

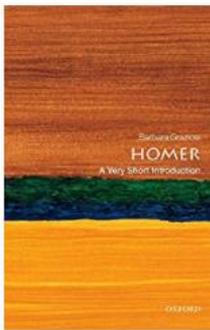
# What should I read if I want to study Classics?

Below are some suggestions of accessible books which you might enjoy reading before starting to study A-level Classical Civilisation; they will also be useful if you are planning to study any Classics course at university.

Over the summer before starting Year 12, get hold of one or two of these books if you can, and enjoy reading. At the end of this document are some freely available online articles which offer interesting modern insights into the ancient world and how it is relevant today.

## 1. Homer

Any Classics course will expect you to know about the two epic poems by Greek poet Homer – we will be reading the *Odyssey* together in Year 12, but they are both wonderful and inform the whole of the rest of ancient literature! Both of the below books are short introductions which can be read without any previous knowledge:



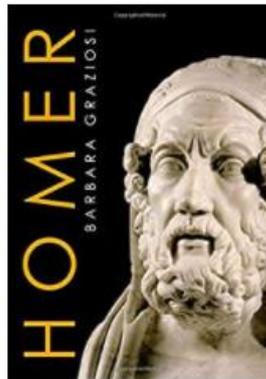
Homer: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

by Barbara Graziosi

★★★★★ ~ 12

Paperback

£5.99 ~~£8.99~~



Homer

by Barbara Graziosi

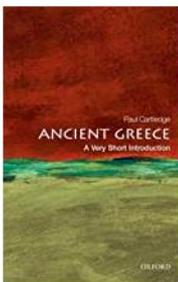
★★★★★ ~ 6

Hardcover

£8.35 ~~£10.99~~

## 2. Ancient Greece

Both of these books focus on some key aspects which made ancient Greece (and especially ancient Athens) special. Hall and Cartledge are both brilliant scholars and these books are written for a wide audience.



Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

by Paul Cartledge | 27 Oct 2011

★★★★★ ~ 95

Paperback

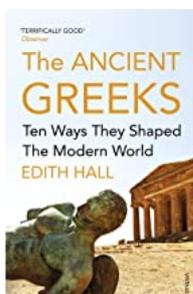
£5.99 ~~£8.99~~

Get it **Tomorrow, Jan 12**

Eligible for FREE UK Delivery

More buying choices

£2.20 (17 used & new offers)



The Ancient Greeks: Ten Ways They Shaped the Modern World

by Edith Hall | 10 Mar 2016

★★★★★ ~ 131

Paperback

£8.59 ~~£10.99~~

Get it **Wednesday, Jan 13**

Eligible for FREE UK Delivery

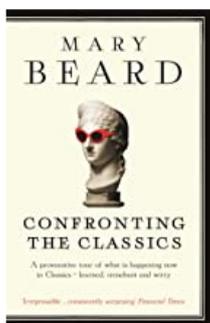
More buying choices

£4.75 (11 used & new offers)

Kindle Edition

### 3. Ancient Rome

Mary Beard is a Roman historian who has produced lots of readable books and great TV series too. This book combines essays on a range of topics from ancient Greece and Rome:



#### Confronting the Classics: Traditions, Adventures and Innovations

by Mary Beard | 13 Mar 2014

★★★★☆ ~ 211

Paperback

£7<sup>64</sup> ~~£9.99~~

Get it **Saturday, Jan 16**

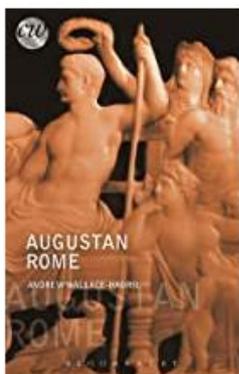
Eligible for FREE UK Delivery

More buying choices

£3.30 (36 used & new offers)

Kindle Edition

The emperor Augustus was probably the most influential figure in the history of Rome, and shaped a lot of what we think of as 'Roman' to this day. This short book covers all the most important and interesting aspects of his period:



#### Augustan Rome 2nd edition (Classical World)

by Andrew Wallace-Hadrill | 8 Feb 2018

★★★★☆ ~ 8

Paperback

£12<sup>56</sup> ~~£14.99~~

Get it **Tomorrow, Jan 12**

FREE Delivery by Amazon

Only 15 left in stock (more on the way).

### 4. These articles were all published by *Eidolon*, an online magazine which combines study of the ancient world with modern politics, culture and race (and humour!)

<https://eidolon.pub/the-bad-wives-fa0fb8a69aba> : 'The Bad Wives: misogyny's age-old roots in the home'

<https://eidolon.pub/re-queering-sappho-c6c05b6b9f0b> : 'Re-queering Sappho'

<https://eidolon.pub/dont-look-now-but-there-s-an-ancient-roman-depiction-of-a-dolphin-under-your-bed-780e50ce08d9> : 'Don't look now, but there's an ancient Roman depiction of a dolphin under your bed'.

This list is not prescriptive – the best thing about studying Classics is finding the aspect which most interests and appeals to you, so hopefully some of these books will help you find that. Email us ([aflint@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:aflint@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk) or [crozier@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:crozier@thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk)) if you have any questions about these books or others.