the subject—for example, Mark Van Doren's *Introduction to Poetry*, an anthology that also contains short discussions of how to read many famous lyrics.

We have listed the books by author and title, but we have not attempted to indicate a publisher or a particular edition. Almost every work on the list is available in some form, and many are available in several editions, both paperback and hard cover. However, we have indicated which authors and titles are included in two sets that we ourselves have edited. *Titles* included in *Great Books of the Western World* are identified by a single asterisk; *authors* represented in *Gateway to the Great Books* are identified by a double asterisk.

1. Homer (9th century B.C.?)  
     \**Iliad*  
     \**Odyssey*
2. The Old Testament
3. Aeschylus (c. 525–456 B.C.)  
     \*Tragedies
4. Sophocles (c. 495–406 B.C.)  
     \*Tragedies
5. Herodotus (c. 484–425 B.C.)  
     \**History* (of the Persian Wars)
6. Euripides (c. 485–406 B.C.)  
     \*Tragedies  
     (esp. *Medea*, *Hippolytus*, *The Bacchae*)
7. Thucydides (c. 460–400 B.C.)  
     \**History of the Peloponnesian War*

8. Hippocrates (c. 460–377? B.C.)  
\*Medical writings
9. Aristophanes (c. 448–380 B.C.)  
\*Comedies  
(esp. *The Clouds*, *The Birds*, *The Frogs*)
10. Plato (c. 427–347 B.C.)  
\*Dialogues  
(esp. *The Republic*, *Symposium*, *Phaedo*, *Meno*, *Apology*, *Phaedrus*, *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Sophist*, *Theaetetus*)
11. Aristotle (384–322 B.C.)  
\*Works  
(esp. *Organon*, *Physics*, *Metaphysics*, *On the Soul*, *The Nichomachean Ethics*, *Politics*, *Rhetoric*, *Poetics*)
12. \*\*Epicurus (c. 341–270 B.C.)  
*Letter to Herodotus*  
*Letter to Menoeceus*
13. Euclid (fl.c. 300 B.C.)  
\**Elements (of Geometry)*
14. Archimedes (c. 287–212 B.C.)  
\*Works  
(esp. *On the Equilibrium of Planes*, *On Floating Bodies*, *The Sand-Reckoner*)
15. Apollonius of Perga (fl.c. 240 B.C.)  
\**On Conic Sections*
16. \*\*Cicero (106–43 B.C.)  
Works  
(esp. *Orations*, *On Friendship*, *On Old Age*)
17. Lucretius (c. 95–55 B.C.)  
\**On the Nature of Things*
18. Virgil (70–19 B.C.)  
\*Works
19. Horace (65–8 B.C.)  
Works  
(esp. *Odes and Epodes*, *The Art of Poetry*)
20. Livy (59 B.C.–A.D. 17)  
*History of Rome*

21. Ovid (43 B.C.—A.D. 17)  
Works  
(esp. *Metamorphoses*)
22. \*\*Plutarch (c. 45–120)  
*\*Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans*  
*Moralia*
23. \*\*Tacitus (c. 55–117)  
*\*Histories*  
*\*Annals*  
*Agricola*  
*Germania*
24. Nicomachus of Gerasa (fl.c. 100 A.D.)  
*\*Introduction to Arithmetic*
25. \*\*Epictetus (c. 60–120)  
*\*Discourses*  
*Encheiridion (Handbook)*
26. Ptolemy (c. 100–178; fl. 127–151)  
*\*Almagest*
27. \*\*Lucian (c. 120–c. 190)  
Works  
(esp. *The Way to Write History*,  
*The True History*, *The Sale of Creeds*)
28. Marcus Aurelius (121–180)  
*\*Meditations*
29. Galen (c. 130–200)  
*\*On the Natural Faculties*
30. The New Testament
31. Plotinus (205–270)  
*\*The Enneads*
32. St. Augustine (354–430)  
Works  
(esp. *On the Teacher*, *\*Confessions*,  
*\*The City of God*, *\*Christian Doctrine*)
33. *The Song of Roland* (12th century?)
34. *The Nibelungenlied* (13th century)  
(The *Völsunga Saga* is the Scandinavian version  
of the same legend.)

