

Chapter 1 : 20th Century - German Literature

The Best German Novels of the Twentieth Century is a list of books compiled in by Literaturhaus MÃ¼nchen and Bertelsmann, in which 99 prominent German authors, literary critics, and scholars of German ranked the most significant German-language novels of the twentieth century.

Culture The 10 must-read German books of German authors are by no means bestsellers in English-speaking literature markets. Some discoveries await readers. German publishers are quick to translate new books by authors like Joyce Carol Oates or Siri Hustvedt. All of these writers have a loyal readership in Germany. The number of them finding their way into the English-speaking literature market is a lot lower than vice versa - and the time between publication and translation is much longer. Books from the s are especially popular at the moment, said Riky Stock of the link: Crime fiction and novels by immigrant writers are among the most popular. Here is a selection: In the satirical novel, Adolf Hitler resurfaces in the year and is instantly discovered as sidekick for a TV comedy show. The original was published in Germany six years ago and received a number of prestigious literature awards. The story offers profound insights into the life of the middle class in the Communist German Democratic Republic. Salinger "Catcher in the Rye". German literary exports of include a comic: Gaponenko was born in Odessa, Ukraine. After moving to Germany she became one of a number of immigrant writers who have become household names in German literature. Another household name is Croatian-born Zoran Drvenkar. In his thrillers, he speaks directly to the reader, using the familiar "du" form of address. His crime novel "Du" was published in Germany two years ago. Olga Grjasnowa, born in Baku, Azerbaijan, is known less for shock effects than for her poetic prose. She won the award for her novel "Angel of Forgetting. This kind of success on the American market is rare for a German author. Back in , his worldwide hit "Measuring the World" made Kehlmann one of the best-selling authors on the German market. US publishers are hoping to profit from that success. In the end, translating German books for the American market is good business. All ten books listed were published in the US in the past 12 months.

Chapter 2 : Best English-language Novels of the 20th Century - LMC @ GCC

The Best German Novels of the Twentieth Century is a list of books compiled in by Literaturhaus MÃ¼nchen and Bertelsmann, in which 99 prominent German authors, literary critics, and scholars of German ranked the most significant German-language novels of the twentieth century.[1].

On the lists were 83 authors, novels, nonfiction books, 86 films, 64 short stories, 41 television series, and 22 television mini-series. The two precocious horsemen pick up a sidekickâ€™ a laughable but deadly marksman named Jimmy Blevinsâ€™ encounter various adventures on their way south and finally arrive at a paradisiacal hacienda where Cole falls into an ill-fated romance. Bernard, half shepard, Buck learns many hard lessons as a sled dog: And the greatest lesson he learns from his last owner, John Thornton: Yet always, even at the side of the human he loves, Buck feels the pull in his bones, an urge to answer his wolf ancestors as they howl to him. Centennial by James A. From the Native Americans, the migrating white men and women, the cowboys, and the foreigners, it is a story of trappers, traders, homesteaders, gold seekers, ranchers, and huntersâ€™ all caught up in the dramatic events and violent conflicts that shaped the destiny of our legendary West. Latour is patrician, intellectual, introverted; Vaillant, practical, outgoing, sanguine. Friends since their childhood in France, the clerics triumph over corrupt Spanish priests, natural adversity, and the indifference of the Hopi and Navajo to establish their church and build a cathedral in the wilderness. She was a woman raising a young son on her own on a remote Arizona ranch. And between Hondo Lane and Angie Lowe was the warrior Vittorio, whose people were preparing to rise against the white men. Now the pioneer woman, the gunman, and the Apache warrior are caught in a drama of love, war, and honor. It is a drive that represents for everybody involved not only a daring, even a foolhardy, adventure, but a part of the American Dream â€™ the attempt to carve out of the last remaining wilderness a new life. In loosely connected episodes he vividly portrays the life and times of working cowboy Walsh, side-kick Chet Rollins, and other memorable characters of the Slash Y. Man and beast, pushed to the limits of their endurance, survive or perish. Riders of the Purple Sage by Zane Grey In the remote border country of South Utah, a man is about to be whipped by the Mormons in order to pressure Jane Withersteen into marrying against her will. The punishment is halted by the arrival of the hero, Lassiter, a gunman in black leather, who routs the persecutors and then gradually recounts his own history of an endless search for a woman abducted long ago by the Mormons. Secrecy, seduction, captivity, and escape: Riders to Cibola by Norman Zollinger In this saga beginning in the days of Pancho Villa, Ignacio Ortiz, an orphan and a runaway searching for his past, lives through eras of intense change, including two world wars and the beginning of the modern West. Sea of Grass by Conrad Richter Novel by Conrad Richter, published in , presenting in epic scope the conflicts in the settling of the American Southwest. Against this background is set the triangle of rancher Colonel Jim Brewton, his unstable Eastern wife Lutie, and the ambitious Brice Chamberlain. Richter casts the story in Homeric terms, with the children caught up in the conflicts of their parents. Shane by Jack Schaefer A stranger rode out of the heart of the great glowing West, into the small Wyoming valley in the summer of It was Shane, who appeared on the horizon and became a friend and guardian to the Starrett family at a time when homesteaders and cattle rangers battled for territory and survival. Big Sky by A. A legend before he turns 20, Boone Caudill becomes a powerful White Savage, an untamed life force that only one woman, the beautiful daughter of a Blackfoot chief, would dare to love. It is this magnificent spirit that Guthrie celebrates with his vivid storytellingâ€™ the glory of the bigness, the wildness, the freedom and undying dream of the West. First published in , it focuses on the lynching of three innocent men and the tragedy that ensues when law and order are abandoned. The result is an emotionally powerful, vivid, and unforgettable re-creation of the Western novel, which Clark transmuted into a universal story about good and evil, individual and community, justice and human nature. In The Great Wedding, Dusty arranges to marry off his buddy, Wrangler, to a rich woman in Santa Fe, so they can all live happily ever after. High society in the Hi Lo Country will never be the same after a brush with these two rowdy range riders. With their entire livelihood pegged on the chance of a wet year or a dry year, drought has the ability to crush their whole enterprise, to determine who stands and who falls, and to take food out of the mouths of the

