



Wondrous facts about Wonder Woman

As 'Wonder Woman 1984' gets a new release date, December 25, let's go back to her origin and learn a few things that make her one of the most successful DC superheroes of all time

Origin story

Wonder Woman was created by American psychologist and writer William Moulton Marston, his wife, Elizabeth, and artist Harry G. Peter. Marston's character drew a great deal of inspiration from early feminists, especially, from birth control pioneer Margaret Sanger.

Champion of justice

She's an Amazonian superhero, who changed the world when she first emerged in late 1941. Shirking the passive portrayal of women as typists, librarians, or young girls in love, she was a fighter always ready to take charge, and a champion of justice, who quickly became a star. Wonder Woman holds her place next to the likes of Superman and Batman as one of the longest running superhero characters of all time. And she recently turned 78 years old!

Overnight sensation

When Wonder Woman debuted in All-Star Comics #8 (dated December 1941, released in October 1941), she took the comics world by storm. Her then-publisher, All-American Publications, knew they had hit a jackpot. Her next appearance followed just a few weeks later in Sensation Comics #1 (dated

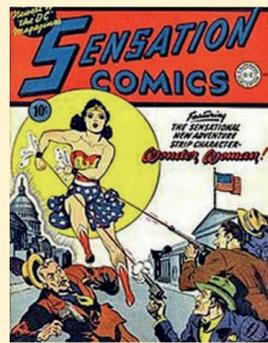
January 1942), and she was one of the first superhero characters to get her own book, in the summer of 1942. Superman was first, Batman was second, and Wonder Woman did it in less than a year from the moment she was first created.

That's not a skirt

While several images make it look like she is wearing a skirt, they are actually culottes, split pants that vary from thigh to knee length. Marston's wife Elizabeth, upon whom she was based, thought a skirt was impractical for combat. Marston insisted on boots over the sandals. Though sandals eventually showed up on the cover of a 1951 issue when she got an image makeover.

Two Wonder Women!

There are two versions of Wonder Woman



in DC comics – 'New Earth' Wonder Woman, which started in the 80s and ran through the mid-2000s, and 'Prime Earth' Wonder Woman, which started after DC comics rebooted the universe in 2011 with their New 52 initiative. Prime Earth Wonder Woman is considered the current Wonder Woman, but a lot of fans still love the old Wonder Woman stories from the 80s.

She's also a diplomat

Eventually, the gods decided that it was time for the Amazons to send an emissary into our world. To choose who would represent them in 'the world of man', the Amazons held a contest. Diana's mom was a little too worried about her daughter competing, so she forbade her from entering. Diana did what most teenagers do, ignored her mom, and entered anyway. Once she won, she earned her place as Ambassador

of the Amazons, and left Paradise Island to come to our world.

She dated Superman

In her 80s run, Wonder Woman got a bit of a crush on Superman after she first met him. She went so far as to ask Myndi (her publicist) to set up a date with him. Quickly after that first date, she realised she'd be better off just friends with the Man of Steel. In the mid-2000s reboot, however, Wonder Woman and Superman have a long-term relationship.

She fought Captain Marvel

As the champion of the Greek Gods, Wonder Woman once had to fight the champion of the Roman Gods, Captain Marvel. Diana won that fight.

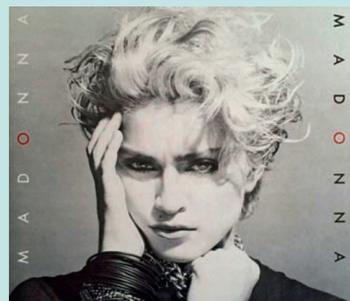
Reformer of criminals

In the early days of superheroes, before the Comics Code Authority and censorship hit the comics industry in the mid-1950s, Batman had guns and Superman was hanging criminals by their ankles over the edge of buildings. Wonder Woman was made of sterner moral fabric. She also was not going to kill people without giving them a chance to change.

Lost her powers for a while

Wonder Woman surrendered her powers in 1968. She wanted to stay in Man's World and look after Steve Trevor (who, ironically, was killed off). She opened a clothing boutique, dressed in the fashion of the time, and learned martial arts.

MUSIC QUIZ



- Who had a No.1 hit with 'Ice Ice Baby'?
- What was the name of Madonna's first studio album, released in 1983?
- Which band sang 'The Final Countdown'?
- Will.i.am is best known for performing with which hip hop group?

5. In 1975 'Bohemian Rhapsody' was number one for nine weeks. It was finally knocked off the top slot by a song with a name that appears in the lyrics of Bohemian Rhapsody. Name the song and the band that ended Queen's

- Who sang the 1965 James Bond theme song 'Thunderball'?
- Reginald Kenneth Dwight is better known by what name?
- What was the name of Amy Winehouse's second and final studio album released in 2006 and reached number one in multiple countries?
- Which band had a huge international hit album in 2002 with the record 'A Rush of Blood to the Head'?
- Linger and Dreams were hits for which Irish group?

