

WTBBL Book List:

Book Bracket of Classics

In 2025, WTBBL staff hosted a Book Bracket where patrons, volunteers, and staff voted for their favorite classics. The winner? **1984** by George Orwell! ([BR010312](#), [DBF00875](#), [DBG16491 auf Deutsch](#), [DB119472 στα ελληνικά](#)) From thought-provoking philosophy to thrilling sci-fi, here's our lineup of classics that went head-to-head.

Plato's The Republic by Plato, 1980, originally published around 375 BC. ([DB050843](#))

Classic dialogues between Socrates and his friends concerning justice in man and the state, the Platonic theory of ideas, and concepts of nature, poetry, and philosophy.

The Analects/ Doctrina de Confucio by Confucious, 1979, originally published around 475 BC – 220 AD. ([DB019563](#), [DB065456](#), [DB080991 en Español](#))

Brief statements, short dialogues, and anecdotes compiled by the Chinese scholar's disciples. These maxims convey the intellectual and spiritual ideals of Confucius, his political beliefs, and humanist ethics – still influential in much of the world. Multiple translations available.

1984 by George Orwell, 1949. ([BR010312](#), [DBF00875](#), [DBG16491 auf Deutsch](#), [DB119472 στα ελληνικά](#))

Dark satire written in 1949. In a future time under a totalitarian regime, the people believe ignorance is strength and war is peace.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, 1932. ([BR022427](#), [DB047108](#))

Dystopian novel set in a future technocratic society in which people are rigidly classified by the state and kept happy by a government-administered drug. When two bureaucrats travel to a "savage" reservation, they "rescue" a woman and her adult son, abandoned long ago, and return them to civilization.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, 1958. ([BR022569](#), [DB047510](#))

Portrays traditional Ibo society in nineteenth-century Nigeria and one of its great men, Okonkwo. Through rituals, the lives of the individual and the community are unified, giving them order and significance. But the time-honored system of beliefs and behavior falls apart with the arrival of missionaries and colonists.

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad, 1899. ([BR011418](#), [DB012613](#))

An allegorical tale of a man's journey by steamboat to the center of the Congo. As he goes further into the interior, he faces an increasing propensity for inhumanity in himself and in others.

The Haunting of Hill House/La Casa Encantada by Shirley Jackson, 1959. ([DB021679](#), [DBG18898 en Español](#))

The story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly house: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar; Theodora, the lighthearted assistant; Eleanor, a friendless young woman well acquainted with poltergeists; and Luke, the heir to Hill House.

Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley, 1818. ([BR012173](#), [DB025835](#), [DB025706 en Español](#))

A monster, endowed with life by a young scientist named Frankenstein, later turns on his creator.