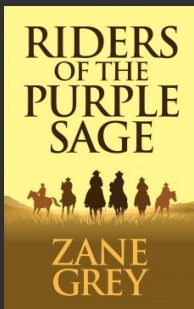




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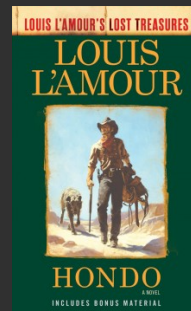


Westerns started out as 'dime novels' in the mid-19th century. This list features classics that helped invent how we imagine the Old West.



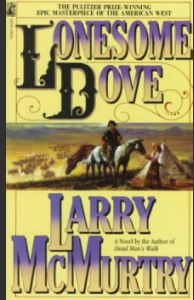
Zane Grey

Zane Grey respectfully creates characters and their emotions, explores the behavioral code of the West, provides lavish descriptions of landscapes and comments on social and political issues of that time period. In addition, he wrote historical, contemporary, and war fiction, baseball fiction for young adults, and nonfiction books about fishing.



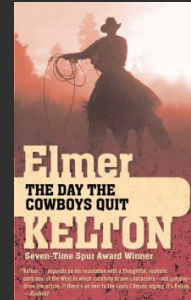
Louis L'Amour

Louis L'Amour revived the Western genre. His action-packed stories of adventure and survival are loaded with strong heroes fighting for justice. Detailed descriptions of landscape - told in simple, clear prose - set the stage for constant adventure. Dangers arise from the natural hazards of a given place as well as the people in it.



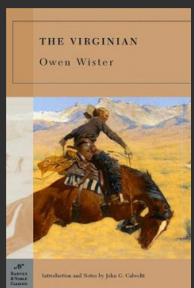
Larry McMurtry

Larry McMurtry is best known for de-romanticizing the American West, both past and present. McMurtry evokes a distinct sense of place as the reader smells the water trough and feels the immense size of the land. Leisurely paced, long novels allow for the lyrical development of unforgettable, vivid characters.



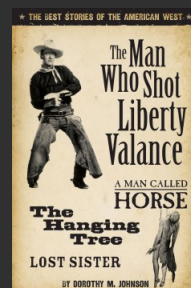
Elmer Kelton

Elmer Kelton's evocative tales of the vanishing American West appeal to fans of Westerns as well as historical fiction. Character and setting are paramount: Kelton focuses on men trying to tame the wild frontier they inhabit. He realistically depicts the Old West in transition between its past and rapidly changing present.



Owen Wister

A strong, silent stranger rides into the lawless lands of the western frontier, battles horse thieves, deals with unyielding scoundrels, and wins the heart of a schoolmarm. Owen Wister's 1902 classic, the first great novel of the American West, is rich in moral drama and vernacular wit.



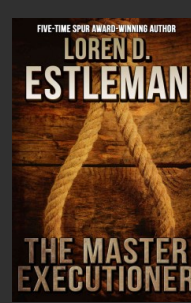
Dorothy M. Johnson

Dorothy M. Johnson was one of the west's most successful western writers. With more than a dozen books and over fifty short stories, her characters are strong but not invincible. In her stories, both men and women embody the spirit of the traditional western.



Johnny D. Boggs

Johnny D. Boggs' atmospheric and compelling historical fiction is set in the Old West, the Colonial frontier and on Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields. His vividly evoked settings, sharply drawn characters, and action-packed plots explore themes of law, frontier justice, loyalty, family, and race relations.



Loren D. Estleman

Estleman is a creator of unforgettable character. Swept up by circumstance and an unwanted gift for dispensing death, he's unable to break away from his life's fated path despite the loss of all he holds close. A dark, compelling journey into a previously unexplored facet of the Old West.