

GREAT AUTHORS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Timeline

10,000 BC – First Hunter-Gatherers Arrive in England from Europe

3100 BC – Construction of Stonehenge Begins

55 AD – Roman Invasion of Britain

449 – Beginning of Anglo-Saxon Invasions

- 8th Century – The Epic Long Poem *Beowulf* is Written

787 – First Viking Raids

1066 – William I is Crowned King of England, Initiating the Norman Conquest, Which Permanently Changes the English Language and Culture

- 14th Century – *The Tale of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is Written

1170 – Murder of Thomas Becket

1337 - 1453 – The Hundred Years’ War

1348 – Black Death Arrives in England

- 1387 – 1400 – Geoffrey Chaucer Writes *The Canterbury Tales*

1377 - 1399 – Reign of King Richard II

1455 - 1485 – War of the Roses

1509 - 1547 – Reign of King Henry VIII

1553 - 1558 – Reign of Queen Mary I

1558 - 1603 – Reign of Queen Elizabeth I

1585 – Raleigh Establishes Settlement at Roanoke, Virginia

- (Preferred English Spelling)

- 1587 – Christopher Marlowe Writes *Tamburlaine the Great*
- 1590 – Edmund Spenser Publishes *The Faerie Queene*
- 1591 – Sir Philip Sydney’s *Astrophel and Stella* is Published
- 1592 – Sir Walter Raleigh Writes *The Ocean to Cynthia*
- 1594 – William Shakespeare Writes *Romeo and Juliet*
 - Shakespeare Writes 37 Plays in a Career from 1589 to 1613
- 1598 – Ben Jonson Writes *Every Man in His Humour*

1599 – The Globe Theatre is Founded by Shakespeare's Company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men

1603 - 1625 – Reign of King James I

- 1603 – Sir Francis Bacon Writes *Valerius Terminus: of the Interpretation of Nature*

1607 – Jamestown, Virginia Founded

- 1611 - 1612 – John Donne Writes *The Anniversaries*

1611 – King James Bible

1618 - 1648 – Thirty Years War

1625 - 1649 – Reign of King Charles I

1649 – Execution of Charles I

1649 – The Commonwealth of England Begins

- 1658 – John Milton Begins *Paradise Lost*
 - 1671 – John Milton Writes *Paradise Regained*

1660 – Restoration of British Monarchy with King Charles II

1660 - 1685 – Reign of King Charles II

1670 – John Dryden Named First Poet Laureate

- 1678 – John Bunyan Writes *Pilgrim's Progress Part I*
 - 1684 – John Bunyan Writes *Pilgrim's Progress Part II*
- 1681 – John Dryden Writes *Absalom and Achitophel*

1689 – Toleration Act Enacted

1702 - 1714 – Reign of Queen Anne

1707 – Kingdom of Great Britain Established by Act of Union of England and Scotland

- 1712 – Alexander Pope Writes *The Rape of the Lock*
- 1719 – Daniel Defoe Writes *Robinson Crusoe*
- 1749 – Henry Fielding Publishes *Tom Jones*

1754 - 1763 – French and Indian War

- 1755 – Dr. Samuel Johnson Completes *A Dictionary of the English Language*

1760 - 1820 – Reign of King George III

1769 – James Watt's Steam Engine Patented

1773 – Boston Tea Party

1775 - 1783 – The American Revolutionary War

1781 – British Surrender at Yorktown, Virginia

1787 – Constitution of the United States

- 1786 – Scottish Poet Robert Burns Writes *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*
- 1789 – William Blake Writes *Songs of Innocence*
- 1792 – Mary Wollstonecraft Writes *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- 1794 – Ann Radcliffe Writes the Gothic Horror Novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
- 1798 – William Wordsworth Writes *Lyrical Ballads* with Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Begins the English Romantic Movement

1801 – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Established

1803 – United States Purchases Louisiana from France

- 1803 – Dorothy Wordsworth Completes Her *Grasmere Journals*

1804 – Napoleon Becomes Emperor of France

- 1811 – Jane Austen Writes *Sense and Sensibility*
 - 1813 – Jane Austen Writes *Pride and Prejudice*
 - 1814 – Jane Austen Writes *Mansfield Park*
 - 1815 – Jane Austen Writes *Emma*
 - 1818 – Jane Austen Writes *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*
- 1814 – Sir Walter Scott Writes *Waverly*
 - 1819 – Sir Walter Scott Writes *Ivanhoe*