workers and their families. To Charlie Flagg, an honest, decent, and cantankerous rancher, the drought of the early s is a foe that he must fight on his own grounds. The Wyoming territory was a harsh, unforgiving land, with its own unwritten code of honor by which men lived and died. Into this rough landscape rides the Virginian, a solitary man whose unbending will is his only guide through life. True Grit is his most famous novelâ€”first published in â€”and the basis for the movie of the same name starring John Wayne for which he won his only Academy Award. It tells the story of Mattie Ross, a fourteen-year-old girl from Dardanelle, Arkansas, who sets out in the winter of eighteen seventy-something to avenge the murder of her father.

Chapter 3 : German literature - The 20th century | theinnatdunvilla.com

These ten novels, ranging from the late 19th century to the last couple of years, are modern German classics. Earning international acclaim, each one is essential reading. From Nobel Prize winners.

The Weimar Republic existed from 1918 to 1933, and the Third Reich existed from 1933 to 1945. The reunification of Germany took place in 1990. Cambridge University Press, In order to give a very broad picture, for the sake of convenience we can divide the century into two halves, and we can divide literary production into three genres poetry, prose fiction, drama, although in practice many writers work across genres: Modernism comprised several literary movements including naturalism, symbolism, aestheticism, Expressionism, Futurism, Dada, Surrealism and Neue Sachlichkeit New Objectivity. However, according to Walter H. Sokel see reading list below, p. A Guide to European Literature, ed. Other German-language dramatists of this half-century include in alphabetical order: Johannes Baader, Johannes R. Literary critics of this period include: German-language dramatists of the second half of the 20th century include in alphabetical order: German-language poets of this period include in alphabetical order: German-language autobiographies and memoirs published in this period include those by: Literary critics in this period include: Travel writers of this period include: Katharina von Arx, Hubert Fichte. West German journalists in this period include: East German journalists in this period include: If the writer you are looking for is not on this page, then he or she may be on the 21st century page instead, e. Elfriede Jelinek, Rainald Goetz. Further Reading Graham Bartram ed. Routledge, Andreas Huyssen, Miniature Metropolis: Norton, Axel Goodbody and Dennis Tate eds. Rodopi, Katrin Kohl and Ritchie Robertson eds. Camden House, Walter H. Sokel, The Writer in Extremis: Stern, The Heart of Europe: Blackwell, Ingo R. Stoehr, German literature of the twentieth century: Camden House, R. Princeton University Press,

Chapter 4 : The Best Western Novels of the 20th Century from The Western Writers of America – James

The 20th century German Modernism Expressionism. German Modernism emerged from turn-of-the-century Aestheticism. Like European Modernism as a whole, German Modernism was in fact a cluster of different literary movements, including Expressionism, Neue Sachlichkeit ("New Objectivity"), and Dada.

