

# The Life Of Samuel Johnson Penguin Classics - A Remarkable Journey Through Words

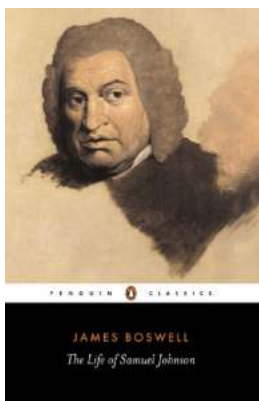
Samuel Johnson, widely known as Dr. Johnson, was an iconic figure in English literature during the 18th century. His remarkable life and contributions to the literary world have secured his place in history. With the publication of "The Life of Samuel Johnson" by James Boswell, Penguin Classics has presented readers with an exceptional opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of this influential figure.

## An Insight into Samuel Johnson's Early Years

Born on September 18, 1709, in Lichfield, Staffordshire, Johnson was faced with adversity from the start. A childhood illness left him with poor eyesight and partial deafness. His father's bankruptcy intensified the challenges he faced.

Nevertheless, Johnson's strong determination propelled him to overcome these obstacles and pursue his passion for literature.

Johnson's early years were marked by his dedication to education. He attended Pembroke College, Oxford, but had to leave due to financial constraints. Despite this setback, he continued to pursue his love for learning on his own terms, becoming one of the most well-read individuals of his time.



## The Life of Samuel Johnson (Penguin Classics)

by James Boswell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2740 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 1132 pages



## **The Birth of a Literary Genius**

Johnson's journey as a writer began with his contributions to various periodicals, such as "The Gentleman's Magazine." However, it was his seminal work, "A Dictionary of the English Language," that truly established his reputation as a literary giant. This monumental effort took years of dedication and laid the foundation for standardized English language usage. The Penguin Classics edition of this dictionary allows readers to witness the brilliance of Johnson's meticulous craftsmanship firsthand.

Aside from his dictionary, Johnson's influence can be seen in his numerous essays, poems, and plays. His moralistic writings tackled a wide array of topics, including politics, religion, and social issues. His unique and often witty perspectives resonated deeply with his contemporaries and continue to captivate readers to this day.

## **The Extraordinary Friendship of Johnson and Boswell**

"The Life of Samuel Johnson" was penned by James Boswell, a Scottish lawyer and writer who became an intimate friend of Johnson. Boswell's biography provides a detailed and intimate account of Johnson's life, showcasing his personality, quirks, and intellectual brilliance. This edition, published by Penguin Classics, offers readers an extraordinary insight into the life of a literary icon.

Boswell's biography is not merely a record of Samuel Johnson's achievements; it also sheds light on their unique and deep friendship. Their shared love for literature and spirited debates made their relationship truly special. Boswell's portrayal of Johnson brings him to life, allowing readers to connect with the man behind the words.

## Legacy and Impact of Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson's impact on English literature cannot be overstated. His contributions to lexicography, his extensive writings, and his moral authority have left an indelible mark on the literary landscape.

Johnson's focus on language and his insistence on precision influenced countless writers who came after him. His literary style, marked by poignant observations and clever phraseology, continues to inspire aspiring writers today. The Penguin Classics edition of "The Life of Samuel Johnson" provides readers with the perfect opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of this literary genius and gain a deeper understanding of his immense impact.

The Life of Samuel Johnson Penguin Classics offers readers an incredible journey through the life, ideas, and achievements of this remarkable figure. Samuel Johnson's unwavering determination, creative genius, and enduring friendship with James Boswell make his story even more compelling. Pick up a copy of this Penguin Classics edition and embark on a fascinating adventure in the life and mind of one of the most influential figures in English literature.

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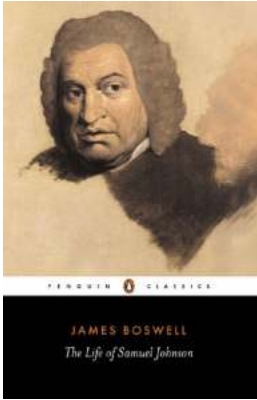
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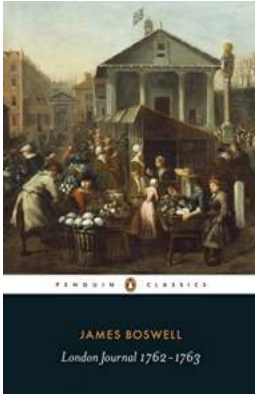


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In Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, one of the towering figures of English literature is revealed with unparalleled immediacy and originality. While Johnson's *Dictionary* remains a monument of scholarship, and his essays and criticism command continuing respect, we owe our knowledge of the man himself to this biography. Through a series of wonderfully detailed anecdotes, Johnson emerges as a sociable figure with a huge appetite for life, crossing swords with other great eighteenth-century luminaries, from Garrick and Goldsmith to Burney and Burke – even his long-suffering friend and disciple James Boswell. Yet Johnson had a vulnerable, even tragic, side and anxieties and obsessions haunted his private hours. Boswell's sensitivity and insight into every facet of his subject's character ultimately make this biography as moving as it is entertaining.

Based on the 1799 edition, Christopher Hibbert's abridgement preserves the integrity of the original, while his fascinating sets Boswell's view of Samuel Johnson against that of others of the time.



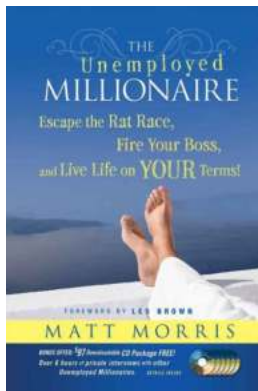
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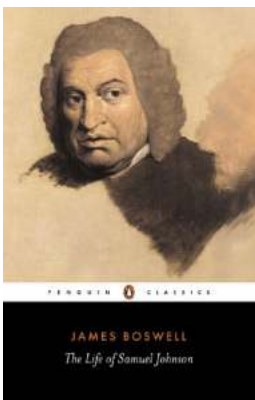
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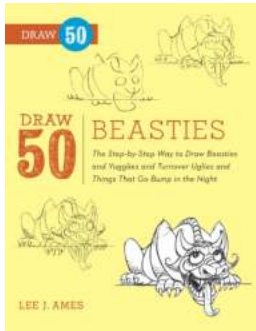
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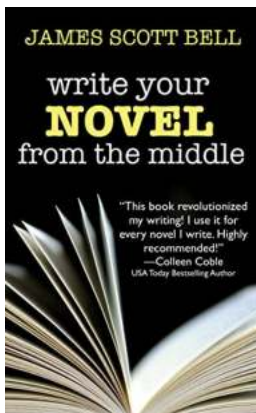
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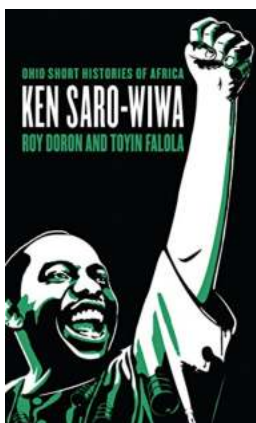
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