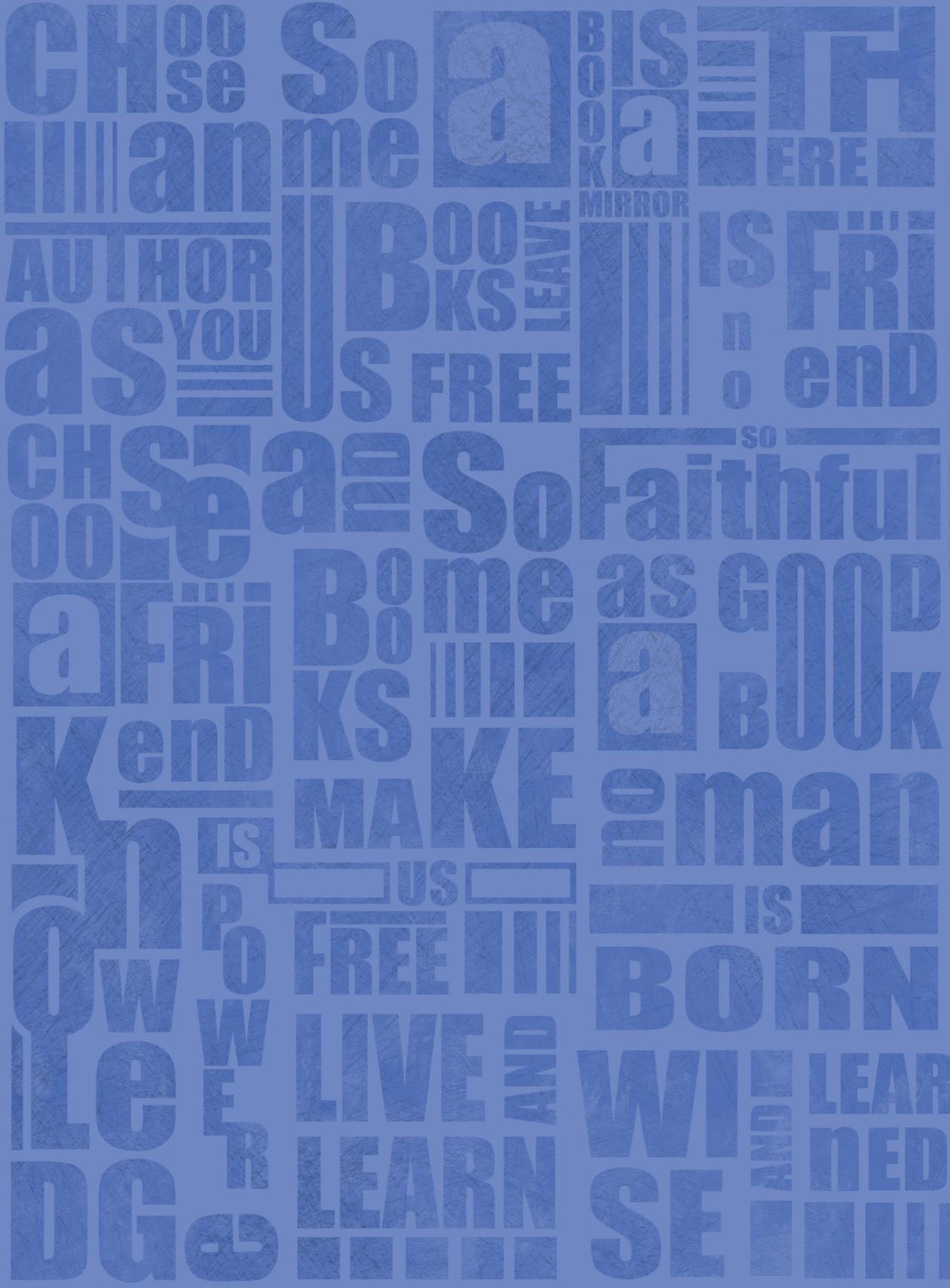




*Literary
Treasures:*

Well Worth Reading



CHOICE
WILL
AUTHOR
AS YOU

SOME
NAME
BOOKS
LEAVE

BIS
MIRRORED
HERE

AS YOU
END

BOOKS
FREE

IS
FRIDAY
END

CHOICE
FRIDAY
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SOME
BOOKS
MAKE
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SO
FAITHFUL
AS GOOD
A BOOK
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KNOWLEDGE
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IS
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Knowledge is power
Choose as your friend
Faithful as good
book

a book is a mirror
Some books leave us free
Choose as your friend
Faithful as good
book

a man is born
will learn and read
some books leave us free
Choose as your friend
Faithful as good
book

LITERARY TREASURES: WELL WORTH READING

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Ukraine
2026

UDC 82.09

Abstracts are not just a short anthology but a kind of a literature guide composed of brief reviews and analyses of the best works of literature. In this book you will find not only descriptions of plots and characters but also the author's contemplations about the works. This is a source of inspiration and knowledge for those eager to delve into the world of books.



