

# Summer Reading: The best-selling books of all time

Popular books have a way of finding their way into homes across the globe. Indeed, certain books transcend geographical boundaries and entice readers from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds. But which books have earned their place among the best-selling tomes of all time? Though it's hard to compile an indisputable list of history's best-selling books, as sales of religious texts such as The Bible and the Quran, which are routinely distributed for free, are hard to quantify, the following are some of the best-selling non-religious texts to ever find their way onto a shelf.

- “Don Quixote” by Miguel de Cervantes: This tragicomedy initially published in 1605 (part two was published a decade later) is estimated to have sold half a billion copies.
- “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens: This novel with the famed opening line of “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” has sold an estimated 200 million copies since it was first published in 1859.
- “The Little Prince” by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: This tale, published in 1943, was written for children but has proven equally popular with adult audiences, which no doubt accounts for its sales estimated at around 140 million copies.
- “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” by J.K. Rowling: This is just one of a handful of books in Rowling’s Harry Potter series that are among the best-selling titles of all time. Estimates indicate this first book in the series is the best-selling Harry Potter title to date, with roughly 120 million copies sold since its ini-

tial publication in 1997.

- “And Then There Were None” by Agatha Christie: English mystery master Agatha Christie was a prolific writer, with more than 66 detective novels to her credit. None sold more than this classic murder mystery, which has sales of around 100 million copies since it was first published in 1939.
- “Dream of the Red Chamber” by Cao Xueqin: Western audiences may not recognize this title as readily as the other books that qualify for the list of the best-selling works of all time, but this classic Chinese novel written in 1791 has sold roughly 100 million copies over the centuries.
- “The Hobbit” by J.R.R. Tolkien: “The Hobbit” preceded Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings Trilogy,” sales of which are believed to have exceeded 150 million copies (the trilogy was serialized, but many copies have since been sold in a single-volume work, making it difficult to determine where each book ranks on a list of best-selling titles of all time). Popular in its own right, “The Hobbit” has sold an estimated 100 million copies since Tolkien first introduced the world to “Bilbo Baggins” in 1937.
- “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis: Many a child across the globe has had this 1950 work from C.S. Lewis on their bookshelf. Kids simply love the world of Narnia, which has helped to sell 85 million copies of this beloved tale.

These are just some of the best-selling books of all time, and each are worthy of a read or re-read for book lovers who enjoy a good page turner.

# New laws now in effect in Kentucky

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Treasurer Mark Metcalf highlighted the substantial progress made by the legislature since 2017 in stabilizing Kentucky’s finances. He pointed to key measures such as Senate Bills 9, 10, and 183 and House Bill 342, which reflect “decisive leadership and a shared vision” that prioritize families, taxpayers, retirees, and all Kentuckians. The bills provide 30 days of maternity leave for Kentucky teachers by 2030, improve employee health benefits, protect state employees’ retirement investments, and strengthen financial literacy. Senate Bills 9 and 10 were sponsored by Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, and Mills, respectively. House Bill 342 was sponsored by Rep. Michael Meredith, R-Oakland.

“These reforms, carefully crafted by the General Assembly, stand as clear reminders that when conservative leaders work together, Kentuckians win,” Metcalf said. “The unity today reflects something deeper than shared priorities; it demonstrates a commitment to preserve legislative authority, respect the rule of law, and ensure the government lives within the means of its people and acts within its constitutional boundaries.”

He also pointed to the state’s improved fiscal outlook. In 2017, Metcalf noted, the tax liability for each Kentuckian stood at \$39,000 when Senate and House supermajorities first assumed control of the legislature.

“Due to the legislature’s fiscal prudence, that has been reduced significantly in the last eight years, and now each Kentucky taxpayer only owes \$13,000,” he added. “I call that progress and the right path for Kentucky.”

Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball, who was represented at the press event by Chief of Staff Lorrان Ferguson, provided a statement highlighting several oversight and accountability measures passed during the 2025 legislative session.

“I’m grateful to the General Assembly for passing such important legislation this session,” Kentucky Audi-

tor Allison Ball stated. “Through our joint efforts, we’ve strengthened oversight of critical state programs, improved financial accountability at the local level, and secured the tools necessary for my office to continue serving as a watchdog of Kentucky taxpayer dollars.”