- Answers:**
1. Vanilla Ice; 2. Madonna; 3. Europe; 4. The Black Eyed Peas; 5. Mamma Mia by Abba; 6. Tom Jones; 7. Elton John; 8 Back to Black; 9. Coldplay; 10. The Cranberries

— Source: Radiotimes.com



An introduction to

RUSSIAN LITERATURE

Revered around the world for its depth, people are often told Russian literature can be difficult for kids. It's not true. Here's how to get started

UNFORGETTABLE OPENING LINES...

- "Call me Ishmael." —Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)
- "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." —Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)
- "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since." —F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
- "I am an invisible man." —Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
- "Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much." —J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

SAME ROLE, DIFFERENT ACTORS



If you really love the book 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen, do watch three celluloid versions of it in your own time. The first one, made in the 1940s has Greer Garson play Elizabeth Bennet. The 1995 TV version has Jennifer Ehle playing the same character. And the 2005 movie has Keira Knightley playing one of the best women characters of fiction, again, Elizabeth Bennet.

All three actresses have portrayed the role in their individual styles, and with the director's vision in mind, which makes for a fascinating study of cinema and acting.



- Robert Z. Leonard directed Greer Garson (pic above) in the 1940 film.
- Director Simon Langton directed the 6-part TV version in 1995 starring Jennifer Ehle (extreme right), by far the most famous adaptation of the book according to most.
- The 2005 film by Joe Wright, starring Keira Knightley, has stunning cinematography and is beautifully told.

'White Nights' by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Originally published in 1848, early in the writer's career, 'White Nights' is told in first person by a nameless narrator (like many of Dostoevsky's stories). Set in St. Petersburg, this is the story of a young man fighting his inner restlessness. A light and poetic narrative, it delves into the torment and guilt of unrequited love.

'The Overcoat' by Nikolai Gogol

The most famous quote in Russian literature attributed to Dostoevsky, goes like this: "We all came out of Gogol's overcoat." The story follows the life and death of Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin, a low-ranking official who works as a copyist in a nameless department in the Russian bureaucracy.

'We' by Evgeny Zamyatin

'We' is a dystopian novel by Soviet dissident Yevgeny Zamyatin, written 1920-1921. The novel was first published as an English translation by Gregory Zilboorg in 1924 by E.P. Dutton in New York. It describes a world of harmony and conformity within a united totalitarian state.

'Mumu' by Ivan Turgenev

Written in 1852, this is the story of Gerasim, a deaf, mute janitor, and the cruel Moscow landlady (said to be based on Turgenev's mother) who takes pleasure in mocking him and other serfs.

'The Death of Ivan Ilyich' by Leo Tolstoy

Tolstoy describes not just the

death, but the dying of Ivan Ilyich, who suffers a seemingly innocuous fall. But over time, the pain intensifies, and Ivan becomes irritable and ultimately bed-ridden. Lying there, he mentally retraces his entire life, and finds solace in someone he would never previously have even considered talking to.

'Kashanka' by Anton Chekhov

As one of Russia's best-

known authors, Anton Chekhov is the indisputable master of the short story. The dog Kashanka belongs to a drunken carpenter who takes her out one day, but on the way home loses her in the confusion of a military parade. The story is told by an omniscient narrator who privileges Kashanka's point of view, so we follow the dog's subsequent adventures largely from her eyes.

10 best films to introduce students to

HUMAN RIGHTS

December 10th is Human Rights Day. Watch these films with your parents to understand the concept of human rights and dignity

1 Modern Times (1936): This comedic masterpiece finds the iconic Little Tramp (Charlie Chaplin) employed at a state-of-the-art factory, where the inescapable machinery completely overwhelms him, and where various mishaps keep getting him sent to prison. The movie, in short, is about the effects of industrialisation, which dehumanises us.



2 October Sky (1999): "This true story of a boy from a small town, who dreams of becoming a rocket scientist, is one of the best films of the past year and one of the best family movies ever made," wrote Nell Minow in 'Common Sense Media'. 'October Sky' is a moving drama based on a true story that centres on a very difficult and tense father-son relationship. Ultimately, the movie is



about following your dreams, no matter how unachievable they might feel.

3 Big Fish (2003): The film tells the story of a frustrated son who tries to determine fact from fiction in his dying father's life. In this whopper of a tall tale, romance blooms as fish become human and humans become fish – and a man learns to love his father in a way he's never been able to before.

4 Life is Beautiful (1997): A Jewish father and his family are surrounded by Nazi death camps. Living in a hostile environment, he uses humour to shield his young son from the grim realities of war.



5 The Kite Runner (2007): Khaled Hosseini's best-selling 2003 novel about two Afghan friends inspires a heartrending movie about friendship, failure and forgiveness. It's a sweeping tale of friendship and loyalty, betrayal and redemption.

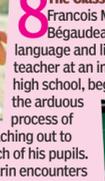
6 Erin Brockovich (2000): Erin, a single mother, becomes a legal assistant and comes across a case against Pacific Gas and Electric. When she discovers that the company is poisoning a city's water supply, she seeks justice. Julia Roberts steals the show as the protagonist.