As it is more rewarding to parody books with which people are familiar, my own selection has been conservative, reflecting the consensual view of the western literary canon rather than trying to reshape it. I limited every author to a single book and each decade to 10 books. Inevitably there will have been omissions. Here I edited the list still further. For a very short time, I fooled people into believing I wrote in short sentences, yet then as I hovered in that indeterminate space between sleeping and waking, as after metempsychosis thoughts of an earlier existence are unintelligible, the memory of my bedroom in Combray came flooding back, which is more than the servants did, whose absence seemed to emanate from a Merovingian past, leaving me to wonder whether Mama would come to kiss me goodnight before M Swann, whose prolonged absences with M de Charlus you might have chosen for yourself before embarking on this book, arrived for dinner, a dinner of madeleine cakes from which still clearer memories of my childhood, though refracted through a very adult voice, came racing back. He gazed towards the divine May Welland, seated in the Mingott box, and frowned when he saw her cousin, the Countess Ellen Olenska, sitting next to her. What would New York think of the reintroduction of the scarlet woman into society? Newland was irritated to be summoned to see his employer, Mr Letterblair. Newland had more pressing things to occupy his mind than work; how was New York wearing its waistcoats this season? Newland urged his horses on. Newland went to visit May. Locked in the loveless marriage decreed by New York, Newland was tormented by his passion for Ellen. He hurried to Boston. They kissed, a kiss that signalled they might have intercourse some time in the next few years. May had died some years earlier and Dallas had suggested they visited. The Alphas and Betas remain in incubators while the Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons are taken out after 36 hours. Each embryo is budded to create 96 identical twins. In the days when Our Ford was still alive, children used to form abusive monogamous relationships. To consume is to live, old is bad. So introduce some characters. He felt different to everyone; he just wanted to be alone with Lenina. I went there once with a Beta Minus girl about 25 years ago. She got lost and I never saw her again. I long to be crucified. Women wanted to sleep with him now he was Celebrity for bringing the Savages back to London and getting the Director the sack. Tonight he would introduce John to the Arch-Community Songster. He was tormented by visions of Lenina, visions of intimacy, and flagellated himself ceaselessly. Yet still the tourists flocked to visit. The Outsider Albert Camus Mother died today. It was very hot. And also because it was too much effort. The undertaker began to unscrew the coffin lid. In the water I met Marie Cordona, who used to be a typist in the office. I told her Mother had died. She wanted to know when. When I woke up the next morning, Marie had gone. On my way home from the office the next day I met my neighbour, Raymond. Locals say he lives off women. Is that not fair? He asked me to write her an unpleasant letter. He was pleased I agreed. Marie and I were disturbed by dull thuds. Raymond asked me to be a witness. He told me to say she had cheated on him. I agreed and he asked if I wanted to go to a brothel. I refused as it was far too tiring. The following week Raymond invited me to his chalet. I asked if I could bring Marie. That evening Marie asked me to marry her. Maybe yes, maybe no. I asked her if she wanted to eat. She said she was doing something. She looked at me. The sun was very hot. I walked along the beach with Raymond and his friend, Masson. There was a fight. The Arabs ran off. Later Raymond handed me his gun. I walked down the beach. I met the Arab. It was even hotter now. I shot him once. Then I shot him four times more. It was very hot in court. The judge told me I would be decapitated in a public square. Did I have anything to say? I grabbed his cassock in frustration. John Ray, PhD Lolita. Light of my life. If you wonder where my peculiar interests came from, I should have to say it started when I was 13 with Annabel Leigh, who died of typhus just as we were sur le point de la jouissance. On the issue of my pedanterosis, I should stress it is not just any old year-old girl that attracts me, but only "nymphets". And how Humbug Humbug tried to be bon. I arrived alone in New York and joined an expedition to the Arctic. Eskimo

women were too fishy, so I moved to New England to start work on a book that would never be written. Oh, the conceit, reader! Charlotte, my landlady was a woman of unbearable drabness, with whom I would not have stayed but for her year old daughter, Dolores. How I mourned when she went out for fear she would be too old for me on her return. Imagine, then, how I felt when her mother declared herself in love with me. Reader, I married her. I acted the mari parfait, but then Charlotte read my diary. Her rage was incandescent; I was steeling myself for righteous fury when she was knocked down by a car. I had palpated Fate. I collected L in my Humber Humber and took her to a hotel where Lolita, aux yeux battus, seduced me. I was soon bored by her tales of Sapphism but magnetised by her nymphaea. Thus began our Baedeker travels through the States. You may sense the book entering longeurs as I recount how my pubescent concubine enjoyed sessions of gentle sodomy. But we were walking in a winter Humbertland, where critics would conflate the belles lettres of my transgression with artistic genius. We argued over a school production of a Clare Quilty play and my jealousy became obsessive. I was told she had left hospital with her uncle and I fruitlessly tracked her kidnapper in a cryptogrammic paperchase. For three years I sought traces of my Lolita in a boyish woman and wrote poems. Then I got a letter from a Mrs Schiller. But Schiller was innocent; Lolo had conspired in her own kidnapping with Clare Quilty and had left him when he asked her to star in a pornographic movie. In Quilty, I recognised a pentapod monster like myself and Chum the Gun and Engelbert Humperdinck staked out his house. I wrestled with him, shooting him 52 times before he uttered his last words. I have so many stories â€” too many you may think â€” to tell to save my myself from crumbling into dust. For I am the Arabian Knight. My grandfather Aadam Aziz lost his faith. Blood fell from his not inconsiderable nose, solidified into rubies and I could already sense I had the critics by their post-colonial balls. Aadam trained as a doctor and Mr Ghani asked him to examine his daughter, Naseem, through a hole in a sheet.

Chapter 5 : BBC - Culture - The 21st Century's 12 greatest novels

Earlier this year, the Modern Library published a list styled The Hundred Best Nonfiction Books of the Twentieth Century. A list of significant books can make a compelling statement about how we are to understand an age.

