

# Literary Firsts and Inventions

Literature · Answer Key · 12 Questions

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**1. Which author is credited with pioneering the use of the stream-of-consciousness technique in the novel?**

- A) James Joyce**
- B) Virginia Woolf
- C) William Faulkner
- D) Marcel Proust

**2. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century had a profound impact on literature primarily by:**

- A) Making books more accessible and affordable, leading to increased literacy**
- B) Encouraging the use of standardized spelling and grammar
- C) Facilitating the rapid spread of new literary styles and genres
- D) Allowing for greater artistic embellishment of printed texts

**3. Who is widely considered the first author to extensively use the term 'science fiction' to describe a genre of literature?**

- A) Hugo Gernsback**
- B) Jules Verne
- C) H.G. Wells
- D) Mary Shelley

**4. The 'Gutenberg Bible' is historically significant as the first major book printed in Europe using:**

- A) Movable metal type**
- B) Woodblock printing
- C) Hand-copied manuscripts
- D) Lithography

**5. Which of these playwrights is credited with the invention of the 'aside' as a dramatic device, allowing characters to speak directly to the audience?**

- A) William Shakespeare**
- B) Sophocles
- C) Molière
- D) Henrik Ibsen

**6. The development of the codex, which replaced the scroll, is considered a significant technological advancement for literature because it:**

- A) Allowed for easier organization, storage, and access to multiple texts**
- B) Made books more portable and less prone to damage
- C) Enabled the use of larger fonts and more elaborate illustrations
- D) Led to the widespread adoption of paper as a writing material

**7. Who is recognized as the first author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1901?**

- A) Sully Prudhomme**
- B) Rudyard Kipling
- C) Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson
- D) Theodor Mommsen

**8. The epic poem 'The Odyssey' is notable for being one of the earliest examples of what literary element that significantly influences narrative structure?**

- A) The flashback (analepsis)**
- B) The unreliable narrator
- C) The frame story
- D) The epistolary form

**9. Which literary movement, emerging in the early 20th century, is characterized by its exploration of the subconscious and dream-like imagery, often considered a significant departure from traditional narrative?**

- A) Surrealism**
- B) Symbolism
- C) Dadaism
- D) Expressionism

**10. The concept of the 'fourth wall' in theatre, breaking down which allows characters to acknowledge the audience, was famously explored and challenged by playwrights in which era?**

- A) The modern era, with plays by Brecht and Pirandello**
- B) The Elizabethan era, through Shakespeare's soliloquies
- C) Ancient Greek theatre, with direct address
- D) The Restoration period, with witty repartee

**11. The earliest known example of a printed book with a title page, as we understand it today, dates back to the:**

**A) 15th century, following the invention of the printing press**

B) 4th century AD, with early illuminated manuscripts

C) 11th century, during the medieval period

D) 18th century, with the rise of the novel

**12. The invention of the movable type printing press by Bi Sheng in China predates Gutenberg's by several centuries and utilized what material for its type?**

**A) Ceramic**

B) Metal

C) Wood

D) Ink