

Historical Milestones in World Literature

Literature · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which 14th-century work is widely credited with establishing the Tuscan dialect as the standard literary language of Italy?

- A) The Decameron
- B) The Divine Comedy**
- C) Canzoniere
- D) Il Filostrato

2. In 1605, the first part of Don Quixote was published in Madrid; what was the full title of this original publication?

- A) El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha**
- B) La Galatea
- C) Novelas ejemplares
- D) Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda

3. Which author became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913?

- A) W.B. Yeats
- B) Rabindranath Tagore**
- C) Lu Xun
- D) Naguib Mahfouz

4. The first printing press in the English colonies of North America was established in which city in 1638?

- A) Boston
- B) Cambridge**
- C) Philadelphia
- D) Jamestown

5. Which 18th-century work is often cited as the first 'modern novel' in the English language, published in 1719?

- A) Moll Flanders
- B) Robinson Crusoe**
- C) Pamela
- D) Gulliver's Travels

6. Who was the first woman to be elected to the Académie Française, breaking a tradition dating back to 1635?

- A) Simone de Beauvoir
- B) Marguerite Yourcenar**
- C) Françoise Sagan
- D) Colette

7. The epic poem 'Beowulf' is recorded in which single surviving manuscript, dating to approximately 975-1025 AD?

- A) Nowell Codex**
- B) Vercelli Book
- C) Exeter Book
- D) Junius Manuscript

8. Which Russian author's works were famously confiscated by the KGB during the 'Samizdat' era, leading to the secret publication of 'Doctor Zhivago'?

- A) Leo Tolstoy
- B) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- C) Boris Pasternak**
- D) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

9. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh' was rediscovered in the 19th century through the excavation of which historical library?

- A) Library of Alexandria
- B) Library of Ashurbanipal**
- C) Library of Pergamum
- D) House of Wisdom

10. In 1922, which landmark modernist text was first published in its entirety in the journal 'The Criterion'?

- A) Ulysses
- B) The Waste Land**
- C) Mrs. Dalloway
- D) The Sound and the Fury

11. Which Japanese author's 11th-century work 'The Tale of Genji' is historically considered the world's first novel?

- A) Murasaki Shikibu**
- B) Sei Shonagon
- C) Matsuo Basho
- D) Ihara Saikaku

12. What was the first book printed using movable metal type in Europe, completed by Johannes Gutenberg in 1455?

A) The Canterbury Tales

B) The Vulgate Bible

C) The Divine Comedy

D) Summa Theologica

13. Which historical figure's diary, published posthumously in 1947, provided a primary account of life during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands?

A) Corrie ten Boom

B) Anne Frank

C) Etty Hillesum

D) Diet Eman

14. The 19th-century literary movement known as 'Romanticism' was significantly influenced by the publication of which collaborative 1798 poetry collection?

A) Lyrical Ballads

B) Songs of Innocence

C) The Prelude

D) Christabel

15. Which author's 19th-century novel 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was the second best-selling book of its century, surpassed only by the Bible?

A) Louisa May Alcott

B) Harriet Beecher Stowe

C) Nathaniel Hawthorne

D) Emily Dickinson