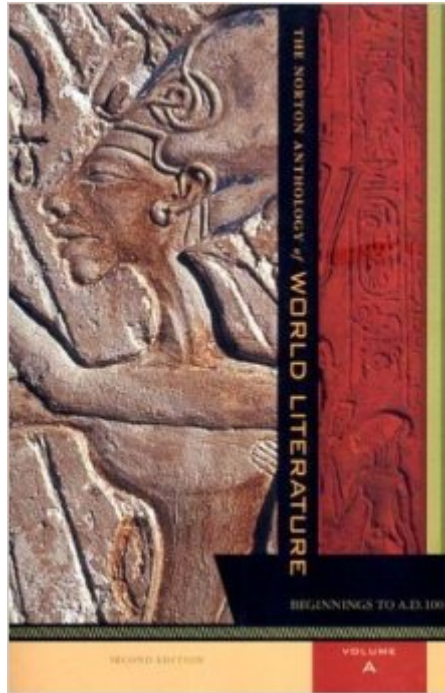


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The Norton Anthology Of World Literature, Vol. A: Beginnings To A.D. 100, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Nine years ago, W. W. Norton changed the way world literature is taught by introducing The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, Expanded Edition. Leading the field once again, Norton is proud to publish the anthology for the new century, The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Second Edition. Now published in six paperback volumes (packaged in two attractive slipcases), the new anthology boasts slimmer volumes, thicker paper, a bolder typeface, and dozens of newly included or newly translated works from around the world. The Norton Anthology of World Literature represents continuity as well as change. Like its predecessor, the anthology is a compact library of world literature, offering an astounding forty-three complete longer works, more than fifty prose works, over one hundred lyric poems, and twenty-three plays. More portable, more suitable for period courses, more pleasant to read, and more attuned to current teaching and research trends, The Norton Anthology of World Literature remains the most authoritative, comprehensive, and teachable anthology for the world literature survey.

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Norton's literary anthologies have long been the standard in every genre, and its World Literature collection is no exception. Their most ambitious offering, it proposes to cover no less than a representative sampling of the world's best and most important literature from the earliest writings to today. This is the first volume - one sixth of the total -, going up to 100 C. E. The range of material is

truly incredible in terms of both time and place. The best way to make the sheer vastness clear is to list the sections: The Invention of Writing and the Earliest Literatures (Gilgamesh, Ancient Egyptian Poetry, The Old Testament), Ancient Greece and the Formation of the Western Mind, Poetry and Thought in Early China, India's Heroic Age, and The Roman Empire. This truly mind-boggling selection stretches over three thousand pages including dozens and dozens of pieces. The nature of anthologies of course favors poems and short prose, but a surprising number of longer works are here in full: The Epic of Gilgamesh, Homer's Odyssey, Aeschylus' Agamemnon and The Eumenides, Sophocles' Oedipus the King and Antigone, Euripides' Medea, and Aristophanes' Lysistrata. The collection would be well worth buying for these alone; one would be very hard-pressed to get them separately for less than the anthology costs - not to mention the numerous shorter works given in full and many longer ones in excerpt. It is particularly noteworthy for including many Asian - not to mention Native American and African - works virtually ignored in such collections until very recently while still giving a thorough overview of European classics. Norton's anthologies are also notable for extensive supplemental material.

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