Today her Sunday skirt was one layer closer to her person, while the one that had basked in the warmth of her skin on Sunday swathed her hips in Monday gloom. Whistling with no particular tune in mind, she coaxed the first cooked potato out of the ashes with her hazel branch and pushed it away from the smoldering mound to cool in the breeze. Then she spitted the charred and crusty tuber on a pointed stick and held it close to her mouth; she had stopped whistling and instead pursed her cracked, wind-parched lips to blow the earth and ashes off the potato skin. In blowing, my grandmother closed her eyes. When she thought she had blown enough, she opened first one eye, then the other, bit into the potato with her widely spaced but otherwise perfect front teeth, removed half the potato, cradled the other half, mealy steaming, and still too hot to chew, in her open mouth and, sniffing at the smoke and the October air, gazed wide-eyed across the field toward the nearby horizon, sectioned by telegraph poles and the upper third of the brickworks chimney. Something was moving between the telegraph poles. My grandmother closed her mouth. Something was jumping about. Three men were darting between the poles, three men made for the chimney, then round in front, then one doubled back. Short and wide he seemed, he took a fresh start and made it across the brickyard, the other two, sort of long and thin, just behind him. Out of sight they remained, it was intermission, they were changing their costumes, or making bricks and getting paid for it. My tooth was howling. A cat sauntered diagonally across the field and no one threw anything at it. A few of the boys were chewing or plucking at blades of grass. The cat belonged to the caretaker and was black. Hotten Sonntag rubbed his bat with a woolen stocking. My tooth marked time. The tournament had been going on for two hours. We had lost hands down and were waiting for the return game. It was a young cat, but no kitten. In the stadium, handball goals were being made thick and fast on both sides. My tooth kept saying one word, over and over again. On the cinder track the sprinters were practicing starts or limbering up. The cat meandered about. The wind was from the east, and the crematorium between the United Cemeteries and the Engineering School was operating. Mallenbrandt, the gym teacher, blew his whistle: Mahlke was asleep or seemed to be. I was next to him with my toothache. Still practicing, the cat came closer. We formed a triangle. My tooth was silent and stopped marking time: Newly translated by Breon Mitchell this edition differs from the cover shown Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Chapter 6 : World literature tour: Germany | Books | theinnatdunvilla.com

The 12 best novels of the (21st) century Seattle Times book editor Mary Ann Gwinn was asked to submit her favorite books published since for a list published by BBC book maven Jane Ciabattari. "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz was a clear fave.

Earning international acclaim, each one is essential reading. Gustav von Aschenbach is a famous writer who takes a summer holiday in Venice. During one dinner, he notices an exceptionally beautiful adolescent boy. He becomes obsessed from a distance, shutting out the ominous news of a danger spreading through the city. As a law student several years later, he is observing a trial when he realizes that the woman in the dock is his former lover. But the woman on trial is a very different person to the one he thought he knew. In , it became the first ever German book to top the New York Times bestseller list, and Kate Winslet won an Oscar for her performance in the film adaptation. The book has however come in for staunch criticism, as critics claim it encourages identification with the perpetrators of the Holocaust. Remarque was himself a veteran of the war, and he wrote and published the book a decade after its conclusion. The novel zooms in to the daily life of a private soldier, detailing both the violence of battle and the mundaneness of life on the front. Published in , it quickly received international acclaim, being translated into 22 different languages and selling 2. It was also one of the first books banned and burned by the Nazis for being "degenerate. When it was published in , Das Parfum shot to the top of the best-seller tables. You will not regret picking up this gripping yet grotesque read. Sebald A photo posted by athousandbooks on Jan 25, at 9: He lived in southeast England for the majority of his life as a university professor, and the breadth and depth of his knowledge shared in the novel could only be that of an academic. The novel traces the journey of Jacques Austerlitz, a man who arrived in Britain in as a young boy from Prague. Through a series of lengthy conversations with the narrator, Austerlitz slowly reveals his life story. Die Verwandlung is probably his most famous work, and many are familiar with the bizarre first line: Berlin was like no other city in the late s: This iconic novel narrates the story of ex-convict Franz Biberkopf who, after being released from prison in Berlin, swears that he will live an upstanding and decent life. Sounds like absurdist fiction? Effi Briest is a young girl from traditional Prussian nobility, who is married off to a considerably older official. Although a devoted servant to the state, her husband is less loving towards his wife, which leads to great problems. This poignant work is seen as one of the great German realist masterpieces, and a beautiful yet tragic story of two people caught up in the shackles of society.

Chapter 7 : Sturm and Drang: 20 German Classics You Should Read Right Now | Qwiklit

Modern Library's Best Novels is a list of the best English-language novels published in the 20th century, as selected by the Modern Library, an American publishing company owned by Random House.

