

Ancient literature explains the world through cosmology, mythology, and the development of the hero. Stories from the empires of ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome discuss the natural world and what it means to be fully human. Philosophers, poets, and playwrights of the ancient period establish a foundation for all of western civilization.

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highlights

Gilgamesh, Sîn-lēqi-unninni, 1200 BCE

The Iliad, Homer, 850 BCE

The Odyssey, Homer, 850 BCE

The Orestia, Aeschylus, 458 BCE

Oedipus Rex, Sophocles, 405 BCE

The Frogs, Aristophanes, 405 BCE

The Republic, Plato, 380 BCE

The Poetics, Aristotle, 335 BCE

The Menaechmi, Plautus, 194 BCE

The Aeneid, Virgil, 29-19 BCE

The Metamorphoses, Ovid, 8 CE

Agamemnon, Seneca the Younger, 55 CE

Thyestes, Seneca the Younger, 62 CE

The Meditations, Marcus Aurelius, 167 CE

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