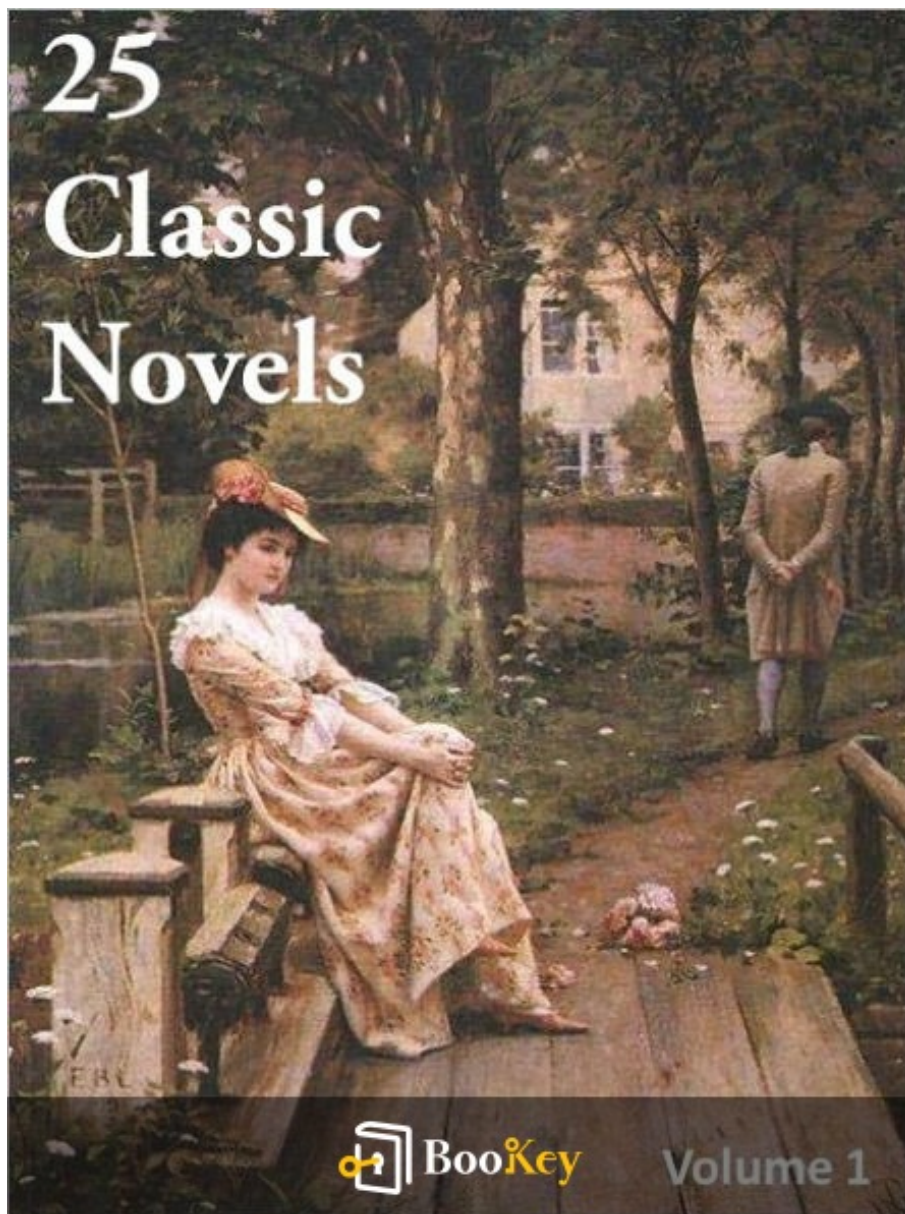


25 Classic Novels Volume 1 PDF

Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, Charles Dickens,
Charlotte Brontë, New World Publishers, LLC



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Featured Authors and Their Iconic Works

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- **Joseph Andrews** by Henry Fielding
- **The Last of the Mohicans** by James Fenimore Cooper
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- **The Man in the Iron Mask** by Alexandre Dumas
- **Moll Flanders** by Daniel Defoe
- **Penguin Island** by Anatole France
- **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** by Baroness Emmuska Orczy
- **Siddhartha** by Hermann Hesse



