

# Timeline of Classics

Historical Context for the Good and Great Books



*Teacher and Student Resource*

by  
Gail Ledbetter

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Institute for Excellence in Writing, L.L.C.

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On the two Contents pages, a given page number indicates a *first* page on which the general historical era is addressed. Every attempt has been made to list literature, a film, or a recording within its historical era. Students of history realize that sometimes the delineations of history into named eras are approximate, may overlap, and may vary, depending on the authority consulted.

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Sample

# Introduction

## What is this resource?

*Timeline of Classics: Historical Context for the Good and Great Books* reveals a panoramic view of world history. Chronologically indexed, these selected writings, biographies, plays, recordings, and films portray a history of mankind. Please note that while great care was taken in choosing the best of the best, parents and teachers should always *preview or listen in advance to resources*, especially video and audio materials. Created in a simple spreadsheet format, the columns of this resource present

- description/time period
- title of resource
- author
- approximate age/ability level

The timeline is divided into the following broad divisions of world history:

- Ancients
- The Middle Ages
- Renaissance and Reformation
- The Modern World

## How is it useful?

One mom summed it up this way: “You could actually organize all of your history and literature studies from elementary through high school using *Timeline of Classics* as your single guide.” Browse through the time period you are planning to study and highlight resources of interest. The book list is completely flexible and offers mere suggestions for age/ability levels to include: Elementary (E), Middle (M), and High School (H). By adding the date when a resource has been completed, students will have compiled a complete literature list, which can be recorded on a high school transcript.

## To whom is it useful?

Any student or teacher of history and literature can use this portable timeline. For those of us who think chronologically, *Timeline of Classics* provides point of reference for people, places, and events. This versatile reference guide can be used with any teaching style or curriculum. Save hours and hours of planning time and research ... it’s already been done for you!

Please visit our website at <http://timelineofclassics.com> for a detailed description of this one-of-a-kind resource. May *Timeline of Classics* lighten your load as a teacher and strengthen your heart as a student of the Good and Great Books.