Expressionism German Modernism emerged from turn-of-the-century Aestheticism. Of these, Expressionism is the best known and most important. Beginning about and reaching its culmination during World War I, Expressionism was a powerful response to the chaos and suffering of modern life. Georg Trakl, Georg Heym, and Gottfried Benn created terrifying images of war, urban life, oppression, and illness in their lyric poetry, and, although Trakl expressed a visionary mysticism in his battlefield scenes, Heym and Benn presented reality as grotesque, distorted, and starkly unrelieved. At the same time, their poetry, like Expressionist art of the period, is full of such colours as red, gold, purple, and blue, which bear an often hermetic or deeply personal significance for these writers. Expressionist drama used the same methods of grotesque distortion to attack what it saw as the soullessness of modern technology and the subjection of workers to machines. Yet Expressionist drama often took a more optimistic approach to the machine age, in part because of impulses derived from Italian Futurism. Whereas the Futurists glorified the machine, however, the Expressionists saw it more as an instrument that might help bring about a socialist utopia. The Expressionist stage became a vehicle to effect a transformation of consciousness in the audience. *Die Wandlung*; *Transfiguration*, a play by Ernst Toller, depicts this kind of transformation in a young man who turns his horrific war experience into a new awareness of the brotherhood of man; his play *Masse-Mensch*; *Man and the Masses* presents the tragic attempt of a woman worker to effect a mass revolution among her fellow workers and lead them beyond violence toward peaceful coexistence. But his writing is better understood as an early phase of experimental Modernism. His striking narrative technique, first developed in *The Judgment*, of presenting reality from a limited third-person point of view enables readers to identify with his oppressed and passive protagonists while also recognizing that their view is deeply flawed. Like many other Modernists, Kafka also treated problems of authority and power. His characters feel hopelessly subjugated to inexplicable forces associated with patriarchal social structures and an overly mechanized and bureaucratic modern world. Set in Paris and presented in the form of fragmentary jottings, the novel depicts modern city life as the multiple reflexes of a disoriented narrator who tries in vain to recapture the straightforward narrative logic he recalls from stories heard and read in his youth. In *Der Steppenwolf*; *Eng. Steppenwolf*, Hermann Hesse also developed many concerns of Modernism, depicting the ordeals of a divided psyche torn between the conventional and the artistic worlds, the feminine and the masculine, reason and hallucination. All three writers took a deep interest in the psychological and social determinants of criminality: Among the communist writers who had fled from Nazi Germany a major debate took place about the merits of realist as opposed to Modernist techniques. The issue was whether straightforward presentation of reality or formal experimentation was a more effective way of raising social consciousness in readers of literature. This debate was later to have significant repercussions in East Germany. Ernest Hemingway and Jean-Paul Sartre were among the most important literary influences of this period. The *Man Outside* "were a highly popular form. Stage drama also exercised considerable influence throughout the early postwar years. His theoretical writings developed a new theatrical model designed to overcome the Aristotelian principles that had dominated German theatre since Lessing. The alienation effect, designed to discourage empathy with the protagonist and to stimulate critical responses in the audience, became a touchstone for postwar dramatists. The exile poets Nelly Sachs and Paul Celan emerged as two of the most prominent poetic voices to reflect on the concentration camp experience. In East Germany the literary situation was very different from that of West Germany. Adapting the doctrine espoused by Georg Lukacs during the Modernism debate of the s, the official literary mode was Socialist Realism. The trilogy presents a grotesquely imaginative retrospective on the Nazi period. The narrator of *Die Blechtrommel* is the dwarf Oskar Matzerath, who claims that he deliberately stopped growing on his third birthday out of protest against the corruptions of adult society under Nazism. He expresses his opposition by means of his toy drum as well as by his almost supernatural ability to shatter glass with his voice. Despite his initial protest, however,

