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Writers and Poets

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

36 2643 **The Young Goethe (1749–1775)**

36 3241 **From Weimar to Rome (1775–1789)**

36 3347 **Into a New Century (1789–1832)**

Arabic, English, French, German,
Portuguese, Spanish

It is easier to understand the works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe if something is known of his life. Moreover, and almost more importantly, Goethe regarded the shaping of his life as a creative task. Thus arose what was in a way one of the first conscious autobiographies of modern times, and even his contemporaries spoke of an “exemplary existence”.

Johann Georg Faust

00 0932

English, German, Spanish

The legend and the man – he sold his soul to the devil, and in return, the devil prepared a violent end for him. Even during his lifetime, legends abounded connecting Johann Georg Faust, the astrologer, magician, and master of black arts, with the satanic. The mysterious life of the historical Faust soon became the stuff of narrative in untold permutations throughout the German-speaking world, finally achieving the status of a national epic through Goethe.

“Charlotte von Stein – Goethe’s Immortal Love”

00 0416

English, German, Spanish

If Goethe had not fallen in love with her in 1775, Charlotte von Stein would probably have been forgotten. Interest in the baroness centers on her role as the muse who kissed Goethe. But did she kiss him? Yes or no, she produced some of the most beautiful examples of German love poetry.

Hermann Hesse

36 2641

Arabic, English, French, German,
Portuguese, Spanish

Hermann Hesse (1877–1962) is perhaps the best-known and most read of all German authors. He was already very popular during his lifetime. Hesse was an advocate of the rights of the individual in the age of the masses. The film takes a look at his life and works. It is a biography of a life lived in accordance with the maxim: “Loyalty to oneself and goodness to others.”

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing

36 2644

Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729–1781) was a poet and philosopher, dramatist and author, critic and journalist – a man, in short, of many talents. Some of Lessing’s works are among the most important contributions to the German Enlightenment movement, which was directed at humanising national, social and cultural life. In his drama “Nathan the Wise”, Lessing made a plea for human prejudices to give way to a spirit of humanity and tolerance. He was the most significant German writer to emerge since the time of Luther, the one great name in 18th century German literature until Goethe came on the scene.

Theodor Storm and North Friesland

00 0348

English, German, Spanish

Back in the 19th century, as the idea of the German nation was being formed, an interest in the idea of a “native land” was taking root. Literature’s response to this tendency was the genre of “Heimatdichtung”, or vernacular poetry. Theodor Storm’s tale of “The Little Häwelmänn”, and especially his famous novella “The Rider on the White Horse” movingly evoke the character of North Friesland’s people, their ongoing battle against the sea, and their ties to the land.

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**“My Songs Will Live When I Am Long
Departed”**

00 1239

English, German, Spanish

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff's first success came late with her short novella “The Jew's Beech” in 1842. The fascination of Droste-Hülshoff's verse epics, ballads and poems emanates from the isolation, melancholy, reverie, and longing they speak of. We revisit the stations of her lifetime.

Heinrich Heine

00 1384, 00 1385, 00 1386

English, German, Spanish

Without knowing much about the man, you can still join Heinrich Heine in laughter and scorn, and you can still be enthralled by his peculiarly poetic writings. But if you want to understand him, you must know something of the background and the contradictions of his life; and so we are portraying this life in a three-part film biography. His life is basically a story of suffering. But it was this suffering which made him one of the greatest lyric poets in the German language.

Thomas Mann

36 3776 | 01, 02

Arabic, English, French, German,
Portuguese, Spanish

Thomas Mann (1875–1955) has long been ranked among the classics of 20th century world literature. His works, comprising novels, stories, and essays on literary, political and philosophical subjects, have been translated into all the world's main languages. Mann's first novel “Buddenbrooks”, published in 1901, portrayed the decline of a patrician family dynasty. It was for this work that he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929.

Heinrich Böll

36 4111 | 01, 02

Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Heinrich Böll (1917–1985) is probably the most famous and the most controversial German writer of the post-war era. When he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1972, Böll's literary work had already been translated into more than 30 languages. As president of the international PEN Club from 1971 to 1974, he used his influence on behalf of persecuted and oppressed writers in all parts of the world.

**Once Upon a Time – There Were
Two Brothers ...**

00 1163

English, German, Spanish

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm – Apart from the Bible, no book has been translated into as many languages and read as often as the Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm. Philologists regard Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm as the founders of German studies. Our report goes beyond the usual romance of the fairy tales and weaves together biography, literary history and fairy tale motifs.