35. *The Saga of Burnt Njal*
36. St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274)  
    *\*Summa Theologica*
37. \*\*Dante Alighieri (1265–1321)  
    Works  
    (esp. *The New Life, On Monarchy,*  
    *\*The Divine Comedy*)
38. Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340–1400)  
    Works  
    esp. *\*Troilus and Criseyde,*  
    *\*Canterbury Tales*)
39. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)  
    *Notebooks*
40. Niccolò Machiavelli (1469–1527)  
    *\*The Prince*  
    *Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy*
41. Desiderius Erasmus (c. 1469–1536)  
    *The Praise of Folly*
42. Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543)  
    *\*On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*
43. Sir Thomas More (c. 1478–1535)  
    *Utopia*
44. Martin Luther (1483–1546)  
    *Three Treatises*  
    *Table-Talk*
45. François Rabelais (c. 1495–1553)  
    *\*Gargantua and Pantagruel*
46. John Calvin (1509–1564)  
    *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
47. Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592)  
    *\*Essays*
48. William Gilbert (1540–1603)  
    *\*On the Loadstone and Magnetic Bodies*
49. Miguel de Cervantes (1547–1616)  
    *\*Don Quixote*
50. Edmund Spenser (c. 1552–1599)  
    *Prothalamion*  
    *The Faërie Queene*

51. \*\*Francis Bacon (1561–1626)
  - Essays*
  - \**Advancement of Learning*
  - \**Novum Organum*
  - \**New Atlantis*
52. William Shakespeare (1564–1616)
  - \**Works*
53. \*\*Galileo Galilei (1564–1642)
  - The Starry Messenger*
  - \**Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences*
54. Johannes Kepler (1571–1630)
  - \**Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*
  - \**Concerning the Harmonies of the World*
55. William Harvey (1578–1657)
  - \**On the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals*
  - \**On the Circulation of the Blood*
  - \**On the Generation of Animals*
56. Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)
  - \**The Leviathan*
57. René Descartes (1596–1650)
  - \**Rules for the Direction of the Mind*
  - \**Discourse on Method*
  - \**Geometry*
  - \**Meditations on First Philosophy*
58. John Milton (1608–1674)
  - Works*
  - (esp. \*the minor poems, \**Areopagitica*,  
\**Paradise Lost*, \**Samson Agonistes*)
59. \*\*Molière (1622–1673)
  - Comedies*
  - (esp. *The Miser*, *The School for Wives*,  
*The Misanthrope*, *The Doctor in Spite of Him-*  
*self*, *Tartuffe*)
60. Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)
  - \**The Provincial Letters*
  - \**Pensées*
  - \**Scientific treatises*

61. Christiaan Huygens (1629–1695)  
    *\*Treatise on Light*
62. Benedict de Spinoza (1632–1677)  
    *\*Ethics*
63. John Locke (1632–1704)  
    *\*Letter Concerning Toleration*  
    \*\*“Of Civil Government” (second treatise in  
    *Two Treatises on Government*)  
    *\*Essay Concerning Human Understanding*  
    *Thoughts Concerning Education*
64. Jean Baptiste Racine (1639–1699)  
    Tragedies  
    (esp. *Andromache*, *Phaedra*)
65. Isaac Newton (1642–1727)  
    *\*Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*  
    *\*Optics*
66. Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz (1646–1716)  
    *Discourse on Metaphysics*  
    *New Essays Concerning Human Understanding*  
    *Monadology*
67. \*\*Daniel Defoe (1660–1731)  
    *Robinson Crusoe*
68. \*\*Jonathan Swift (1667–1745)  
    *A Tale of a Tub*  
    *Journal to Stella*  
    *\*Gulliver’s Travels*  
    *A Modest Proposal*
69. William Congreve (1670–1729)  
    *The Way of the World*
70. George Berkeley (1685–1753)  
    *\*Principles of Human Knowledge*
71. Alexander Pope (1688–1744)  
    *Essay on Criticism*  
    *Rape of the Lock*  
    *Essay on Man*
72. Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu (1689–  
    1755)  
    *Persian Letters*

72. Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, *continued*  
     *\*Spirit of Laws*
73. \*\*Voltaire (1694–1778)  
     *Letters on the English*  
     *Candide*  
     *Philosophical Dictionary*
74. Henry Fielding (1707–1754)  
     *Joseph Andrews*  
     *\*Tom Jones*
75. \*\*Samuel Johnson (1709–1784)  
     *The Vanity of Human Wishes*  
     *Dictionary*  
     *Rasselas*  
     *The Lives of the Poets*  
     (esp. the essays on Milton and Pope)
76. \*\*David Hume (1711–1776)  
     *Treatise of Human Nature*  
     *Essays Moral and Political*  
     *\*An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*
77. \*\*Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778)  
     *\*On the Origin of Inequality*  
     *\*On Political Economy*  
     *Emile*  
     *\*The Social Contract*
78. Laurence Sterne (1713–1768)  
     *\*Tristram Shandy*  
     *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy*
79. Adam Smith (1723–1790)  
     *The Theory of the Moral Sentiments*  
     *\*Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the*  
         *Wealth of Nations*
80. \*\*Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)  
     *\*Critique of Pure Reason*  
     *\*Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of*  
         *Morals*  
     *\*Critique of Practical Reason*  
     *\*The Science of Right*  
     *\*Critique of Judgment*

80. Immanuel Kant, *continued*  
*Perpetual Peace*
81. Edward Gibbon (1737–1794)  
*\*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*  
*Autobiography*
82. James Boswell (1740–1795)  
*Journal*  
(esp. *London Journal*)  
*\*Life of Samuel Johnson LL.D.*
83. Antoine Laurent Lavoisier (1743–1794)  
*\*Elements of Chemistry*
84. John Jay (1745–1829), James Madison (1751–1836),  
and Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804)  
*\*Federalist Papers*  
(together with the *\*Articles of Confederation*,  
the *\*Constitution of the United States*, and the  
*\*Declaration of Independence*)
85. Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832)  
*Introduction to the Principles of Morals and*  
*Legislation*  
*Theory of Fictions*
86. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832)  
*\*Faust*  
*Poetry and Truth*
87. Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768–1830)  
*\*Analytical Theory of Heat*
88. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770–1831)  
*Phenomenology of Spirit*  
*\*Philosophy of Right*  
*\*Lectures on the Philosophy of History*
89. William Wordsworth (1770–1850)  
*Poems*  
(esp. *Lyrical Ballads*, *Lucy poems*, *sonnets*;  
*The Prelude*)
90. Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)  
*Poems*  
(esp. “*Kubla Khan*,”  
*Rime of the Ancient Mariner*)



90. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *continued*  
*Biographia Literaria*
91. Jane Austen (1775–1817)  
*Pride and Prejudice*  
*Emma*
92. \*\*Karl von Clausewitz (1780–1831)  
*On War*
93. Stendhal (1783–1842)  
*The Red and the Black*  
*The Charterhouse of Parma*  
*On Love*
94. George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788–1824)  
*Don Juan*
95. \*\*Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)  
*Studies in Pessimism*
96. \*\*Michael Faraday (1791–1867)  
*Chemical History of a Candle*  
*\*Experimental Researches in Electricity*
97. \*\*Charles Lyell (1797–1875)  
*Principles of Geology*
98. Auguste Comte (1798–1857)  
*The Positive Philosophy*
99. \*\*Honoré de Balzac (1799–1850)  
*Père Goriot*  
*Eugénie Grandet*
100. \*\*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)  
*Representative Men*  
*Essays*  
*Journal*
101. \*\*Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)  
*The Scarlet Letter*
102. \*\*Alexis de Tocqueville (1805–1859)  
*Democracy in America*
103. \*\*John Stuart Mill (1806–1873)  
*A System of Logic*  
*\*On Liberty*  
*\*Representative Government*  
*\*Utilitarianism*

