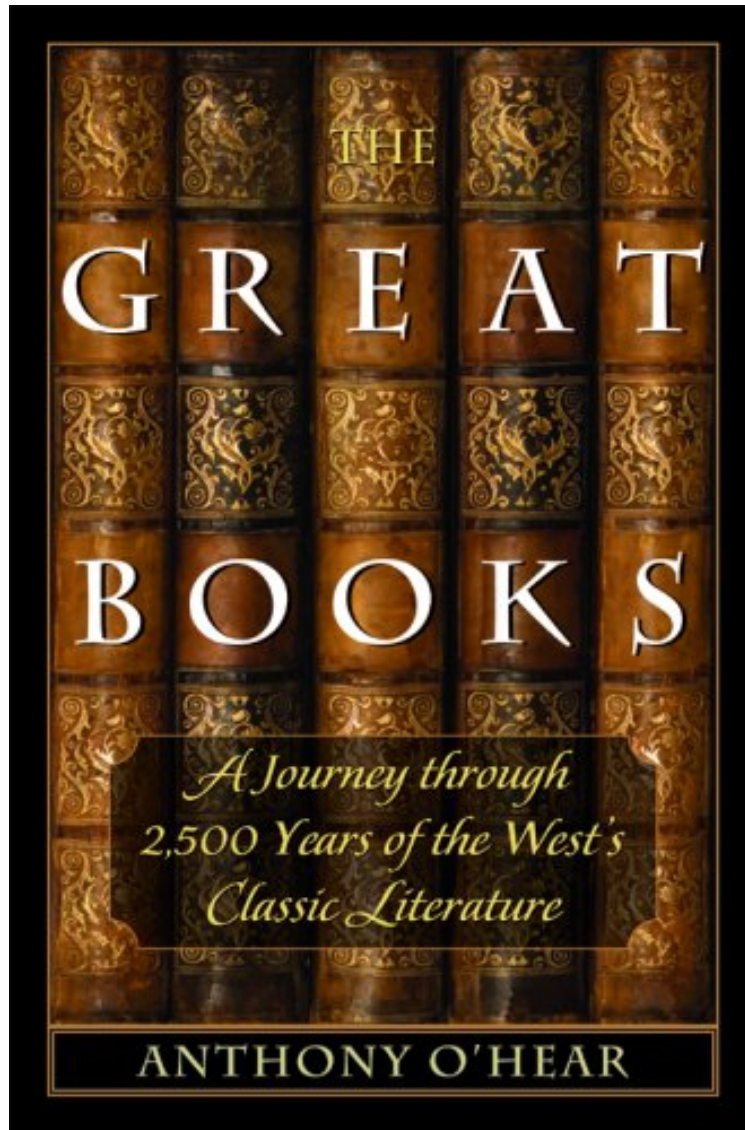


(Library ebook) The Great Books: A Journey through 2,500 Years of the West's Classic Literature

# The Great Books: A Journey through 2,500 Years of the West's Classic Literature

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**From Intercollegiate Studies Institute : The Great Books: A Journey through 2,500 Years of the West's Classic Literature** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Books: A Journey through 2,500 Years of the West's Classic Literature:

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people found the following review helpful. A Well-Rounded Tour of the Classics By R. Deignan Considering the massive volumes of scholarship and criticism dedicated to the classic works of Western Literature, Anthony O'Hear's 400-page book can seem brief in comparison. Within "The Great Books" are the time-honored monuments of our literary tradition: Homer, Ovid, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, and so on. Each major work examined here is like an exotic location unto itself, and O'Hear presents readers with a travelogue of the footpaths and crossroads he took throughout his studies. What makes this book stand out from others that cover the same terrain is this author's concision, clarity, and passion for his subject. His chapters provide an overview of historical context and plot followed by his own commentary at the end. He provides ample philosophical insights into the significance of the work in order to justify its place within the Tradition. I appreciate the pains he took to avoid theoretical dead-ends, where lesser scholars find themselves leveling criticisms at these writers for being "elitist," "sexist," or "homophobic." Rather than trying to reduce these exquisite masterpieces of literature to political fodder, O'Hear concerns himself with the perennially renewing energies of the Classics and the places where their highways and byways intersect in Tradition. Readers may use this book as either an introduction to the Classics or as a companion guide while reading through the works themselves. They are also treated to full-color inserts depicting scenes and characters from the stories discussed. O'Hear provides eloquent and discerning insight and, thus, creates a powerful argument for why each of the works contained herein should be foremost in the mind of anyone inclined toward the humanities, philosophy, or, most of all, literature.

13 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Not Much to Show for 2,500 Years By Dean E. Robertson This book features 19-1/2 works (I'm only giving half credit for Euthyphro, Crito, and Phaedo) by 16 authors... not much to show for 2,500 years of writing (less than one per century by my count). And these are only summaries, not the actual works themselves. You would be better served to pick up the Cliff Notes at the local used bookstore... better served because that would expose you to several hundred other authors who didn't make this particular list, but are well worth reading. Here's what you get if you buy this book... Homer - The Iliad, The Odyssey Aeschylus - Agamemnon Sophocles - Antigone Euripides - The Bacchae Plato - Apology, (and briefly, Euthyphro, Crito, Phaedo) Virgil - The Aeneid Ovid - Metamorphoses St. Augustine - Confessions Dante - The Divine Comedy Chaucer - The Canterbury Tales Shakespeare - Henry V, Hamlet, The Tempest Cervantes - Don Quixote Milton - Paradise Lost Pascal - Pensees Racine - Phaedre Goethe - Faust One very nice book you might want to take a look at is "The Book of Great Books: A Guide to 100 World Classics" by Campbell, W. John

The Odyssey, Paradise Lost, The Canterbury Tales: great literature can be read by anyone, with a little help. The eminent British philosopher Anthony O'Hear leads the way with this captivating journey through two-and-a-half millennia of books as powerful, thrilling, erotic, politically astute, and awe-inspiring as any modern bestseller. O'Hear begins with Homer, whose poems of epic struggle have made him the father of Western literature. After Greek tragedy, Plato, and Virgil's Aeneid comes Ovid, whose encyclopedic Metamorphoses is an inexhaustible source for European art and literature. Via Saint Augustine, O'Hear reaches Dante and his terrifying and sublime Divine Comedy. Chaucer, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Milton, Pascal, Racine, and finally Goethe complete the cast list. In each case, O'Hear patiently draws out themes, focuses on key passages, and explains why they are important. Not simply a grand work of reference, The Great Books is also a narrative history shot through with a love of literature and the authors' deeply held belief in its power to enrich and enliven everyone's world.

About the Author Anthony O'Hear is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Buckingham in England, Director of The Royal Institute of Philosophy (London), and editor of the journal Philosophy. His books include Karl Popper, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, After Progress, and Plato's Children. He has contributed to all the major national newspapers in Britain, where he is a frequent guest on many national radio and television programs.