

Why Read the Classics?



All that can be done is for each one of us to invent our own ideal library of our classics. from *Why Read the Classics?* Classics, according to Italo Calvino, are not only works of enduring cultural value, but also something much more personal: talismans, touchstones, books through which we understand our world and ourselves. In *Why Read the Classics?*, Calvino shares over thirty of his classics in essays of warmth, humor, and striking insight. He ranges from Homer to Jorge Luis Borges, from the Persian folklorist Nezami to Charles Dickens. Whether tracing the links between Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Alain Robbe-Grillet's objectivity, discovering the origins of science fiction in the writings of Cyrano de Bergerac, or convincing us that the Italian novelist Carlo Emilio Gadda's works are like artichokes, Calvino offers a new perspective on beloved favorites and introduces us to hidden gems. This book serves as a welcome reminder that the great works are great because they can mean so much to readers, and Calvino is a most knowledgeable guide to all the best destinations. *San Francisco Chronicle*

A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise. 1) The classics are the books of which we usually hear people say: I am part of people ashamed to admit they have not read a famous book. If you read the classics (or anything, really) with a vague goal of improving yourself, you'll end up hating yourself and the book. You'll plow through an There is nothing for it but for all of us to invent our own ideal libraries of classics. I would say that such a library ought to be composed half of books we have Although the title suggests that this posthumous collection was cobbled together to capitalize on the latest culture wars, the great Italian novelist who died in We use the words classics for books that are treasured by those who have read and loved them but they are treasured no less by those who have the luck to From the internationally-acclaimed author of some of this century's most breathtakingly original novels comes this posthumous collection of thirty-six literary Over the next few weeks, as Penguin Classics relaunches its list, you'll have the Most exciting of all, early next month you can also read in *The Times* an 1) The classics are the books of which we usually hear people say: I am rereading and never I am reading. This at least happens among those who consider themselves very well read. It does not hold good for young people at the age when they first encounter the world, and the classics as a part of that world. Books aren't written or read in a vacuum. They're woven by writers and consumed by readers with the influence of centuries of writing behind us. Whether we're conscious of it or not, reading a book is never an isolated incident but part of a tradition. The classics are the milestones of our literary tradition. Debates on the epistemological, ethical, and historical constitution of the anthropological corpus are one of the reasons why anthropology has always thrived. Rather, we should only read them

for love. on literature--most of them never gathered in book form before--cover Calvino's own favorites, his personal classics. *Why We Read What We Read: A Delightfully Opinionated Journey Through Bestselling Books* by Lisa Adams. 3.35 avg rating 176 ratings. Similar books. My first defense of the classics is one that may seem surprising: we should read the classics because they provide superior entertainment.