103. John Stuart Mill, *continued*  
*The Subjection of Women*  
*Autobiography*
104. \*\*Charles Darwin (1809–1882)  
*\*The Origin of Species*  
*\*The Descent of Man*  
*Autobiography*
105. \*\*Charles Dickens (1812–1870)  
 Works  
 (esp. *Pickwick Papers*, *David Copperfield*,  
*Hard Times*)
106. \*\*Claude Bernard (1813–1878)  
*Introduction to the Study of Experimental*  
*Medicine*
107. \*\*Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)  
*Civil Disobedience*  
*Walden*
108. Karl Marx (1818–1883)  
*\*Capital*  
 (together with the *\*Communist Manifesto*)
109. George Eliot (1819–1880)  
*Adam Bede*  
*Middlemarch*
110. \*\*Herman Melville (1819–1891)  
*\*Moby Dick*  
*Billy Budd*
111. \*\*Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821–1881)  
*Crime and Punishment*  
*The Idiot*  
*\*The Brothers Karamazov*
112. \*\*Gustave Flaubert (1821–1880)  
*Madame Bovary*  
*Three Stories*
113. \*\*Henrik Ibsen (1828–1906)  
 Plays  
 (esp. *Hedda Gabler*, *A Doll's House*,  
*The Wild Duck*)

114. \*\*Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910)
  - \**War and Peace*
  - Anna Karenina*
  - What Is Art?*
  - Twenty-three Tales*
115. \*\*Mark Twain (1835–1910)
  - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
  - The Mysterious Stranger*
116. \*\*William James (1842–1910)
  - \**The Principles of Psychology*
  - The Varieties of Religious Experience*
  - Pragmatism*
  - Essays in Radical Empiricism*
117. \*\*Henry James (1843–1916)
  - The American*
  - The Ambassadors*
118. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)
  - Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
  - Beyond Good and Evil*
  - The Genealogy of Morals*
  - The Will to Power*
119. Jules Henri Poincaré (1854–1912)
  - Science and Hypothesis*
  - Science and Method*
120. Sigmund Freud (1856–1939)
  - \**The Interpretation of Dreams*
  - \**Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
  - \**Civilization and Its Discontents*
  - \**New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
121. \*\*George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950)
  - Plays (and Prefaces)
  - (esp. *Man and Superman*, *Major Barbara*,  
*Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Pygmalion*, *Saint Joan*)
122. \*\*Max Planck (1858–1947)
  - Origin and Development of the Quantum Theory*
  - Where Is Science Going?*
  - Scientific Autobiography*

123. Henri Bergson (1859–1941)  
*Time and Free Will*  
*Matter and Memory*  
*Creative Evolution*  
*The Two Sources of Morality and Religion*
124. \*\*John Dewey (1859–1952)  
*How We Think*  
*Democracy and Education*  
*Experience and Nature*  
*Logic, the Theory of Inquiry*
125. \*\*Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947)  
*An Introduction to Mathematics*  
*Science and the Modern World*  
*The Aims of Education and Other Essays*  
*Adventures of Ideas*
126. \*\*George Santayana (1863–1952)  
*The Life of Reason*  
*Skepticism and Animal Faith*  
*Persons and Places*
127. Nikolai Lenin (1870–1924)  
*The State and Revolution*
128. Marcel Proust (1871–1922)  
*Remembrance of Things Past*
129. \*\*Bertrand Russell (1872–1970)  
*The Problems of Philosophy*  
*The Analysis of Mind*  
*An Inquiry into Meaning and Truth*  
*Human Knowledge; Its Scope and Limits*
130. \*\*Thomas Mann (1875–1955)  
*The Magic Mountain*  
*Joseph and His Brothers*
131. \*\*Albert Einstein (1879–1955)  
*The Meaning of Relativity*  
*On the Method of Theoretical Physics*  
*The Evolution of Physics* (with L. Infeld)
132. \*\*James Joyce (1882–1941)  
 "The Dead" in *Dubliners*

132. James Joyce, *continued*  
*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*  
*Ulysses*
133. Jacques Maritain (1882- )  
*Art and Scholasticism*  
*The Degrees of Knowledge*  
*The Rights of Man and Natural Law*  
*True Humanism*
134. Franz Kafka (1883-1924)  
*The Trial*  
*The Castle*
135. Arnold Toynbee (1889- )  
*A Study of History*  
*Civilization on Trial*
136. Jean Paul Sartre (1905- )  
*Nausea*  
*No Exit*  
*Being and Nothingness*
137. Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn (1918- )  
*The First Circle*  
*Cancer Ward*