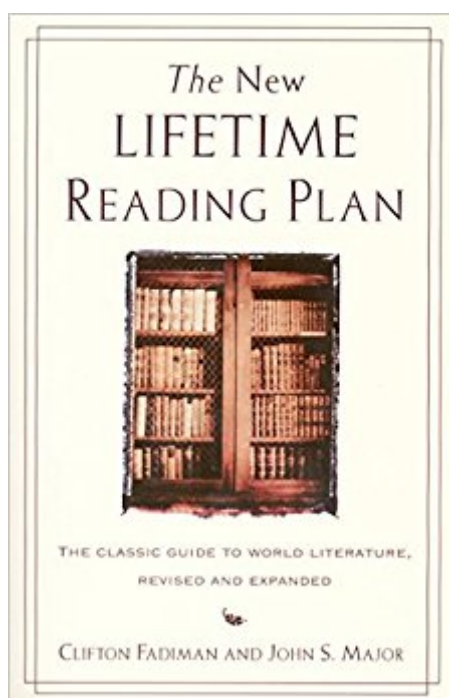


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The New Lifetime Reading Plan: The Classical Guide To World Literature, Revised And Expanded



Synopsis

Now in print for the first time in almost 40 years, The New Lifetime Reading Plan provides readers with brief, informative and entertaining introductions to more than 130 classics of world literature. From Homer to Hawthorne, Plato to Pascal, and Shakespeare to Solzhenitsyn, the great writers of Western civilization can be found in its pages. In addition, this new edition offers a much broader representation of women authors, such as Charlotte Brontë, Emily Dickinson and Edith Wharton, as well as non-Western writers such as Confucius, Sun-Tzu, Chinua Achebe, Mishima Yukio and many others. This fourth edition also features a simpler format that arranges the works chronologically in five sections (The Ancient World; 300-1600; 1600-1800; and The 20th Century), making them easier to look up than ever before. It deserves a place in the libraries of all lovers of literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In print for almost 40 years, The Lifetime Reading Plan has long been a worthy addition to any serious reader's bookshelf, providing entertaining and informative introductions to the great works of Western civilization. Now, this "classic about classics" has been updated to reflect more diverse traditions. The New Lifetime Reading Plan recommends great literature from around the globe, including writers and works from Confucius to Chinua Achebe, Gabriel García Márquez to the Koran. Also new is an appendix profiling books by 100 important 20th-century authors--or "temporary classics," as coauthor John S. Major calls them. Readers may argue with some of the selections (or, more likely, the omissions). Others may quarrel with the editors' opinions; they

routinely analyze artists' "characters," with occasionally prissy or patronizing results. (Of Walt Whitman, for instance, coauthor Clifton Fadiman declares that "He had an original temperament, a certain peasant shrewdness, but only a moderate amount of brains.") But no one can argue with the book's mission: promoting the classics as "life companions." "Once part of you, they work in and on and with you until you die," Fadiman writes in the introduction. Anyone seeking a guide to the vast riches of world literature need look no further than the The New Lifetime Reading Plan; it provides a gateway to the greatest achievements of the human mind. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Clifton Fadiman (1904-1999) was a well-known American author, editor, public intellectual, and radio and television personality.

Excellent path towards self-erudition! Was my inspiration as I grew up.

Excellent book and excellent service!

This is a good reference book for me

I purchased this book during my senior year in high school (2003-2004). Being a voracious reader since my youth, I was always trying to find lists of "great" books to read. I would peruse , Google, and whatever else in an attempt to find good advice on what to read. That fateful day, I stumbled across this book while browsing . It doesn't take a literary genius to know to read the Iliad and the Odyssey, but I would never have stumbled across Voltaire, Sophocles, Marcus Aurelius, Huxley, or Dante while in high school were it not for this book. It was invaluable to my reading until I could get to college and be guided by intelligent English professors. I plan to use this book to continue my literary education when I graduate this May. Furthermore, the book itself is very well written.

Fadiman and Major are excellent writers who are informative and amusing. The information they give on each of the authors and their works is excellent. The reason I am writing this review is that I saw The New Lifetime Reading Plan sitting on my desk in my dorm room; I honestly love it. I have used it as a reference for when I stumble across a literary name I do not know, and I occasionally browse through it for sheer enjoyment. I imagine that when I'm old and gray, this book will still be sitting on my desk: guiding, directing, and amusing.

A great introduction to the classics by a legend

This book is an anthology of summaries of the better books written since the time of the scroll and stylus. Unlike its predecessor, the Great Books of Western Civilization, this compendium broadens its horizons to include Eastern literature as well as Western. There's no question that many of the books recommended one read over the course of one's lifetime are truly meritorious, but there have crept in a few books which are interesting only because they appeal to a non-Western reader. Fair enough, but it tends to reduce the important works of civilization to a lower common denominator. Also, there are some serious omissions, as most of the attention is devoted to "literature," and not to works in philosophy, praxelogy, axiology, social and scientific history, and political, economic, and scientific breakthroughs. If one desires a list of the great books in all fields of endeavor, this is NOT the book. Too many books are omitted for that kind of enterprise. Indeed, looking at the Great Books website will provide a better list of books that really deserve our attention, and make our devotion to reading them perennially valuable. However, if literature is one's only interest, then this can be a helpful overview.

I really, really enjoyed this book but I was disappointed when one of the authors decided to mention that George Eliot's face resembled a horse, or when he said that she was a "strong-minded lady," especially when he did not feel compelled to make those kinds of observations about any of the many male authors included in the book. Despite those complaints - and a few other similarly unsettling moments - excellent read!

This is a great reading guide that has been updated over the years. You may not read all the books in this plan, but you will have enough reading to keep you busy and educated for the rest of your life. I feel that classical education is important for understanding the human race and how we got to where we are today. This guide gives us a selection of so-called great books which everyone should or know about to be truly educated. This guide has an undated list of contemporary books to read providing us with a balanced reading list from the past and the present. One thing I like about this book are the short summaries of recommended reading, so we can decide what we want to read, without being overwhelmed with trying to read every book on the list. I wish there were an Kindle version of this book, and I wish that this book were available to people in poor countries who have an e-reader or smart phone, so they can enjoy our rich global literary tradition. Richard Shaw is the author of *Reading as Consolation* Audible.Com

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