

Literary Milestones and Innovations

Literature · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which 8th-century text is widely recognized as the world's earliest dated printed book, commissioned by Wang Jie?

- A) The Diamond Sutra**
- B) The Epic of Gilgamesh
- C) The Tale of Genji
- D) The Vedas

2. Who is credited with inventing the movable type printing press in Europe around 1440, revolutionizing the mass production of literature?

- A) William Caxton
- B) Johannes Gutenberg**
- C) Aldus Manutius
- D) Nicolas Jenson

3. Which work is universally considered the first modern novel, published in two parts in 1605 and 1615?

- A) Robinson Crusoe
- B) Don Quixote**
- C) The Pilgrim's Progress
- D) Pamela

4. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh', originating from ancient Mesopotamia, is composed on which writing medium, marking one of the earliest forms of recorded literature?

- A) Papyrus scrolls
- B) Palm leaf manuscripts
- C) Clay tablets**
- D) Vellum codex

5. Which author is credited with writing the first detective story, 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue', in 1841?

- A) Arthur Conan Doyle
- B) Wilkie Collins
- C) Edgar Allan Poe**
- D) Charles Dickens

6. In which century was the 'codex'--the precursor to the modern book format with bound pages--first widely adopted to replace the scroll?

A) 1st century AD

B) 4th century BC

C) 8th century AD

D) 12th century AD

7. Which 1922 publication by T.S. Eliot is often cited as the definitive turning point marking the beginning of High Modernist poetry?

A) The Cantos

B) The Waste Land

C) Hugh Selwyn Mauberley

D) Ulysses

8. What is the title of the first known autobiography written in English, penned by Margery Kempe in the 15th century?

A) The Book of Margery Kempe

B) The Revelations of Divine Love

C) The Cloud of Unknowing

D) The Mirror of Simple Souls

9. Which 19th-century author is widely credited with writing the first science fiction novel, 'Frankenstein', in 1818?

A) H.G. Wells

B) Jules Verne

C) Mary Shelley

D) Edgar Allan Poe

10. The first official 'national bibliography'--a comprehensive catalog of a country's literary output--was pioneered in which country in the 16th century?

A) France

B) England

C) Italy

D) Germany

11. Which ancient civilization developed the first phonetic alphabet, which served as the foundation for the Greek and Latin scripts used in Western literature?

A) Sumerian

B) Phoenician

C) Hittite

D) Akkadian

12. Who published 'The Tale of Genji', often considered the world's first psychological novel, in the early 11th century?

A) Murasaki Shikibu

B) Sei Shonagon

C) Basho

D) Lady Nijo

13. In the history of children's literature, which 1658 publication by John Amos Comenius is regarded as the first true picture book?

A) Orbis Pictus

B) Aesop's Fables

C) Mother Goose

D) The New England Primer

14. What was the first novel to be published in a serialized format, starting a trend that dominated 19th-century Victorian literature?

A) The Pickwick Papers

B) Vanity Fair

C) Oliver Twist

D) Hard Times

15. The first translation of the Bible into a vernacular language that had a massive impact on the standardization of a European language was authored by whom?

A) John Wycliffe

B) Martin Luther

C) William Tyndale

D) Desiderius Erasmus