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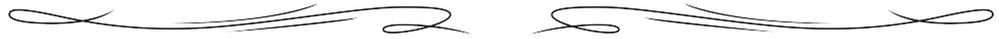
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Foreword

Dear readers! Welcome to the captivating world of literature, where words turn into colorful pictures. Here, we can travel through centuries, feel joy and sadness, and recognize ourselves in the characters. What was the world like millenniums before us? What did our forefathers wear, what did they eat, what did they think about? How did states emerge on the world map and disappear from it? How did the people's perception of the world change? Did the feelings experienced by men and women of the past centuries differ from the modern ones? How would we have learned about all those things if not for the books? Historical and medical treatises, novellas, odes, poems, and novels were written, ancient ballads, tales, and legends were recorded on papyrus scrolls, animal hides, and later on paper. It is thanks to books [nowadays also digital ones] that we can learn about the world and the people. Literary works reveal the secrets of nature and human relations, help us understand life and ourselves in the world around us, find answers to our questions; they make the reader well-rounded, interesting to communicate with, and capable of sizing up the situations in life.

Compiling a list of the best books requires both objectivity and subjectivity, as each of us has our own priorities. However, among the vast variety of literary works, there are some that stand out especially prominently, taking their rightful places in the history of literature and the readers' hearts. Here is a collection of masterpieces of different times and nations that have gotten the audience interested all over the world – from the classics to works by our contemporaries, which are capable of winning young people's hearts.

We are inviting you to set off on an amazing journey through the pages of these books. The magic of words will bring the characters close to us; the plots will be remembered for life.

So, let's go ahead with reading!

The Author



Douglas Noël Adams *The Hitchhiker's Guide
to the Galaxy*, 1979

Fantasy and humor are not a very common combination. Writer Douglas Noël Adams managed to combine them quite well, adding many unexpected plot twists to the book. His novel is space fiction. The protagonist Arthur Dent appears on the edge of a cosmic collapse abyss due to the demolition of his house and suddenly finds himself in the very center of the galaxy, where he experiences exciting adventures in the company of interstellar explorer Ford Prefect. Do you want to know what Pan-Galactic Gargle Blaster is? Read this comic fantasy novel and learn a lot more interesting things.

Agatha Christie *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920),
And Then There Were None (1939), *Murder on the Orient
Express* (1934), *Sleeping Murder* (1976), *The Murder at the
Vicarage* (1930), play *The Mousetrap* (1947)

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was the youngest of three children in the family. Later, she became known as Agatha Christie (the surname of her first husband) and became the world's most famous detective writer. During the First World War, Agatha worked as a nurse in a hospital and said that "this is one of the most useful professions a person can have." Later, she worked as a pharmacist, which helped her in writing as 83 crimes in her works were poisonings. In 1920, the novel (after long ordeals and publishers' refusals) *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was published. It was the beginning of a series of novels about Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. And in 1927, Miss Marple appeared, the prototype of which was Agatha's grandmother – without malice, according to the writer, but always expecting "the worst from everyone and everything, and with frightening regularity her expectations were justified." *And Then There Were None*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Sleeping Murder*, *Murder at the Vicarage*, the play *The Mousetrap*, and so on and so forth as they say. Who has not heard these names?! Who has not seen films based on them?! But honestly, it's more fun to read. Pick up any work by Agatha Christie – and you won't be able to put it down until you read it to the end.



Chingiz Aitmatov *Cassandra's Brand*, 1996

Millions of people have read such works by an intelligent and insightful person – the Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov, as *Jamila*, *White Steamer*, *The Scaffold*, and *The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years*. Short stories, stories, and novels are kind, compassionate, calling not only the Kyrgyz, but representatives of all nations not to forget that they are people and should behave like human beings; remember their roots; understand that they have to pay for all actions: for good and bad, for involvement and non-involvement, for devotion and betrayal, and for love and hatred.