Ferguson provided updates, including a review of the Beshear administration’s continued refusal to faithfully execute legislation related to kinship care families. Further, Ferguson referenced an upcoming report that supports the legislature’s call for a comprehensive review of the Kentucky Department of Education. She said the findings in the report will demonstrate that “the Kentucky General Assembly was right all along.” According to Ferguson, it will clearly outline for the Governor what improvements are necessary to ensure Kentucky’s children receive

the education they need to be competitive in the real world.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, provided closing remarks on Wednesday.

“Since both chambers have held a conservative majority, we’ve made historic progress—record contributions to the pension system, the largest budget reserve trust fund in our state’s history, and sweeping tax cuts for every Kentuckian,” said Stivers. “Our improved bond rating tells the story of sound policy and the linkages from one area to another.”

He pointed out that Senate Bill 1 has opened doors once unimaginable, most notably by showcasing Kentucky’s farm-to-table commitment in a television series that has now earned national attention at the Tribeca Film Festival.

“This kind of recognition will bring new economic and work-

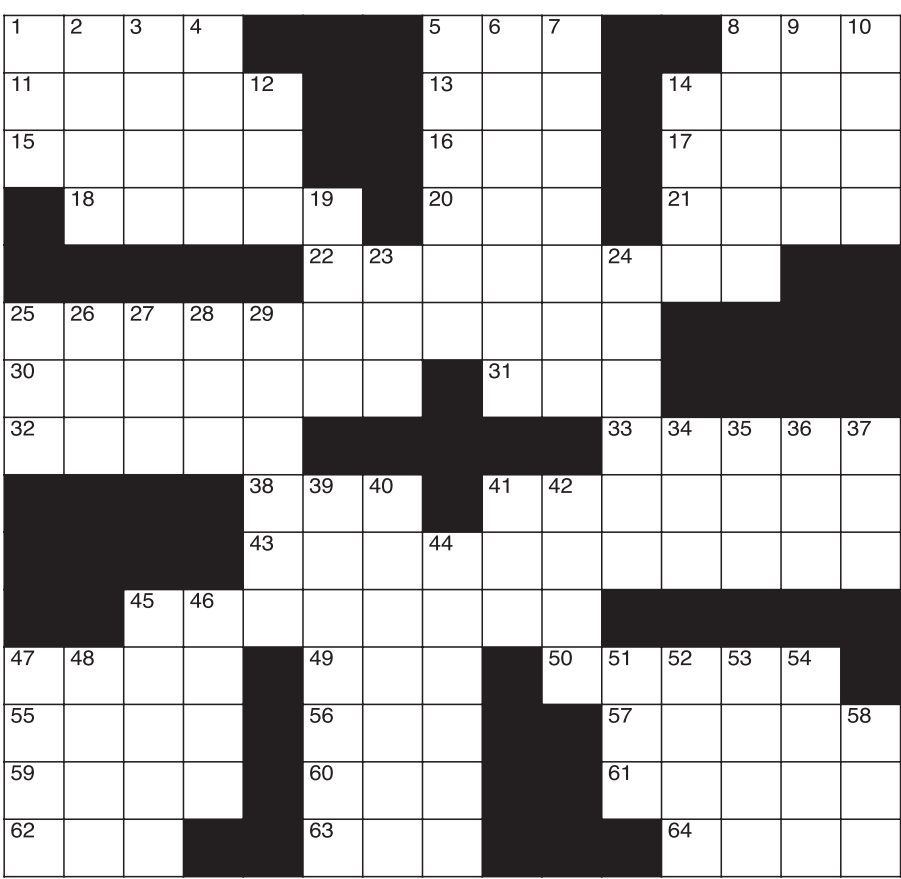
force opportunities to our state,” Stivers said. “We’re in a position I haven’t seen in my 29 years here in the Senate.”

He added that this agriculture theme extends to the \$400 million investment to modernize the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, home of the Kentucky State Fair and countless other events.

“It’s clear we’re heading into the next budget session in a position of strength,” he added.

Lawmakers will continue working with stakeholders from across Kentucky and branches of government through the ongoing 2025 Interim period as everyone looks ahead to the start of the 2026 Legislative Session, which will require crafting the next two-year state budget and road plan.

Visit [legislature.ky.gov](http://legislature.ky.gov) to find all bills from the 2025 Legislative Session.