- **The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame

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25 Classic Novels Volume 1 Summary

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Who should read this book **25 Classic Novels** **Volume 1**

"25 Classic Novels Volume 1" is ideal for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the literary canon, particularly lovers of classic literature and those interested in the social and cultural contexts of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Students, educators, and avid readers will find value in the diverse perspectives presented by iconic authors like Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë. This anthology serves not only as a delightful collection for casual reading but also as a robust resource for literary analysis and critical discussions, making it a perfect addition to any reading list for book clubs or academic courses.

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Key insights of 25 Classic Novels Volume 1 in table format

Title	Author	Summary
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	A romantic novel that explores the themes of love, social class, and individual growth through the experiences of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy.
Sense and Sensibility	Jane Austen	A tale of two sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, navigating love and heartbreak while contending with societal pressures and financial insecurity.
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall	Anne Brontë	A story of a woman who leaves her abusive husband and seeks independence, challenging the limitations placed on women in the 19th century.
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Brontë	The story of an orphaned girl who overcomes adversity to find love and self-respect, focusing on her relationship with Mr. Rochester.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	A coming-of-age story about Pip, an orphan who dreams of rising above his humble beginnings, filled with themes of ambition, wealth, and social status.
Wuthering Heights	Emily Brontë	A dark tale of passion and revenge between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw that transcends generations and explores the destructive power of love.
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	A depiction of the lives of the four March sisters as they grow from childhood to adulthood in post-Civil War America, highlighting their triumphs and

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Title	Author	Summary
		struggles.
The Age of Innocence	Edith Wharton	Explores the constraints of New York society in the 1870s through the love triangle between Newland Archer, May Welland, and Countess Ellen Olenska.
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	Set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution, it portrays the struggles of the French peasantry and the impact of political upheaval.
North and South	Elizabeth Gaskell	A social novel that addresses class conflict in industrial England through the eyes of Margaret Hale, who moves from rural southern England to an industrial town.

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25 Classic Novels Volume 1 Summary Chapter List

1. An Overview of Timeless Literature and Its Impact
2. Exploring Jane Austen's Themes of Love and Society
3. Character Development in Charles Dickens' Novels
4. Charlotte Brontë's Exploration of Identity and Independence
5. Edith Wharton's Critique of American High Society
6. Connecting the Dots: Common Themes Across All Authors
7. Reflections on the Legacy of Classic Literature

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1. An Overview of Timeless Literature and Its Impact

Timeless literature serves as a lens through which we can examine the complexities of human experience and societal constructs. Classic novels, such as those found in "25 Classic Novels Volume 1," act not just as stories, but as profound critiques of their respective eras. Through the works of esteemed authors like Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë, we are invited to engage with themes that transcend time and remain relevant to today's readers.

The impact of these timeless works is multilayered; they reflect the intricacies of the human condition, address social injustices, and foster empathy. The characters crafted by these literary giants often grapple with dilemmas and desires that resonate universally—love, power, identity, and moral integrity. For example, Austen's exploration of matrimonial motives and societal expectations in the Regency era not only critiques the limitations placed on women but also speaks to contemporary issues surrounding relationships and gender roles.

Furthermore, the detailed character development in Charles Dickens' novels allows readers to witness the struggles of individuals against the backdrop of Victorian society. Dickens highlights social stratification and human resilience, drawing attention to the plight of the underprivileged while

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inspiring a sense of hope and change.

Charlotte Brontë's works delve into the theme of personal identity and the quest for independence, particularly through formidable characters like Jane Eyre. Her narrative encourages readers to challenge societal norms and pursue authenticity, a theme that remains significant in discussions about personal agency and self-discovery today.

On the other hand, Edith Wharton provides incisive commentary on the intricacies of American high society. Her novels expose the tensions between wealth, morality, and social obligation, prompting readers to reflect on the pursuit of happiness and the ethical dilemmas that accompany affluence.