In all of Aitmatov's works, there is his personal participation, the desire to protect kind, smart, honest, hard-working people from cunning characters, deceivers, and villains of all stripes, that is, predators. We already see prophecies in the works of the mid-twentieth century, based on seemingly ordinary everyday themes, everyday plots, but actually philosophical. The author foresaw future natural and human disasters; the collapse of the empire; wars started by the crazy Fuhrers of the new century. Aitmatov's latest novel, *Cassandra's Brand*, is quite unexpected for those familiar with his legacy. This is not only a philosophical work, but also a fantastic one. (Although, as we see, a lot of things that seemed science fiction became reality not so long ago). The plot intertwines the fates of an astronaut-geneticist who did not return to Earth, with the rest of the international team and an American futurologist. The scientist remaining in orbit conducts medical research and convincingly proves that humanity is facing a genetic catastrophe. He foresees the end of civilization due to the careless behavior of people, their inattention to themselves and nature, due to the insanity of many officials, military men, and presidents. Naturally, most earthlings do not want to believe in predictions and see the bad in themselves. The futurologist tries to understand the scientist's arguments and explain them to his fellow citizens.

The writer wants us who are living today to stop and think: Is this how we live? Are we killing ourselves?

In 2018, Kyrgyzstan and the literary world celebrated the 90th anniversary of the birth of Chingiz Aitmatov. His works have been published in 170 languages in 100 countries.



Chingiz Aitmatov *Stormy Station (And the Day Lasts Longer than a Century)*, 1980

The Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov, a humanist and a representative of the “sixties”, wrote about the life and history of his people. But it turned out that he wrote about everyone and for everyone. His works are read in Ukrainian, English, Russian, and Norwegian... Because honesty, diligence, respect for people, love for children, connection to one’s land and history are topics that are understandable to everyone. Aitmatov, who seemed to be a romantic in early works, acted as a “severe realist” in this novel. “If humankind does not learn to live in peace, it will perish,” said the writer. In the same way, it will not survive if it forgets its roots, history, tolerance, and mutual respect. All this is discussed in the novel *Stormy Station (The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years)*, in which reality is intertwined with legends, which is reminiscent of the works of Gogol and Marquez. “Everything on Earth has a price and should be accounted for.” These are the words of one of the characters and the message of the author himself. In the novel, he recalls a person’s responsibility for the fate of Earth. The road will be conquered by those who walk it, no matter how steep it is. And the main character Edigey goes along this road in spite of all obstacles.

Chingiz Aitmatov *The Scaffold*, 1986

The novel *The Scaffold* by the Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov was first published in 1986, in the wake of the so-called “era of perestroika.” However, it is still relevant today and has gone through more than one reprint in different languages. The novel was read not only by residents of all former Soviet republics but also far beyond. After all, Aitmatov, as always, turns to universal human values. It is a warning novel that touches on moral issues.

Avdiy Kallistratov, a former seminarian and the main character of the novel, embarks on a business trip at the request of the youth editors to gather information about anarchists who are collecting hemp. In the Moyukum savannah, life pits Avdiy against Boston Urkunchiev, an intelligent and practical man, inextricably linked with nature and understanding the essence of people – both friends and enemies. And throughout the entire story, Akbar’s she-wolf will be between them.



Obadiah is driven not only by professional duty but also by the desire to save the fallen and make them human again. Being naive, he sees the world only through the “light of good” and, without realizing it, becomes a tool in the hands of evil. Not understanding the role forced on him against his will, he again goes to the scaffold, beginning to fight this evil. Boston understands how difficult this task is.

Chingiz Aitmatov *The White Steamboat*, 1970

“Hello, White Steamer, it’s me!”, these are the words of a little boy that concludes the story *White Steamboat* by Chingiz Aitmatov. It’s a touching and tearful story about a child who finds himself in the incomprehensible, often cruel, and big world of adults, which feels even more so as the child is lonely. The little boy believes in fairy tales, in goodness, in a world where there is a kind Horned Mother Deer and a White Steamer. This is a story about opportunism, selfishness, and indifference, which deprives a person of humanity; as well as about the need for goodness, dreams, and beauty. Be sure to read this story!

Richard Aldington *Death of a Hero*, 1929

Richard Aldington is a prominent English writer of the twentieth century, who entered the literature thanks to the novel *Death of a Hero*, which immediately received recognition. This is the story of a young English artist, George Winterbourne, who joined the army at the start of the First World War. The story is told by an unnamed narrator who claims to have known George and served with him. The hero loses faith in war and its necessity and righteousness. After what he saw at the front, he ceases to understand his acquaintances in the rear, moreover, he is disappointed in his comrades. Aldington himself participated in the First World War, describing very accurately the events, the speech of the soldiers, and the mood. However, was the hero really a hero? With this novel, the writer accuses those who started the war and opposes the war itself.