Oskar allows himself to be co-opted by the Nazis, joining a performing group that entertains soldiers on the Atlantic front. After the end of World War II, Oskar chooses to become involved in the slick deception of the government-sponsored West Concert Bureau, which promotes collective repression of the Nazi period. With its virtuosic command of language, its innovative reworking of the picaresque tradition, and its sophisticated approach to German social history, *Die Blechtrommel* was a landmark in postwar German literature. Dramatists of this period were increasingly concerned with the relation between the Nazi past and the political realities of the present. Documentary drama, using material from the war-crimes trials of 1965, proliferated: The play *Kaspar*; Eng. *Kaspar*, by Peter Handke, takes its starting point in the story of the foundling Kaspar Hauser and his gradual acquisition of language and culture, showing him being browbeaten into learning German and becoming increasingly dehumanized in the process. Although this play did not explicitly address the question of the Nazi past, it explored the degree to which an individual can preserve the spirit of resistance in the face of overwhelming pressures. The dominant genre was lyric poetry. After the student movement died down, the young writers returned somewhat reluctantly to everyday domesticity, which they described in their poetry in affectionate detail, though also with a distinct touch of irony. *A Sorrow Beyond Dreams*, a sensitive portrait of his mother and her suicide. Sentimental, nostalgic, and gently ironic, these quasi-autobiographical novels explore the problematic nature of the positive family memories still somewhat guiltily cherished by many of those who were not persecuted by the Nazis. In *Flugasche* *Flight of Ashes*, written in East Germany during the 1980s but not published until 1990 and then in West Germany, Monika Maron depicted the tension between inner and outer reality in the attempt of a young woman journalist to present unpleasant truths about the lives of workers in the industrial town of Bitterfeld. While she does succeed in writing an article that causes the power plant to be shut down, she herself is under threat of expulsion from the Communist Party at the conclusion of the novel. Subjectivity was not the only theme of the 1980s, however. Two vast novel projects originating in this period combine techniques of perspectivized narration with the problem of fact versus fiction that was increasingly dominating the retrospective on Nazism: The feminist movement in Germany led to the emergence of a prolific and innovative group of women writers. Women were encouraged to feel and write through their bodies rather than through conventional rationality, and the distinctiveness of feminine sensibility became a hotly debated issue. Postmodernism In the last decades of the 20th century, German literature was influenced by international postmodernism, a movement that combined heterogeneous elements in order to appeal simultaneously to a popular and a more sophisticated readership. Parody, pastiche, and multiple allusions to other types of cultural production are characteristic of postmodernist literature. Once viewed in the light of postmodernism, however, these novels underwent a critical reevaluation. *The Story of a Murderer*, with its brilliant imitations of literary styles from various periods, was another work of German postmodernism that became an international best-seller. After reunification Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, writers began to explore the tensions between the economic, social, and cultural values of West and East Germany. There was intense debate about the East German experience under communism, in particular about whether the psychological need to come to terms with this experience was comparable to the soul-searching that had been undertaken after the end of World War II. *Six*, set in the 1950s and ostensibly a story about the discovery of guilt incurred by an important East German party functionary during the Third Reich. By exploring the rift between actions and desires, the novel becomes an inquiry into the responsibility of historians and writers in general. The link between the communist and the Nazi eras is established in a key scene that metaphorically brings together violence past and present. Some readers saw the tale as a self-serving portrayal of the author as a victim of communism; these readers failed to notice, however, the thread of self-critique woven into the narrative. In it was revealed, in a further twist of irony, that Wolf herself had given information to the security police for a brief period. It was succeeded by another debate that broke out after the secret police files of several other well-known writers became available. At the same time, some members of an apparently oppositional group of East German writers, known as the Prenzlauer Berg poets after the district in Berlin where they lived, were shown to have acted as informants for the secret police. The resulting discussions stimulated a probing reexamination of the problem of autonomous art and the relation of aesthetics to ideology. Nonetheless, Hettche succeeds in transforming this central metaphor into a

multilayered analysis of postunification psychology. In these and other novels of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the Nazi past continues to haunt German writing. Austerlitz – the story of a man who had been saved from Nazi Germany and adopted by an English couple but who has been traveling in search of the places he believes to have been way stations in his early life – has had international success as a moving, though puzzling, exploration of memory, real and imagined.

Chapter 8 : Best German Novels of the Twentieth Century | Awards | LibraryThing

When it comes to German novels though, it's mostly small or "micro-" publishers who show an interest, said Riky Stock. Crime fiction and novels by immigrant writers are among the most popular.

The following list was inspired by the list of the "Greatest English Language Novels" that was compiled and released in by the editors of the Modern Library. I say "inspired," although I deplored the specific contents of the Modern Library list, which struck me as being way, way out of touch with the nature and significance of 20th century fiction. *Pale Fire*, Vladimir Nabokov, [The most audaciously conceived novel of the century--and the most perfectly execute--this is also the book whose existence could have been the most difficult to anticipate in the year] *Ulysses*, James Joyce, [Not so much the beginning of anything as the culmination of the great 19th century symbolic realist tradition] 3. *The Public Burning*, Robert Coover, [A book controversial enough that its publisher almost immediately took it out of print where it stayed for over 15 years, this novel featured a surprisingly sympathetic Richard Nixon as its principle narrator and used the Rosenberg case as a means of examining just about everything worth examining about America during the McCarthy era; excessive and encyclopedic, dazzling in its range of styles, bitterly angry and bitingly humorous, this is the most brilliant and original "political novel" ever published in America. *The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner, [Along with raising Southern gothic to an art form, this book ranks with *Pale Fire* in terms of its audacious treatment of point of view and created in Jason Compson perhaps the most memorable villain of the century. *Trilogy Molloy* [], *Malone Dies* [], *The Unnamable* [], Samuel Beckett [Beckett took self-consciousness, solipsism, ultimacy, and minimalism to the brink of silence--where he, thankfully, retreated just in time. This sprawling novel is still one of the most perceptive examinations of American life and values. *Beloved*, Toni Morrison, [A poetically rendered cry of pain and a plea for forgiveness and understanding, this book won for Morrison a Nobel Prize though not a place in the Modern Library List]. *Going Native*, Stephen Wright, Imagine a pornographic twilight zone of beebie-eyed serial killers, drug-stunned pants-dropping road warriors and marauding armies of mental vampires, a nightmarish country of unparalleled savagery, where there is no longer any membrane between screen and life and the monster image feed in inexhaustible and the good guys are the scariest ones of all. *Under the Volcano*, Malcolm Lowery, [The hell of alcoholism and the self has never been rendered more passionately or convincingly. *The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway, [Employing a startlingly innovative method of rendering the lives and attitudes of a "lost generation" of Americans seeking some sort of substitute for the values and meanings had been destroyed by WWI, this novel would also have a decisive impact on Raymond Carver and other American "minimalists" later in the century. *The Great Gatsby*, F. The *Ambassadors*, Henry James, *Women in Love*, D. Lawrence, [The book where Lawrence finally achieved his goal of finding a means of rendering the non-verbal operations determining the interactions of men and women. *The Rifles*, William T. *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad, Among other things, this novel has been convincingly cited by critic Brian McHale as marking the dividing line between modernism and postmodernism. *The Four Elements Tetralogy* earth: *The Stain* [], fire: *Entering Fire* [], water: *The Fountains of Neptune* [], and air: *The Jade Cabinet* [], Rikki Ducornet [Using each of the four primal elements as central controlling metaphors, this ambitious tetralogy are many different things: *Tropic of Cancer*, Henry Miller, Ballard, [The colonization and seduction of our subconscious by the mediascape, the erotic thrill of violence, the secret satisfactions of watching machines go hay-wire, and the numbing power of mass-produced imagery have never been presented more convincingly. *Genoa*, Paul Metcalf, [Metcalf invents a narrative structure--part mosaic, part history, part genealogy, part invention--which appropriates generous selections of materials drawn from the Christopher Columbus myth, Moby Dick, a myriad other sources to develop a narrative that reveals a whole host of connections between the greed and blood-lust of our founding fathers and contemporary Americans. *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley, [In this greatest of all 20th century dystopian novels, Huxley develops a chillingly accurate forecast about a civilization which willingly gives itself over not to preestablished human goals but to the self-augmenting, self-perpetuating needs of new technologies which, in his words, "tend always to obey the

