

Historical Milestones in Creative Writing

Creative Writing History · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which 14th-century work is widely considered one of the first major examples of literature written in Middle English?

- A) The Canterbury Tales
- B) The Divine Comedy
- C) Beowulf
- D) Le Morte d'Arthur

2. Who is credited with writing the first modern novel, 'Don Quixote', published in two parts in 1605 and 1615?

- A) William Shakespeare
- B) Miguel de Cervantes
- C) Dante Alighieri
- D) Giovanni Boccaccio

3. In which literary movement did authors like Virginia Woolf and James Joyce experiment with 'stream of consciousness' narrative techniques?

- A) Romanticism
- B) Victorian Realism
- C) Modernism
- D) Post-structuralism

4. Which author is historically recognized for popularizing the gothic novel genre with the 1764 publication of 'The Castle of Otranto'?

- A) Mary Shelley
- B) Horace Walpole
- C) Ann Radcliffe
- D) Bram Stoker

5. Which epic poem, written in Old English by an anonymous poet, is the oldest surviving major work of Old English literature?

- A) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- B) The Wanderer
- C) Beowulf
- D) Paradise Lost

6. The term 'epistolary novel' refers to stories told through which medium?

- A) Dialogue exclusively
- B) Letters or documents
- C) Flashbacks
- D) Poetic verse

7. Which famous 19th-century author is credited with standardizing the modern short story format through his analytical tales, such as 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue'?

- A) Charles Dickens
- B) Edgar Allan Poe
- C) Mark Twain
- D) Oscar Wilde

8. What was the primary literary form of the 'Beat Generation' writers, such as Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, in the 1950s?

- A) Epic fantasy
- B) Minimalist confessional prose and poetry
- C) Hard-boiled detective fiction
- D) Neoclassical satire

9. Which novel, published in 1818, is often cited by literary historians as the first work of science fiction?

- A) Dracula
- B) Frankenstein
- C) The Time Machine
- D) Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

10. Who wrote the 'Panchatantra', an ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables that heavily influenced global storytelling traditions?

- A) Vishnu Sharma
- B) Kalidasa
- C) Valmiki
- D) Kautilya

11. The 'Lost Generation' was a group of American expatriate writers living in which city after World War I?

- A) London
- B) Berlin
- C) Paris
- D) Rome

12. Which 17th-century poet wrote 'Paradise Lost', an epic poem in blank verse concerning the biblical story of the Fall of Man?

- A) John Donne
- B) John Milton
- C) Alexander Pope
- D) Andrew Marvell

13. What is the title of the first novel written in the Japanese language, composed by Murasaki Shikibu in the early 11th century?

- A) The Pillow Book
- B) The Tale of Genji
- C) The Gossamer Years
- D) Hojoki

14. Which writing technique, popularized by Ernest Hemingway, involves removing descriptive passages to focus on the surface action of a story?

- A) Stream of consciousness
- B) The Iceberg Theory
- C) Magical realism
- D) Epistolary style

15. Which literary movement of the late 18th century emphasized emotion, individualism, and the glorification of the past and nature?

- A) Enlightenment
- B) Romanticism
- C) Naturalism
- D) Modernism

16. Which influential 19th-century author published 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and 'Adventures of Huckleberry Finn', establishing a new American vernacular in literature?

- A) Nathaniel Hawthorne
- B) Herman Melville
- C) Mark Twain
- D) Henry James

17. The term 'magical realism' became associated with the literature of which region during the 20th century?

- A) Scandinavia
- B) Latin America
- C) Southeast Asia
- D) Eastern Europe

18. Which writer is famous for the 1922 publication of 'Ulysses', a landmark work for its complex use of stream of consciousness?

- A) James Joyce
- B) T.S. Eliot
- C) Ezra Pound
- D) W.B. Yeats

19. What is the significance of the 'Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh' in the history of creative writing?

- A) It introduced the rhyme scheme
- B) It is the earliest known piece of epic literature
- C) It was the first work printed on a press
- D) It was the first novel written in French

20. Which 18th-century literary figure is known for producing 'A Dictionary of the English Language' and profoundly influencing English prose style?

- A) Samuel Johnson
- B) Jonathan Swift
- C) Daniel Defoe
- D) Tobias Smollett