*Gail Ledbetter*



# Ancients

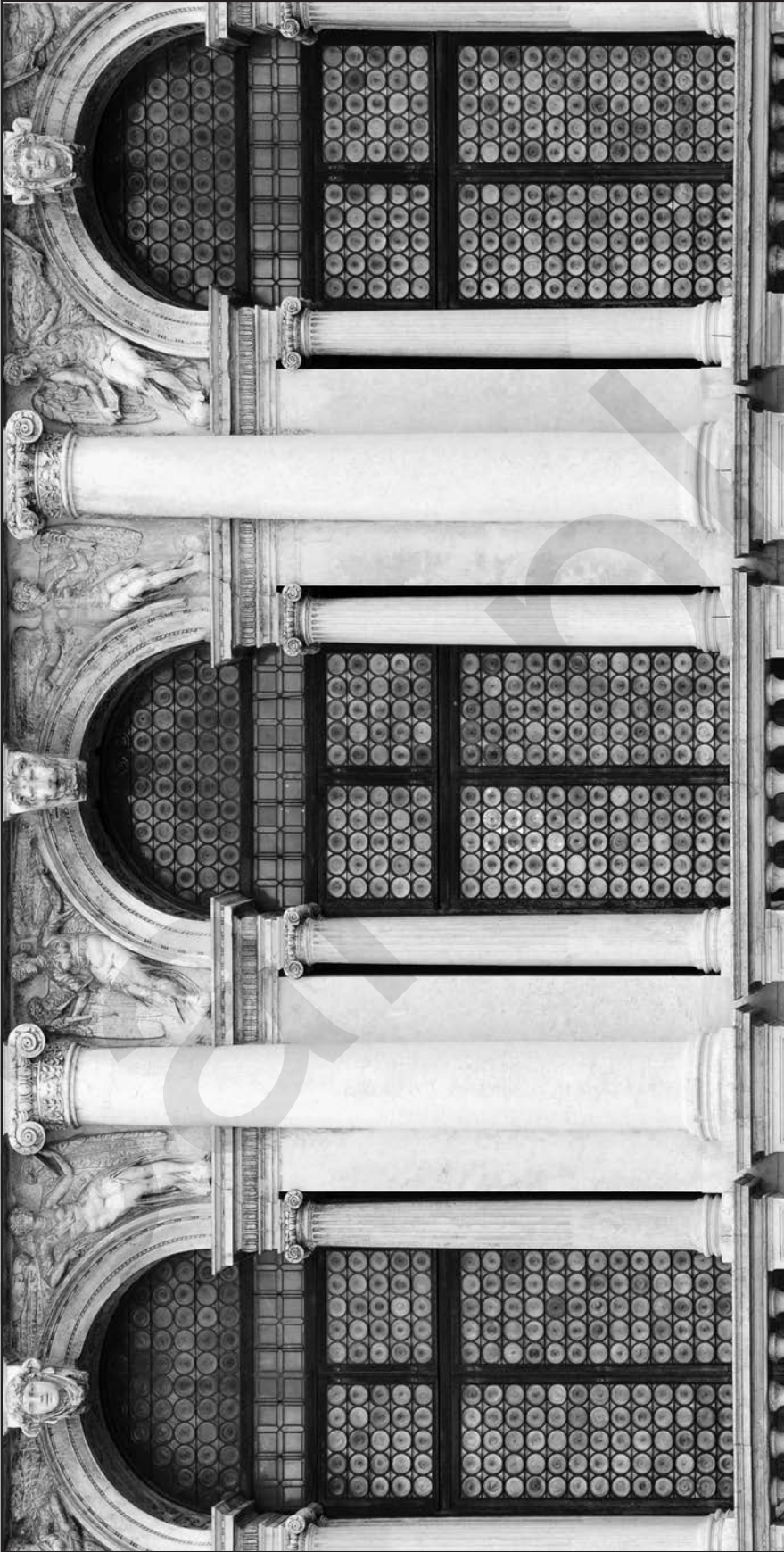
Description or Time Period	Title	Author	Level
flow of history from 5000 BC to modern times in a table format that includes history and politics, literature and theater, religion and philosophy, visual arts and music, science and technology, and daily life	<i>The Timetables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events</i> (directly translated from <i>Kulturfahrplan: The Culture Timetables</i> )	Bernard Grun (based on the work of Werner Stein and Wallace Brockway)	E M H
spiral-bound book of card stock printed with a blank timeline; perfect for stickers, drawings, annotations, etc. for tracing the relations between events, people, ideas, discoveries, civilizations, and kingdoms from earliest times to the present; a large, detailed colorful fold-out resource	<i>Book of Time: Blank time line from 5000 BC to the present</i>	InquisiCorp Corporation <a href="http://sonlight.com">http://sonlight.com</a>	E M H
early civilizations, c. 8000-900 BCE	<i>The Wall Chart of World History</i>	Barnes & Noble, Inc.	E M H
Western civilization from prehistoric man through the modern nation-state; as told by a grandfather to his grandchildren	<i>World History Atlas</i>	<a href="http://maps.com">http://maps.com</a>	E M H
There are 850,000 volumes in the Imperial Library at Paris. If a man were to read industriously from dawn to dark for sixty years, he would die in the first alcove. Would that some charitable soul, after losing a great deal of time among the false books and alighting upon a few true ones, which made him happy and wise, would name those which have been bridges or ships to carry him safely over dark morasses and barren oceans, into the heart of sacred cities, into palaces and temples. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson	<i>The Story of Mankind</i>	Hendrik Willem van Loon (updated by Gerrit van Loon and John M. Merriman)	E M
Western civilization from prehistoric man through the modern nation-state; as told by a grandfather to his grandchildren	<i>The Story of Mankind</i> (based on the book by Hendrik Willem van Loon)	1957 film adaptation starring the Marx Brothers and Ronald Colman	H
literature of Western culture through the Renaissance	<i>The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces Volume 1</i>	Maynard Mack, general editor	H
fifty volumes of selected world classics from all main divisions of literature	<i>Fifteen Minutes a Day Reading Guide for The Harvard Classics (1909)</i>	Charles W. Eliot, editor of <i>The Harvard Classics</i>	H
Scriptures arranged chronologically	<i>The Daily Bible</i>	F. LaGard Smith	E M H
the <i>big picture</i> for understanding the OT	<i>Putting Together the Puzzle of the Old Testament</i>	Bill Jones	M H