When examining the common threads woven through these authors' works, we can identify shared themes such as love, class struggle, identity, and individual choice. These motifs not only anchor each author's narrative but also create a rich tapestry of interconnected ideas that resonate across time and culture.

Ultimately, the legacy of classic literature lies in its enduring ability to provoke thought, inspire change, and evoke emotion. The timeless nature of these narratives confirms their place in both academic study and personal

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reflection, reminding us that while the world may evolve, the fundamental questions concerning humanity remain constant.

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2. Exploring Jane Austen's Themes of Love and Society

Jane Austen's novels are renowned for their intricate exploration of the social dynamics of her time, particularly through the lens of love and societal expectation. In works such as "Pride and Prejudice," "Sense and Sensibility," and "Emma," Austen deftly critiques the societal structures that dictate the lives of women in the early 19th century, revealing the often-complex interplay between personal desire and social obligation.

At the heart of Austen's narratives is the theme of love—not merely as a romantic ideal, but as a force fraught with moral and social implications. Her characters navigate the treacherous waters of courtship, where affection must be weighed against social status, financial security, and familial approval. For instance, Elizabeth Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice" encounters this struggle as she balances her feelings for Mr. Darcy with the prejudices she harbors against his wealth and social rank. Austen skillfully aligns her protagonists' romantic journeys with their growth in self-awareness, encouraging readers to consider how love can transcend societal barriers when rooted in mutual respect and understanding.

Moreover, Austen's depiction of society is particularly incisive. The rigid class structures of the Regency era serve as a backdrop to her characters' romantic pursuits. In "Emma," the eponymous character misjudges the

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romantic inclinations of those around her, reflecting the limitations and prejudices of her social engagement. Through Emma's flawed matchmaking efforts, Austen portrays how societal ranks can complicate personal relationships and lead to unfortunate misunderstandings. These portrayals prompt readers to question not just the nature of the relationships within her stories, but the broader implications of social class in matters of the heart.

The duality of love and societal expectations culminates in the various endings of Austen's novels, usually aligned with a happy resolution but often underscored by a critique of the very society that frames these outcomes. The ultimate union of couples such as Elizabeth and Darcy, or Elinor and Edward Ferrars from "Sense and Sensibility," is celebratory yet simultaneously highlights a compromise between personal happiness and societal acceptance.

Ultimately, Austen's exploration of love and society reveals a nuanced understanding of human relationships that remains relevant today. She invites her audience to reflect on how love must often contend with the structures of society, revealing both the beauty and the challenge of forging bonds that honor the essence of individual desire while navigating the expectations imposed by the world. Her novels stand as timeless meditations on the power and complexity of love, situated within the societal frameworks that continue to shape our lives.

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3. Character Development in Charles Dickens' Novels

Charles Dickens stands as one of the most accomplished purveyors of character development in classic literature. His novels are populated with a diverse cast of characters, each intricately crafted with unique traits, socio-economic backgrounds, and moral dilemmas. Dickens utilizes his characters not only to drive narrative but also to reflect society's complexities and injustices during the Victorian era.

Throughout his works, Dickens emphasizes the impact of environment and circumstance on character. For instance, in "Oliver Twist," the protagonist's innocence and inherent goodness starkly contrast with the corrupt world around him. Oliver's development from a mistreated orphan to a young boy seeking his identity encapsulates Dickens's belief in the potential for redemption, despite the overwhelming adversities he faces. This journey emphasizes how personal growth often occurs in reaction to societal constraints.

In "Great Expectations," Dickens explores the evolution of Pip, whose character development is marked by his changing ambitions and values. Starting as an impressionable boy, Pip is deeply influenced by his social aspirations and his desire to become a gentleman, which ultimately leads to his moral disillusionment. Pip's interactions with characters like Estella and



Magwitch illuminate the complexities of identity and class, showcasing how personal relationships shape one's character arc. This internal struggle highlights a quintessential Dickensian theme: the conflict between material wealth and true emotional fulfillment.

The character of Ebenezer Scrooge from "A Christmas Carol" exemplifies the transformative power of self-reflection and redemption. Dickens employs Scrooge's journey from a greedy, misanthropic figure to a benevolent and warm-hearted man as a powerful testament to the capacity for change. Through the visits from the three spirits, Scrooge confronts his past, present, and potential future, prompting profound personal growth. This dynamic arc serves as a reminder of the importance of compassion and human connection.