laws of its own logic. *A Passage to India*, E. Forster, [In his last and best-known novel, Forster takes the relationships between the English and Indians in India in the early s as a background against which to erect his most searching and complex exploration of the possibilities and limitations, the promises and pitfalls, of human relationships. *Double or Nothing* , Raymond Federman, *Native Son*, Richard Wright, [No other black author of this century took greater risks than Wright in this harrowing novel, where he creates a protagonist Bigger Thomas who murders a white woman--and then demands that we understand and even empathize with this act. *Nightwood*, Djuna Barnes, [In this haunting, dream-like novel, Barnes uses homosexuality as a metaphor for the condition of the human soul. *Slaughterhouse Five* , Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. As much as any other novel from the 60s, *Slaughterhouse Five* established metafiction as the postmodernist literary form capable of offering writers an escape from the stifling fantasies of traditional "realism. *Libra*, Don DeLillo, [This novel depicts the ambiguous personalities and events that culminated in the central mythological event that lies at the heart of the mystery of postmodern America: *Always Coming Home*, Ursula K. USA Trilogy *The 42nd Parallel* [], [], and *The Big Money* [] , John Dos Passos [These "collective novels" depict the vast panorama of post WWI American life by describing the destinies of the masses of men and women rather than individuals; Dos Passos relied on an array of innovative formal devices influenced by the rise of mass media, Camera eyes, newsreels, quick flash techniques, capsule biographies and other mixtures of news stories, bits of song lyrics, and newspaper headlines. *The Golden Notebook*, Doris Lessing, ? *The Catcher in the Rye* , J. What We Talk About When We Talk About Love, Raymond Carver, [Carver writes about troubled people on the outs--out of work, out of love, out of touch--whose confusions, turmoils, and poignancy are conveyed through an interplay of surface detail; here he pushed this elliptical, spare style to its most extreme form--and created a collection that would have a decisive impact on the short story form during the last quarter of this century. *Dubliners*, James Joyce, [These intricately intertwined stories are not only vividly drawn, meticulously accurate sketches of turn-of-the-century Dublin but collectively allowed Joyce to come directly to terms with the life he had rejected and the ways this rejection might be figured in art; like his later, more ambitious books, *Dubliners* is also a book that transcends its immediate focus to become microcosms, small-scale models of all human life, of all history, and geography. *Cane*, Jean Toomer, [Blending poetry, theater, and fiction, this landmark experimental novel of the 20s movingly portrayed the rootlessness of black life in white America and made Toomer a leading figure of the Harlem Literary Renaissance. *The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton, [While Wharton raises questions about American capitalism, class structure, and gender relations that would endure throughout the century, it is her artistry--her eloquence and control as a stylist, her nuanced employment of the comedy of manners mode that only James rivals that makes this book, in its own time and ours, such a broad and major accomplishment. *Checkerboard Trilogy* *Go in Beauty* [], *The Bronc People* [], *Portrait of the Artist with 26 Horses* [] , William Eastlake [Back in the late 50s and early 60s, William Eastlake was single-handedly changing the scope, poetic range, thematic assumptions, and treatment of character--especially that of Native Americans--of the Western genre. *New York Trilogy* *City of Glass* [], *Ghosts* [], *The Locked Room* [] , Paul Auster [Asters Trilogy introduced a new literary figure described by Dennis Drabbelle as the "post-existential private-eye" and a form of storytelling emphasizing the formal peculiarities and epistemological quandaries of the genre while simultaneously presenting a haunting evocation of the noisy, bewildering and crowded anonymity of New York City--the only constant character in the Trilogy. *Skinny Legs and All*, Tom Robbins, [Robbins uses the *Dance of the Seven Veils* as a kind of elaborate framing device to examine many of the most basic issues that define our existence: *Infinite Jest*, David Foster Wallace, These themes are presented through a range of unusual and poetic voices and narrative structures designed to model the difficulties involved in distinguishing pop-cultural appearance from reality or establishing meaningful connections between media-generated images and their referents. *Dick*, [Working as he did on the treadmill of genre SF, Dick never wrote a single work which can be termed a "masterpiece," although this alternate world novel--with its many surprising twists and equally surprisingly [and surprisingly subtle] treatment of Asian themes--comes close. *American Psycho*, Brett Easton Ellis, [The most notorious and widely denounced American novel of the 80s, *American Psycho* is also a brilliantly inventive , wickedly funny novel whose monumentally excessive depiction of media imagery becomes a devastating critique of the