# The Middle Ages

Timeline of Classics

Description/Time Period	Title	Author	Level
5 <sup>th</sup> century – barbarian invasion of Britain; Roman legionnaire fights to save his land	<i>The Lantern Bearers</i>	Rosemary Sutcliff	E
5 <sup>th</sup> century – Iceland; barbarians	<i>Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow</i>	Allen French	E
5 <sup>th</sup> -century Greece; Athens; Sparta	<i>Theras and His Town</i>	Caroline Dale Snedeker	E
5 <sup>th</sup> century – Britain; Celts; Saxons; King Arthur; beginnings of the British cavalry	<i>Black Horses for the King</i>	Anne McCaffrey	E
c. 480-524 – Medieval Europe	<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>	Boethius	H
early 6 <sup>th</sup> century – Venice, Cyprus; romantic tragedy	<i>Othello</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. I5-H5)	William Shakespeare (1564-1616)	H
early 6 <sup>th</sup> century – Venice, Cyprus; romantic tragedy	<i>Othello</i> (based on the play by William Shakespeare)	1965 British film version starring Laurence Olivier	H
6 <sup>th</sup> -century Britain; legendary knights of the round table	<i>Tales of King Arthur</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. III/p. 41)	Sir Thomas Malory	H
lore of King Arthur begins here	<i>History of the Kings of Britain</i>	Geoffrey of Monmouth	M H
6 <sup>th</sup> -century England – during the reign of King Arthur; social satire	<i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. I/5-G3)	Mark Twain (1835-1910)	H
King Arthur; Knights of the Round Table	<i>The Sword and the Circle</i>	Rosemary Sutcliff	M
King Arthur; Knights of the Round Table	<i>The Story of King Arthur and His Knights</i>	Howard Pyle	M H
King Arthur's knights; Round Table	<i>The Sword in the Tree</i>	Clyde Robert Bulla	E M
King Arthur; Camelot; Guinevere; Merlin	<i>The Once and Future King</i>	Terence Hanbury White	H
<p>Ah, gentlemen of noble strain, I trust thee unto God the true, whose service never man shall do with more devoted heart and mind: to guard the faith, to win mankind. – Anonymous Poet, <i>The Song of Roland</i></p>			
King Arthur; Guinevere; Lancelot; Merlin; honor, loyalty, courage, and chivalry	<i>King Arthur</i>	Roger Lancelyn Green	E
c. 600 – Britain (near modern-day Edinburgh and Yorkshire) 300 warriors trained to defend against Saxon invaders	<i>The Shining Company</i> (based on the earliest surviving poem of North Britain; raid recorded by actual survivor)	Rosemary Sutcliff	M
c. 673-735 – history records God's supervision over human affairs	<i>Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>	Bede	H
c. 700-750 – Anglo-Saxon; first great English epic poem; influences of rapidly growing Christianity on a warrior society	<i>Beowulf</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. I/5-B2)	poet unknown Seamus Heaney, translator	M H
c. 700-750 – pagan religions; Christianity	<i>Beowulf: An Updated Verse Translation</i>	Frederick Rebsamen	E M H
8 <sup>th</sup> century – Germany; medieval <i>Esther</i>	<i>The Princess Adelina</i>	Julie Sutter	E