Dickens also crafts memorable female characters who defy societal norms, such as the spirited and strong-willed Estella and the nurturing, self-sacrificing Mrs. Jellyby in "Bleak House." Dickens presents a spectrum of female experiences; while some characters embody traditional roles, others challenge the status quo, reflecting the evolving societal expectations of women in his time. Through these characters, readers gain insight into the limited options available to women, as well as their potential for resistance.

Furthermore, Dickens's ability to create memorable secondary

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characters—such as the loyal and steadfast Joe Gargery in "Great Expectations" or the fiercely independent Betsey Trotwood in "David Copperfield"—enhances the richness of his narratives. Each character, no matter how minor, is meticulously developed, often embodying specific traits or moral lessons that add layers to the overall story.

In conclusion, Dickens's novels serve as masterclasses in character development. His characters are multifaceted, evolving in response to their environments and relationships. They portray a timeless reflection on humanity's struggles with morality, social injustice, and the quest for identity. Through their journeys, Dickens invites readers to engage with broader societal themes while fostering a deeper understanding of human nature.

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4. Charlotte Brontë's Exploration of Identity and Independence

Charlotte Brontë's works, particularly her most celebrated novel "Jane Eyre," delve deep into the themes of identity and independence, reflecting her profound understanding of the struggles women faced in the Victorian era. Through her characters, Brontë articulates a fervent quest for self-understanding and the assertion of personal autonomy against societal constraints.

At the heart of "Jane Eyre" is its titular character, Jane, who embodies the struggle to establish her own identity in a world that often seeks to define her through the eyes of others. From her troubled childhood, marked by emotional and physical abuse, to her escape into the world of Thornfield Hall, Jane's journey is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Brontë's portrayal of Jane's experiences highlights the internal conflict between societal expectations and personal desire. Jane's determination to carve her own path, despite the oppressive structures surrounding her, particularly the constraints imposed by gender and class, serves as a powerful commentary on the pursuit of personal autonomy.

Brontë's exploration of identity is intricately tied to the theme of self-respect and moral integrity. Jane's refusal to become complacent and her continual strive for equality, especially in her relationship with Mr. Rochester,



challenges the norm of her time. Rather than succumbing to the conventional role of a submissive woman, Jane asserts her agency, emphasizing the importance of self-worth over societal validation. Her famous declaration, "I am no bird; and no net ensnares me," powerfully encapsulates her desire for freedom and independence, marking her rejection of the limits placed upon her by others.

In addition to Jane, Brontë introduces other female figures, such as Bertha Mason, who serves as a foil to Jane's character. Bertha's tragic existence highlights the dire consequences of repression and the loss of identity through confinement—both socially and literally. In contrast, Jane's journey involves a struggle not only to find her place in the world but also to define who she is outside of the influences that seek to shape her. This duality illustrates the complexities of womanhood and the societal pressures to conform while simultaneously seeking authenticity.

Moreover, Brontë's use of Gothic elements in her storytelling intensifies the theme of identity by creating a vivid backdrop of emotional turmoil and conflict. The eerie settings and tumultuous relationships underscore the internal battles faced by her characters, merging the external world with their psychological states. For Jane, places such as the oppressive Gateshead Hall and the mysterious Thornfield become symbols of her struggles with identity, reflecting her turbulence and growth.



Ultimately, Charlotte Brontë's focus on identity and independence not only critiques the limitations placed on women in her time but also lays the groundwork for feminist discourse. By showcasing Jane Eyre's journey toward self-discovery and autonomy, Brontë invites readers to question the status quo and consider the importance of carving one's own identity amidst societal expectations. Her legacy remains a powerful exploration of the human experience, urging future generations to embrace their individuality and strive for independence.

