



## Synopsis

A newly revised and updated guide to the worldâ™s best literatureâ "all at your fingertips. For discerning bibliophiles and readers who enjoy unforgettable classic literature, 1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die is a trove of reviews covering a century of memorable writing. Each work of literature featured here is a seminal work key to understanding and appreciating the written word. Addictive, browsable, knowledgeableâ "1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die is a boon companion for anyone who loves good writing and an inspiration for anyone who is just beginning to discover a love of books. Each entry is accompanied by an authoritative yet opinionated critical essay describing the importance and influence of the work in question. Also included are publishing history and career details about the authors, as well as reproductions of period dust jackets and book designs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Any time anyone, let alone a panel of over 100 international authors and critics, compiles a list, the end result is going to result in controversy. Whether it be sports, music, politics, foods, and yes, even books, disagreement will necessarily arise out of any list that claims to be final, definitive, or considered a "must"; and while this list has many faults- overabundance of European authors; no Styron, Helprin, Mitchell, Theroux, and others; no real clear guidelines as to why a handful of non-fiction sneak on the list- it is nonetheless a curious, frustrating, satisfying, but ultimately entertaining, read. I have been reading books off this list exclusively for the past 3 years, and yes,

there have been quite a few clunkers that in no way should have made this list (I'll protect the innocent for now- no titles!). Being disappointed in how bad they were was a bummer, but then reading the rationalization and defense of them in the book either brought laughs or slightly opened my eyes to different things. Either way- it wasn't boring. And because of this book, incredible masterpieces I did not even know were written- Gaddis' "The Recognitions", Roussel's "Impressions of Africa" among others- have completely changed my life and my appreciation of literature. And somewhere between genius and surprising failure, lie those books you know about but never read- "The Postman Always Rings Twice", "Gone with the Wind"- which now you may be inspired to read only discover how timeless and well-written they are. Not without its faults, this is a good read. It's a conversation starter, an excellent reference to literature, and a guide to great books that in my estimation, has an batting percentage well over .800. Worth the investment, IMO>

This book is probably going to gain the most interest from readers and people who like books, which therefore means that a good portion of this book is likely to be familiar. It is no surprise to see titles like Great Expectations, Jane Eyre, Pride & Prejudice, The Old Man & The Sea. Certainly if I wanted to look through "1001 Books You Have Never Heard Of" then I would have gone elsewhere, but even this book offers many selections that are obscure, rare, unheard of, but of equal literary value to titles with more fame (my favorite that I have found is Solitude by Victor Catala). My only disappointment is that I thought that the editors should have been a little more selective about the choice of authors and perhaps excluding more duplicates from the same author. It is frustrating to see multiple books (some authors even have more than two) from Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Dostoyevsky--readers are likely to have heard of these writers, and the selections listed should be the most important of his or her work. Now, as a reader, should I enjoy whatever I read by Dickens or Dostoyevsky then maybe I will go read more (by default reading the others listed) and if I do not, then I will probably move on to the next author. If this even that type of book to someone. If not a type of book to discover more books to read, then a great coffee table book. Either way, I found the selections to be limiting. Really, in the world of literature, 1001 is a very small number. Still, I enjoy having the book on my shelf. I have tabs in the pages of "books read" in one color (red) and books I want to read in another color. If I am interested in reading a particular book type or era, I go to this volume; they are organized by publication date--not by authors name; in the end I think this is an interesting and logical choice. Complete table of contents and indexes in case you are looking for something in particular.

I recently found out about this book via a Goodreads group. I like reading challenges and I think this will be a good way to challenge myself. I like to think of myself as a well-rounded reader, but there are many titles in this list that I had never heard of prior to purchasing the book. I did notice that it is all fiction books and doesn't include Shakespeare or Beowulf or Gilgamesh, so apparently verse and plays are not included either. I would like to see another list to include some of the other literary genres and not just fiction. I do like that the chosen titles come from around the world and are not just focused on British and American literature.

Some of these book titles are for someone who is going to be an English professor. I am a well read person. I've seen better lists. It's okay. This book goes way past the boundaries of Milton, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy & Proust. Knock yourself out with this list.

Although I will never read all 1001 books before I die, selecting books from this list is a great way to expand your literary horizons. I dinged it one star for not including plays and being a little too western-centric.

After reading this (yes, the whole book) I created my own list of 1001 books to read before I die, compiled from the classics and some newer popular titles (to replace the ones it looked like it was going to be impossible to get ahold of). I wrote it a few years ago and I've read 200 or so of the books on the list.

This book's title is misleading. It is not 1001 books from all areas of the world of books. It does not contain non-fiction. It does not contain the great religious classics of humanity. It focuses very much on imaginative literature from the year 1800 or so. It contains a disproportionate number of British works. It mixes up works of enormous value and significance with minor works very few have heard or will ever hear of. It does however try very hard to describe the works in a positive way, show their unique value. It too includes a vast variety of literary works from throughout the world. I used the book not only to refresh my memory of books I have read but also to learn about books that I had heard of, and was curious as to the character of. The book is enjoyable and interesting in this way. However I would again protest against the notion of 'must read before you die'. I have in many years of reading read a small percentage of these works, and there are very few I would call 'must reads'. Why is it always necessary to 'hype' things? This book involved a great effort by its editor who should be applauded for the work done. Most of the entries are very well written and provide

information and enjoyment as things in themselves.PS I must add something in strong favor of the book. I have been reading it now off and on and in small doses for about two months. I make discoveries of books that are new for me all the time. I take great pleasure in reading once again about books that I have read and thought about in the past. There is a great amount to learn here. The entries are usually very well- written if nonetheless scant.A valuable resource and a source of enjoyment despite its flaws.

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