# Renaissance and Reformation

Timeline of Classics



Description or Time Period	Title	Author	Level
Christian and Biblical roots for America	<i>Never Before in History: America's Inspired Birth</i>	Gary Amos and Richard Gardiner	H
1773 – Boston; Revolutionary War	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Esther Forbes	E M
1774-1781 – English perspective on the American Revolution	<i>True to the Old Flag: A Tale of the American War of Independence</i>	G. A. Henty (1832-1902)	M H
1774-1781 – English perspective on the American Revolution	<i>True to the Old Flag: A Tale of the American War of Independence</i> (unabridged audio book)	Jim Hodges <a href="http://jimhodgesaudiobooks.com">http://jimhodgesaudiobooks.com</a>	E M H
1775-1783 – Massachusetts	<i>George the Drummer Boy</i>	Nathaniel Benchley	E
1775 – Massachusetts	<i>Early Thunder</i>	Jean Fritz	E M H
Revolutionary War	<i>American Revolution Battles and Leaders</i>	Dorling Kindersley	E M
Revolutionary War	<i>Toliver's Secret</i>	Esther Wood Brady	E M
1775-1783 – upper NY; Mohawk valley; American Revolution	<i>Drums Along the Mohawk</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. II/p. 117)	Walter Edmonds	M H
1775-1783 – American Revolution	<i>Katie's Trunk</i>	Ann Turner	E
1775 – patriot of the American Revolution	<i>And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?</i>	Jean Fritz	E M
1775 – Massachusetts; Lexington and Concord	<i>Sam the Minuteman</i>	Nathaniel Benchley	E
1775 – CT family split over war and politics	<i>My Brother Sam Is Dead</i>	James Lincoln Collier	M
<p>I'll tell him to watch the spire of Christ's Church. You can see it well from Charlestown.                      If the British go out over the Neck, we will show one lantern. If in the boats—two. – Esther Forbes, <i>Johnny Tremain</i></p>			
1775 – the great cannon trek	<i>Guns for General Washington</i>	Seymour Reit	E M
1775 – Virginia; founding father	<i>Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?</i>	Jean Fritz	E M
1775 – American Revolution	<i>What You Should Know About The American Flag</i>	Earl P. Williams, Jr.	M
1775 – rulers and their times	<i>Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette and the French Revolution</i>	Nancy Plain	M H
1776 – Scottish social philosopher of the Enlightenment; theory of economic sciences; human progress through scientific knowledge	<i>An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of The Wealth of Nations</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. II/p. 405)	Adam Smith (1723-1790)	H
1776 – George Washington's housekeeper	<i>Phoebe the Spy</i>	Judith B. Griffin	E M
1776 – Philadelphia – Second Continental Congress declared the United Colonies independent from the British Crown.	The Declaration of Independence	Committee – 2nd Continental Congress: Jefferson, Adams, Sherman and Livingstone	E M H



# The Modern World

Timeline of Classics

Description or Time Period	Title	Author	Level
prior to WW I and Russian revolution	<i>The House on Walenska Street</i>	Charlotte Herman	E M H
1917-1918 – WW I; hospital	<i>After the Dancing Days</i>	Margaret I. Rostkowski	M H
WW I – Yanks coming to aid the Allies	<i>The Yanks Are Coming</i>	Albert Marrin	M H
WW I – perspective from home	<i>World War I – Letters from the Homefront</i>	Linda S. George	M
WW I – military leaders	<i>Leaders of World War I</i>	Stewart Ross	M H
WW I – technology in war	<i>The Technology of World War I</i>	Stewart Ross	M H
WW I – illustrated history of the American soldier, his uniform, and equipment	<i>Over There! The American Soldier in World War I</i>	Jonathan Gawne	M H
WW I – how the Great War devastated Europe	<i>DK Eyewitness Book: World War I: Life in the Trenches</i>	Simon Adams	E M H
WW I – perspective on war and history	<i>WW I: The Rest of the Story and How It Affects You Today</i>	Richard J. Maybury	M H
WW I – famous Western Front; German perspective	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. II/p. 207)	Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970)	H
WW I – children care for soldiers and orphans	<i>The Singing Tree</i>	Kate Seredy	E M
WW I – Italy; Switzerland; reflects Hemingway's own life during WW I	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> (Compact Classics: Vol. I/5-A2)	Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)	H
	<p>In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that marked our place;                      and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.                      We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved,                      and now we lie in Flanders fields.~ Dr. John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields"</p>		
WW I – Tennessee; Europe; biography of Alvin York; great American hero of WW I	<i>Sergeant York</i>	1941 film starring Gary Cooper and Walter Brennan	E M H
WW I – Tennessee, Europe; diaries of Alvin York, great American hero of WW I	<i>Sergeant York and the Great War</i>	Tom Skeyhill	H
WW I – Tennessee, Europe	<i>Sergeant York and the Great War</i> (retelling on DVD)	Richard Little Bear Wheeler	E M H
WW I – nurse executed for helping wounded soldiers escape; Belgium underground	<i>Nurse Edith Cavell</i>	1939 film starring Anna Neagle	H
WW I – Appalachian Mountains, NC	<i>The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree</i>	Gloria Houston	E M
1918 – autobiographical; baby raccoon	<i>Rascal</i>	Sterling North	E M H

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Institute for Excellence in Writing's Resources Related to Classic Literature ... A-7

*Compact Classics* and Other Helpful Finds ..... A-9

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