

Literary Firsts and Inventions

Literature · Practice Test · 12 Questions

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