1815 – Battle of Waterloo

- 1816 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge Writes ‘Kubla Khan’
- 1818 – Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Writes *Frankenstein*
- 1819 – John Keats Writes ‘Ode to a Nightingale’ and ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’
- 1819 – Lord Byron Pens *Don Juan*
- 1821 – Percy Bysshe Shelley Writes *A Defence of Poetry*

1832 – British Reform Bill

1833 – Britain Abolishes Slavery

- 1836 – Charles Dickens Writes *The Pickwick Papers*
 - 1837 – Charles Dickens Writes *Oliver Twist*
 - 1843 – Charles Dickens Writes *A Christmas Carol*
 - 1850 – Charles Dickens Writes *David Copperfield*

- 1859 – Charles Dickens Writes *A Tale of Two Cities*
- 1860 – Charles Dickens Writes *Great Expectations*

1837 - 1901 – Reign of Queen Victoria

1846 – Irish Famine

- 1847 – Anne Brontë Writes *Agnes Grey*
- 1847 – Charlotte Brontë Writes *Jane Eyre*
- 1847 – Emily Brontë Writes *Wuthering Heights*
- 1848 – William Makepeace Thackeray Writes *Vanity Fair*
- 1849 – Matthew Arnold Writes *The Strayed Reveller and Other Poems*
- 1850 – Elizabeth Barrett Browning Writes *Sonnets from the Portuguese*

1853 - 1856 – Crimean War

- 1854 – Alfred Lord Tennyson Writes *Charge of the Light Brigade*
- 1855 – Robert Browning Writes *Men and Women*

1858 – Government of India Act

- 1859 – George Eliot, Pen Name of Mary Ann Evans, Writes *Adam Bede*

1861 - 1865 – American Civil War

- 1865 – Lewis Carroll, Pen Name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, Writes *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
 - 1871 – Lewis Carroll Writes *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*

1868 – Benjamin Disraeli Prime Minister

1868 - 1874 – W.E. Gladstone Prime Minister

- 1868 – Wilkie Collins Writes the Detective Novel, *The Moonstone*

1870 - 1871 – Franco-Prussian War

1877 – Queen Victoria Proclaimed Empress of India

- 1883 – Robert Louis Stevenson Writes *Treasure Island*
 - 1886 - Robert Louis Stevenson Writes *Kidnapped* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- 1887 – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Introduces Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*
- 1894 – Rudyard Kipling Writes *The Jungle Book*
- 1895 – H.G. Wells Writes *The Time Machine*

- 1896 – H.G. Wells Writes *The Island of Doctor Moreau*
- 1897 – H.G. Wells Writes *The Invisible Man*
- 1898 – H.G. Wells Writes *The War of the Worlds*

1898 – Spanish-American War

1901 – First Nobel Prizes Awarded

1901 - 1910 – Reign of Edward VII

- 1901 – Beatrix Potter Publishes *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
 - 1902 – Beatrix Potter Writes *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* and *The Tailor of Gloucester*
- 1902 – Joseph Conrad Writes *Heart of Darkness*
- 1902 – Arnold Bennett Writes *Anna of the Five Towns*

1903 – The Bloomsbury Group is Founded

- 1904 – G.K. Chesterton Writes *Napoleon of Nottinghill*
- 1905 – E.M. Forster Writes *Where Angels Fear to Tread*
 - 1907 – E.M. Forster Writes *The Longest Journey*
 - 1910 – E.M. Forster Writes *Howard's End*
 - 1924 – E.M. Forster Writes *A Passage to India*
- 1906 – 1922 – John Galsworthy Writes *The Forsyte Saga*
 - 1906 – John Galsworthy Produces *The Silver Box*
 - 1909 – John Galsworthy Produces *Strife*
 - 1910 – John Galsworthy Produces *Justice*
 - 1920 – John Galsworthy Produces *The Skin Game*

1907 – Rudyard Kipling Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

1910 - 1936 – Reign of King George V

1912 – Sinking of HMS *Titanic*

- 1913 – D.H. Lawrence Writes *Sons and Lovers*
 - 1920 – D.H. Lawrence Writes *Women in Love*
 - 1926 – D.H. Lawrence Writes *The Plumed Serpent*
 - 1928 – D.H. Lawrence Writes *Lady Chatterley's Lover*

1914 - 1918 – World War I

- 1915 – W. Somerset Maugham Writes *Of Human Bondage*

- 1944 – W. Somerset Maugham Writes *The Razor's Edge*
- 1917 – Frank Swinnerton Writes *Nocturne*

