AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Sylvia Plath

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.

20 books · List updated November 14, 2026

- ☐ 1960 *The Colossus and Other Poems*
  Poetry
  Her first book of poems.
- ☐ 1963 *The Bell Jar*
  Novel
  First published under the name Victoria Lucas.
- ☐ 1965 *Ariel*
  Poetry
  Published after her death, in an arrangement by Ted Hughes.
- ☐ 1968 *Three Women: A Monologue for Three Voices*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1971 *Crossing the Water*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1971 *Winter Trees*
  Poetry
- ☐ 1975 *Letters Home*
  Nonfiction
  Her letters of 1950–1963, published by her mother.
- ☐ 1976 *The Bed Book*
  Children's book
- ☐ 1977 *Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams*
  Story collection
- ☐ 1981 *The Collected Poems*
  Poetry
  Edited by Ted Hughes; won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
- ☐ 1982 *The Journals of Sylvia Plath*
  Nonfiction
- ☐ 1989 *The Magic Mirror*
  Nonfiction
  Her Smith College thesis.
- ☐ 1996 *The It-Doesn't-Matter Suit*
  Children's book

- [ ] 2000 *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*
  Nonfiction
  Edited by Karen V. Kukil.
- [ ] 2001 *Mrs. Cherry's Kitchen*
  Children's book
- [ ] 2004 *Ariel: The Restored Edition*
  Poetry
  Her own selection and order of the Ariel poems.
- [ ] 2017 *The Letters of Sylvia Plath, Volume 1*
  Nonfiction
- [ ] 2018 *The Letters of Sylvia Plath, Volume 2*
  Nonfiction
- [ ] 2024 *The Collected Prose of Sylvia Plath*
  Nonfiction
- [ ] 2026 *The Poems of Sylvia Plath*
  Poetry
  A complete edition of more than 500 poems, edited by Amanda Golden and Karen V. Kukil.