## CLUES ACROSS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Computer manufacturer                        | 33. Sesame                             |
| 5. Noted space station                          | 38. Forbid                             |
| 8. Kurt Russell film “Captain”                  | 41. A way to explain                   |
| 11. Automaton                                   | 43. Not around                         |
| 13. Everyone has one                            | 45. Evoke or suggest                   |
| 14. Incline from the vertical                   | 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea      |
| 15. Fights                                      | 49. Dekameter                          |
| 16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)                   | 50. Fencing sword                      |
| 17. Finishes off                                | 55. “Luther” actor Idris               |
| 18. Places to store things                      | 56. Affirmative (slang)                |
| 20. Dutch painter Gerard ___                    | 57. Afflicted                          |
| 21. Smaller quantity                            | 59. One point north of northeast       |
| 22. There’s a North, South and Central of these | 60. Born of                            |
| 25. In an early way                             | 61. Arabic name                        |
| 30. More spacious                               | 62. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong |
| 31. Short-term memory                           | 63. Not the start                      |
| 32. One who possesses                           | 64. Post                               |

## CLUES DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Creative expression                    | 29. Type of plane                             |
| 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut | 34. Pitching stat                             |
| 3. City in ancient Syria                  | 35. Pointed end of a pen                      |
| 4. College army                           | 36. Pro sports league                         |
| 5. More disturbed                         | 37. Body part                                 |
| 6. Pays no attention to                   | 39. Inoffensive                               |
| 7. Restored                               | 40. Yellowish cotton cloth                    |
| 8. Competitions                           | 41. Feline                                    |
| 9. Lyric poems                            | 42. Does not tell the truth                   |
| 10. Famed American lawman                 | 44. Set out to attract                        |
| 12. Expression of disappointment          | 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation |
| 14. Scars                                 | 46. Abba __, Israeli politician               |
| 19. Satisfy                               | 47. Repair                                    |
| 23. Central European river                | 48. Genus of flowering plants                 |
| 24. Brass instrument                      | 51. Tributary of the High Rhine               |
| 25. One who gets paid to perform          | 52. Prejudice                                 |
| 26. Propel with oars                      | 53. C. European river                         |
| 27. Long period of time                   | 54. Restrain                                  |
| 28. Woman (French)                        | 58. Father                                    |

Answers on page 7A



**Public Notice**  
Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Court of Justice  
Eleventh Judicial District Court  
Green County  
Probate Division  
Karen Gilpin, Clerk

In compliance with Section 25.185 and Chapter 242, **KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following **SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS** have been filed in the office of the clerk and exceptions to name, if any, must be filed before **July 14, 2025**, on which date at 1:00 p.m. prevailing time a hearing will be held in the Green County Judicial Center.

NAME OF WARD OR DECEDENT	NAME OF FIDUCIARY	CAPACITY OF FIDUCIARY	KIND OF SETTLEMENT
JAMES JOSHUA BROWN	MELISSA BROWN	ADMINISTRATOR	PROPOSED FINAL

In compliance with SECTION 424.30 AND SECTION 424.120 **KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following **FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS** have been made by the court.

NAME ADDRESS OF DECEDENT OR WARD	NAME & ADDRESS OF FUDICIARY FUDICIARY	NAME & ADDRESS OF ATTY REPRESENTING	DATE OF APPT	CREDITORS MUST FILES CLAIMS BY
GLENDА CAROL UPCHURCH 609 Legion Park Road Greensburg, KY 42743	GLENDА FAYE MOON 3419 Bramlett Road Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	06/25/25	12/25/25
	MONICA RAYE HALL 322 Milby Rattliff Road Summersville, KY 42782			
ELIZABETH IRENE ESTES BOSTON 1821 Marshall Ridge Road Greensburg, KY 42743	SANDI GREER 157 Mosely Drive Columbia, KY 42728	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	06/16/25	12/16/25
RODNEY KEITH WHITLOW 4160 Hodgenville Road Greensburg, KY 42743	BETHANY NICOLE WHITLOW 6757 Randolph Summershade Road Summershade, KY 42166	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	06/09/25	12/09/25
KENNETH EUGENE COOK, SR. 284 Pickett Chapel Church Road Columbia, KY 42728	KEITH ERIC COOK 8007 Cedar Brook Drive Louisville, KY 40219	DONALD J. SHARP 104 W. Court Street Greensburg, KY 42743	06/23/25	12/23/25
DORA FRANCIS SLINKER 415 Lone Oak Road Greensburg, KY 42743	BEVERLY MATNEY 415 Lone Oak Road Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, Ky 42742	06/24/25	12/24/25