horror and banality that characterizes an American life dominated by the cultural logic of hyperconsumer capitalism. The Book of the New Sun Tetralogy The Shadow of the Torturer [], The Claw of the Conciliator [], The Sword of Lictor [], The Citadel of the Autarch [] , Gene Wolfe [In this sprawling series of interrelated novels set in some distant future Wolfe conjures up an epic adventure that unfolds as a series of sensuously rendered, fabulous micro-quests and mock summaries of cultural artifacts reminiscent of Borges or Calvino. The Tunnel , William H. Gass [From page one until its conclusion, Gass delights and amazes by reeling off one sensuous, loving constructed sentence after another. The Sheltering Sky, Paul Bowles, [Bowles plunges his readers into a desert landscape whose awe inspiring beauty and indifference to humanity has never been rendered so lovingly--or so harrowingly. Up, Ronald Sukenick, [This wildly inventive, comic novel unfolds as collages of desperate elements: This novel proved him to be right. The Universal Baseball Association, J. Creamy and Delicious, Steve Katz, Waiting for the Barbarians, J. Coetzee, [Narrated by a middle-aged magistrate of an unspecified colonial outpost, this hallucinatory allegory of imperialism poetically chronicles the interconnections existing between power-wielders and their victims. Look Homeward, Angel Thomas Wolfe, In Memorium to Identity, Kathy Acker, [By the time this--her most moving and effective novel--appeared, Acker had already published nearly a dozen books whose punk-influenced, demolition derby approach to writing fiction had already had the greatest impact on writing by women of anyone of her generation. Delany, [The most shocking novel published in the 20th century].

The Best English-Language Fiction of the Twentieth Century A Composite List and Ranking by Brian Kunde.

Its novels are not characterized by their length or their subject matter, but rather by their devotion to the cerebral. Have your say in the comments, and let us know what you think of the selection. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe – The Sorrows of Young Werther Goethe will likely retain his status as the greatest German writer of all time for years to come, but it is his theater and poetry that have more strongly endured over the past years. His famous coming-of-age novel, however, helped spurn the Romantic literary movement in Germany, and it is today regarded as one of the first novels of a genre later explored by F. Scott Fitzgerald and J. D. Salinger. Drawing from old forms of the Romance, it combines suspense and horror without excluding a troubling psychological underbelly. Theodor Fontane – Effi Briest Largely overshadowed by the great 19th century novels of adultery See: Written from the perspective of an aging author, Mann foresees and forewarns of, for that matter the inevitable intrusion of decadence, violence and passion upon the conventional literary text. Herman Hesse – Siddhartha This novel has been called many things: It is without a doubt, however, a sublimely-written piece about finding absolution and finding peace through charity and goodwill. Using several forms of print – such as newspaper, street signs and popular music, Dublin – along with fellow Berliner Bertolt Brecht – would later influence the use of multimedia in late 20th century literature. It was also one of the first major novels to use cinematic montage to enliven its storytelling, making it today one of the most influential German novels in the world. While Keun would later seek exile and release her works outside of Germany, the novel has returned to its place of origin and has retained a high level of popularity. Anna Seghers – Transit Seghers set her novel among European refugees trying to escape the atrocities of Vichy France and Nazi Germany by going through Marseille. The novel questions but also argues for the place of art in society, but it also shows why art cannot exist without the physical presence of life to validate its presence. Both a revisiting of the first half of the 20th century and a look at the country in the present day, the novel explores life in the region of Danzig while also challenging the moral responsibility of the observer after witnessing the Second World War. It is also a piece of social commentary – as Germany is undergoing its economic miracle during the reconstruction era, who, Grass demands, will have the willingness to look back? The novel is a bricolage of sorts, combining letters, diaries and other forms of text as the narrator discovers more about a doppelganger that is haunting her. A pariah among other German authors, this short work is a tribute to her own personal fortitude. When Katharina Blum takes a man home after a party, the subsequent turmoil results in her getting charged with the murder of a snooping journalist.