

Other Languages Book List:

All of the following books were originally written in other languages, but have been translated into English. You can read them in English or their originally language if you are able. Enjoy!

1) Les Misérables / Victor Hugo / French

A famous 19th century novel following the lives of several French characters for 20 years in the early 19th century throughout the political instability and uproar of France.

2) The Canterbury Tales / Geoffrey Chaucer / Middle English

Though this is written in a form of English, it is an English that few would recognize. The Canterbury Tales follows the journey of a large group of pilgrims who are each supposed to tell a story on the way to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket and on the way back. Though not fully finished, the Canterbury Tales is considered to be an influential work in the world of Western literature.

3) The Outsider/Stranger / Albert Camus / French

An example of absurdist fiction, this existential book follows the life of the main character in two parts: before he kills without reason and the consequences resulting after the incident.

4) The Art of War / Sun Tzu / Chinese

A book completely devoted to military strategies and tactics, composing of thirteen chapters dedicated entirely to each strategy or tactic. Written in the 6th century, this book has been an influence on both Eastern and Western wars and businesses.

5) The Prince / Niccolò Machiavelli / Italian

Written by a political theorist whose main goal was stability of the state. Thus, morals sometimes had to be thrown out of the window to ensure a controlled nation. Considered to be an extreme book, it is Machiavelli's most remembered and one of his most influential.

6) Dr. Zhivago / Boris Leonidovich Pasternak / Russian

Based primarily during the Russian Revolution of 1917, this 20th century novel discusses life and how revolution can slowly destroy it.

7) Distant palaces / Abilio Estévez / Spanish

A novel following the Ulyssean journey of a middle-aged gay man who must find a home of his own once his apartment is scheduled to be demolished. Making friends with two other eccentrics, the three stand together against an intolerant city and deal with the chaotic life surrounding them.

8) Ángel guardián / Sara Paretsky / Spanish

Detective Vic Warshawski helps her two lonely and forgotten neighbours. Throughout the story, the struggles which the two neighbours experience as elderly persons are brought to light.

9) Unseen / Mari Jungstedt / Swedish

A mystery novel following the brutal murder of a woman and her dog, and the resulting serial killings thereafter.

10) Pig tales : a novel of lust and transformation / Marie Darrieussecq / French

A feminist fable of how a successful employee at a beauty parlor metamorphoses into a pig.

11) Daniel, half human, and the good Nazi / David Chotjewitz / German

In 1933, Hitler is coming to power and gaining popularity among the youth of Germany. But as Hitler rises, so does anti-Semitism. Daniel learns that he is half Jewish, making him half human and an enemy to the Hitler that he previously admired. Friendships are strained as Daniel struggles to deal with his now nightmarish home.

12) The death of Ivan Ilyich ; and the devil / Leo Tolstoy / Russian

Tolstoy follows the life of Ivan Ilyich whose life made no impression. Once gone Ilyich is forgotten, other than his position at his work which others desperately want. However, Tolstoy reveals that at the end of his life, Ilyich performed an act which allowed him to come to terms with his morality.

13) The unbearable lightness of being / Milan Kundera / Czech

"A young woman in love with a man torn between his love for her and his incorrigible womanizing; one of his mistresses and her humbly faithful lover - these are the two couples whose story is told in this novel."- Book Jacket

14) Memories of the unknown / Rutger Kopland / Dutch

A celebrated poetry book which involves simple language but not simple questions, no answers and universal themes.

15) Nameh haye asheghanehe yek payambar / Kahlil Gibran / Persian

[English title: Beloved prophet :the love letters of Kahlil Gibran and Mary Haskell.]

A compilation of the love letters of the very famous poet Kahlil Gibran and his correspondent Mary Haskell.

16) The prophet / by Kahlil Gibran

Originally written in English, this book was written by the Lebanese born American artist Kahlil Gibran. It is a book of 26 poetic essays surrounding the frame story of the prophet Almustafa who is about to board a ship to take him home after 12 years of living in the foreign city of Orphalese. Before boarding, he is stopped by a group of people and thus discusses life, the issues surrounding it and the human condition. Sequel: Garden of Prophet