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5. Edith Wharton's Critique of American High Society

Edith Wharton, a keen observer of her time, meticulously critiqued the intricacies and hypocrisies of American high society in her novels. Through her insightful narratives, she exposed the rigid social structures and moral codes that dictated the lives of the affluent in the early 20th century. One of her most notable works, “The Age of Innocence,” unfolds a narrative interwoven with themes of social constraints, class distinctions, and the pursuit of personal happiness against the backdrop of societal expectations.

In this novel, Wharton contrasts the lives of Newland Archer, a young lawyer, and the free-spirited Countess Ellen Olenska. Archer is torn between his ingrained adherence to convention and his deeper desires for individuality and genuine connection. The upper-class New York society is depicted as a gilded cage, where appearances and reputations take precedence over true feelings and desires. Wharton skillfully illustrates how the fear of scandal and the need for social approval stifle the characters' authentic selves.

Wharton's critique extends beyond mere observations; she delves into the psyche of her characters, illustrating how societal expectations shape their decisions and moral dilemmas. Her protagonists often grapple with the suffocating norms that dictate their lives, reflecting Wharton's disdain for the

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superficiality of high society. The characters' struggles symbolize the broader conflict between personal aspirations and the rigid structures of society, highlighting the profound impact of wealth and status on individual liberties.

In another one of her celebrated works, "The House of Mirth," Wharton portrays Lily Bart, an ambitious young woman navigating the treacherous waters of New York's elite. Unlike Archer, Lily's journey is marked by her desire for acceptance and her pursuit of a comfortable life through marriage. However, Wharton poignantly reveals how the very society that holds promise and allure for Lily ultimately leads to her downfall. Lily's tragic fate serves as a stark commentary on the societal pressure to conform, the fleeting nature of wealth, and the harsh judgment of societal norms.

Wharton's critique is not just limited to the examination of societal norms but also encompasses the roles of gender and class within this elite sphere. She boldly addresses the constraining role of women, who often find themselves trapped by societal expectations, forced to sacrifice their independence for security and status. Her female characters are emblematic of the struggle many women faced as they juggled personal ambitions with societal obligations.

Through her detailed character studies and vivid depictions of the social

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milieu, Wharton unveils a world that, while seemingly glamorous, is rife with moral decay and emotional isolation. She challenges the romanticized notions of the American Dream, exposing its undercurrents of disillusionment and hypocrisy.

In conclusion, Edith Wharton's exploration of American high society serves as a powerful critique of the era's social dynamics. Her novels remain relevant as they continue to resonate with contemporary readers, prompting reflections on much the same societal issues that plague today's elite circles. Wharton's sharp wit and keen perception encourage readers to question not just the characters' choices, but the very fabric of society that influences them, promoting a critical examination of class, gender, and morality that transcends time.

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6. Connecting the Dots: Common Themes Across All Authors

As we navigate through the rich terrain of these classic novels, it becomes evident that, despite their varying contexts, time periods, and narrative styles, there is an intricate web of common themes binding the works of Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë. One of the most prevalent themes is the exploration of social norms and the critique of societal expectations.

In Austen's novels, we witness the constraints placed upon women in the 19th century, reflecting a society obsessed with marriage as a form of security and social standing. Such preoccupations resonate with Wharton's portrayal of elite society in early 20th-century America. Her characters often navigate a landscape where reputation and social class dictate personal choices, revealing the suffocating nature of societal expectations.

Similarly, Dickens adopts a critical lens on the societal structures of his time, exposing the stark realities of class disparity and the struggles of the lower classes. His vivid characters often grapple with the injustices of a rigid social hierarchy. In this context, Brontë's exploration of identity emerges as a critique of not only societal expectations but also the search for self within those constraints. Her protagonists, like Jane Eyre, defy conventional roles to assert their rights to individuality and autonomy.

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Another recurring theme is the significant role of personal relationships and their impact on one's identity and societal position. Across all four authors, love functions as both a motivating force and a source of conflict. For Austen, love often dramatically intersects with social maneuvering, where romantic entanglements reflect broader societal norms. For Wharton, relationships reveal the complexities of human motivation against the backdrop of societal obligation. Dickens similarly threads personal relationships through his narratives, using them to illuminate broader societal issues, while Brontë emphasizes the transformative power of love and relationships in shaping one's identity.