1917 – Beginning of Russian Revolution

- 1917 – T.S. Eliot Writes *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*
 - 1922 – T.S. Eliot Writes *The Waste Land*
 - 1925 – T.S. Eliot Writes *The Hollow Men*
 - 1943 – T.S. Eliot Writes *Four Quartets*

1918 – Armistice with Germany Ends WWI

1919 – Versailles Conference and Treaty

- 1920 – Agatha Christie Introduces Detective Hercule Poirot in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*
 - 1927 – Agatha Christie Introduces Detective Miss Jane Marple in *The Thirteen Problems*
 - 1934 – Agatha Christie Writes *Murder on the Orient Express*
 - 1975 – Agatha Christie Releases Her Last Hercule Poirot Novel, *Curtain: Poirot's Last Case*
 - 1976 – Agatha Christie's Last Miss Jane Marple Mystery, *Sleeping Murder: Miss Marple's Last Case* is Released Posthumously

1922 – Establishment of Irish Free State

1922 – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Established

- 1922 – Virginia Woolf Writes *Jacob's Room*
 - 1925 – Virginia Woolf Writes *Mrs. Dalloway*
 - 1929 – Virginia Woolf Writes *A Room of One's Own*
- 1926 – A.A. Milne Writes *Winnie the Pooh*
- 1926 – T.E. Lawrence Writes *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

1927 – Lindbergh Flies from U.S. to France

1929 – Stock Market Crash; Beginning of Great Depression

- 1930 – Noel Coward Writes *Private Lives*
- 1932 – Steven Spender Writes 'Those Who were Truly Great'
- 1932 – Aldous Huxley Writes *Brave New World*

1932 – John Galsworthy Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

- 1934 – Dylan Thomas Writes ‘Light Breaks Where No Sun Shines’
 - 1940 – Dylan Thomas Writes *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog*
 - 1953 – Dylan Thomas Writes ‘Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night,’
Under Milkwood and *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

- 1936 – W.H. Auden Writes ‘Funeral Blues’

1936 – Reign of King Edward VIII

1936 - 1952 – Reign of King George VI

- 1937 – J.R.R. Tolkien Writes *The Hobbit*
 - 1954 - 1955 – J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy is Published
- 1939 – Christopher Isherwood Writes *Goodbye to Berlin*

1939 - 1945 – World War II

1940 - 1945 – Winston Churchill Prime Minister

1944 – D-Day Invasion

1945 – Surrender of Germany and Japan

1945 - 1951 – Clement Atlee Prime Minister

- 1945 – Evelyn Waugh Writes *Brideshead Revisited*
- 1945 – George Orwell, Pen Name for Eric Arthur Blair, Writes *Animal Farm*
 - 1949 – George Orwell Writes *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
- 1947 – Malcolm Lowry Writes *Under the Volcano*

1948 – T.S. Eliot Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

- **1948 – National Health Service Founded**

1949 – North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Established

1950 – Bertrand Russell Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

- 1950 – Doris Lessing Writes *The Grass is Singing*
 - 1952 – 1969 – Doris Lessing Writes her *Children of Violence* Series
 - 1986 – Doris Lessing Writes *The Prisons We Choose to Live Inside*

1952 - Present – Reign of Elizabeth II

- 1953 – Ian Fleming Writes the First 007 Thriller, *Casino Royale*
 - 1958 – Ian Fleming Writes *Dr. No*

1953 – Winston Churchill Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

- 1954 – William Golding Writes *Lord of the Flies*

- 1961 – Roald Dahl Writes *James and the Giant Peach*
 - 1964 – Roald Dahl Writes *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

1963 – Assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy

- 1963 – John Fowles Writes *The Collector*
 - 1964 – John Fowles Writes *The Aristos*
 - 1966 – John Fowles Writes *The Magus*
 - 1969 – John Fowles Writes *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- 1963 – John Le Carrè Writes *The Spy who Came in from the Cold*
- 1964 – Harold Pinter Writes *The Homecoming*

1968 – Assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy

1969 – First Moon Landing

1979 - 1990 – Margaret Thatcher Prime Minister

1983 – William Golding Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

1985 - 1991 – Mikhail Gorbachev Soviet Communist Party Leader

1989 – Collapse of Communist Rule in Eastern Europe

1990 - 1991 – First Gulf War

- 1997 - 2007 – J.K. Rowling Writes the *Harry Potter* Series

2003 – Britain Joins American-led Invasion of Iraq

2005 – Harold Pinter Wins Nobel Prize in Literature

- 2007 – Welsh Author Ken Follett Writes *World Without End*

2007 – Doris Lessing Wins the Nobel Prize in Literature