AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Oscar Wilde

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

17 books · List updated November 14, 2026

- ☐ 1878 *Ravenna*
  Poetry
  The poem that won Oxford's Newdigate Prize.
- ☐ 1880 *Vera; or, The Nihilists*
  Play
  His first play.
- ☐ 1881 *Poems*
  Poetry
  His first book of poems.
- ☐ 1883 *The Duchess of Padua*
  Play
- ☐ 1888 *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*
  Children's book
  Fairy tales, including "The Nightingale and the Rose."
- ☐ 1890 *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
  Novel
  His only novel; first published in a magazine in 1890, as a book in 1891.
- ☐ 1891 *A House of Pomegranates*
  Children's book
- ☐ 1891 *Intentions*
  Nonfiction
  Essays on art and criticism.
- ☐ 1891 *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories*
  Story collection
- ☐ 1893 *Lady Windermere's Fan*
  Play
  First staged in London in 1892.
- ☐ 1893 *Salomé*
  Play
  Written and first published in French; an English translation followed in 1894.
- ☐ 1894 *A Woman of No Importance*
  Play
  First staged in 1893.

- [ ] 1894 *The Sphinx*
  Poetry
- [ ] 1898 *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*
  Poetry
- [ ] 1899 *An Ideal Husband*
  Play
  First staged in 1895.
- [ ] 1899 *The Importance of Being Earnest*
  Play
  First staged in 1895.
- [ ] 1905 *De Profundis*
  Nonfiction
  A letter he wrote in prison, published after his death in a version edited by Robert Ross.