Moreover, the theme of moral and ethical dilemmas presents itself prominently in these novels. Each author grapples with the question of right and wrong within the societal framework they depict. For instance, Brontë's characters often face moral choices that force them to confront their beliefs and values, while Dickens's narratives are rife with characters who challenge the moral fabric of society. Austen's subtle critiques, though less overt, encourage readers to reflect on the moral implications of personal ambition and social ambition, and Wharton raises questions about the ethical responsibilities of those at the top of society's ladder.

Finally, the pursuit of personal freedom is a significant theme echoed across

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the writings of all four authors. Whether it manifests as a quest for love, a struggle for identity, or a yearning for social reform, the characters in their works embark on journeys toward self-actualization. In Austen's world, freedom is often tied to marital choices; in Wharton's, it lies in the tension between personal desires and social duty; in Dickens's novels, it emerges through the plight of the marginalized; and in Brontë's works, it is about breaking free from the constraints placed upon individual identity.

In conclusion, while each author offers unique perspectives through their storytelling, the interwoven themes of societal criticism, the complexity of relationships, moral quandaries, and the quest for freedom serve as a testament to the enduring relevance of their works. These thematic connections remind us that classic literature is a mirror reflecting the human condition, echoing through the ages as we continue to navigate similar challenges in our own lives.

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7. Reflections on the Legacy of Classic Literature

The legacy of classic literature is profound, transcending the limitations of time and culture. Works by iconic authors such as Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë continue to resonate with readers today, embodying universal themes and intricate character studies that speak to the human experience.

One of the most significant contributions of classic literature is its ability to reflect and shape societal norms and values. For instance, Austen's exploration of love and societal expectations provides insight into the social fabric of her time, while simultaneously offering perspectives that challenge these conventions. Her characters navigate the complexities of relationships against the backdrop of rigid social structures, prompting readers to reflect on their own views of love and economic necessity.

Charles Dickens, with his unforgettable characters and rich storytelling, delves into the struggles of the lower classes, giving voice to the marginalized. His legacy lies in his capacity to evoke empathy and compassion through vivid character development, as seen in protagonists like Oliver Twist and David Copperfield, who rise against adversity. Dickens' deft critique of industrial society propels readers to consider the moral implications of progress and its impact on humanity.

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Similarly, Charlotte Brontë's powerful narratives shift the focus towards identity and independence, particularly through her strong, complex female characters like Jane Eyre. Brontë's work challenges the limitations placed on women in the 19th century, making her a precursor to feminist literature. Her portrayal of a woman's quest for self-discovery and autonomy inspires generations, emphasizing the importance of personal integrity and resilience.

In contrast yet complementary, Edith Wharton provides a penetrating analysis of American high society, unmasking the hypocrisy and moral dilemmas faced by her characters in a world obsessed with status and appearances. Wharton's acute observations of social mores create a dialogue about authenticity and the often destructive pursuit of societal approval, compelling readers to examine the constructs of their own environments.

The common threads among these authors — love, identity, societal critique, and empathy — reflect the multifaceted nature of human existence. Each author engages with the complexities of their respective societies while addressing timeless questions about morality, purpose, and relationships, thereby enriching the global literary canon.

Ultimately, classic literature serves not only as a mirror reflecting the past but also as a lens through which to understand contemporary issues. The rich

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dialogues crafted by Austen, Dickens, Brontë, and Wharton encourage readers to engage with their work on a deep, personal level, ensuring that the themes contained within these novels remain relevant. Their legacies persist, inviting new generations to explore the vast emotional landscapes of human life and challenge the societal norms that govern it. Classic literature is a treasure that continues to inspire, provoke thought, and foster connections across cultures and eras.

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5 Key Quotes of 25 Classic Novels Volume 1

1. "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." - Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
2. "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." - Maya Angelou (often misattributed), echoing sentiments expressed by characters in works by Edith Wharton
3. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness..." - Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
4. "I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will." - Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
5. "The heart is a lonely hunter; and the stories we tell must flow from our deepest selves." - An interpretation inspired by the themes in the novels of these great authors.





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