7 The Help (2011): In 1960s Mississippi, Southern society girl Skeeter (Emma Stone)



returns from college with dreams of being a writer. She turns her small town on its ear by choosing to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent white families. Aibileen (Viola Davis), the housekeeper of Skeeter's best friend, starts talking. Most aren't happy about it. But then more black women come to tell their stories.

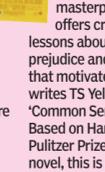
8 The Class (2008): Francois Marin (François Bégaudeau), a French language and literature teacher at an inner-city Paris high school, begins the arduous process of reaching out to each of his pupils. Marin encounters his share of problem students, teen violence, ethnic tensions between



classmates and education barriers within the group, all of which test his patience and – more importantly – his resolve as an educator.

9 To Kill a Mockingbird (1962): "This Hollywood masterpiece offers crucial lessons about prejudice and the fears that motivate it," writes TS Yellin in 'Common Sense Media'. Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, this is a story about Scout Finch (Mary Badham), 6, and her older brother, Jem (Phillip Alford), who get an early lesson on how racial prejudice works in society.

10 Philadelphia (1993): A young Philadelphia lawyer is fired by his company for having AIDS. He hires a lawyer for a wrongful dismissal suit. Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington are phenomenal in this film.



TAKE A BOW

Lindsey Vonn | Skiing

Lindsey Vonn is one of only two female skiers to win four World Cup overall championships. She won three consecutive titles from 2008-10 and another one in 2012. She was also the first American woman to win a gold medal in downhill (at the 2010 Winter Olympics). Vonn won her 20th World Cup crystal globe title in 2016 to surpass Ingemar Stenmark for the overall record for men or women. She is one of six women to win a World Cup race in all five disciplines of alpine skiing. One of the greatest skiers of all-time, Vonn has three Olympic medals, four World Cup titles, 82 World Cup victories, and two World Championship gold medals, among other accomplishments. As a result of injuries, Vonn missed parts of several seasons in the last few years, which ultimately pushed her to retire in 2019.



During the last century, women in sports have been making a huge impact, serving as inspirations to others who wish to accomplish the same. According to a 2018 Nielsen report (on the rise of women's sports), 84% of general sports fans now have an interest in women's sports. We take you through some of the most iconic female athletes who have helped put women's sports in the spotlight



Alex Morgan | Soccer

Alex Morgan is the co-captain for the United States Women's Soccer Team and won her second consecutive FIFA World Cup championship in 2019. She debuted in the World Cup in 2011, where the team won silver. In 2012, Morgan recorded 28 goals and 21 assists to become the second American woman to score 20 goals and 20 assists in the same calendar year alongside Mia Hamm. She was also the sixth and youngest US player to score 20 goals in a single year. Since being named at the senior US team in 2019, Morgan has accumulated 169 caps and 107 goals. She was also one of the first women soccer players to appear on the cover of a FIFA video game. Off the field, Morgan is part of the US soccer women fighting for equal pay.

Tatiana Calderon Noguera | Motor racing

A test driver for the Alfa Romeo Formula One team, she drives for the ThreeBond squad in the Super Formula Championship and for Richard Mille Racing in the European Le Mans Series. A former Formula 2 racer, Tatiana became the first woman in over 20 years to race in Super Formula when she made her debut in the Japanese premier single-seater championship in 2020. Earlier, Calderón was the first woman to stand on the podium in the British Formula 3 International Series and the first to lead a lap in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship. From 2016 to 2018, she competed in the GP3 Series and later in the 2019 FIA Formula 2 Championship.



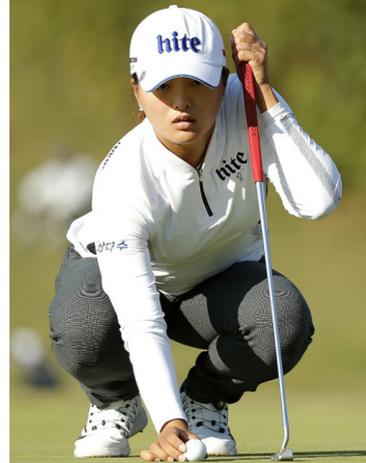
Jin Young Ko | Golf

Ko experienced her first major championship in 2019 at the Dinah Shore (ANA Inspiration) tournament. She went on to win the Evian in France, the Founders Cup, and the Women's Canadian Open. These four victories earned her the bragging rights for more wins than any other woman in a season. Ko is currently ranked as the LPGA's No. 1 golfer in the world. Ko became the only person on the planet to have more consecutive holes in professional tournament play without a bogey. She managed to play 114 consecutive holes without a bogey. This beats Tiger Woods' record of 110-holes in 2000 when he was playing the best golf of his career.



Serena Williams | Tennis

Serena Williams is regarded as one of the best female tennis players of the Open Era. Her victories have shaped her into an inspirational figure in the sport, especially to children. Williams holds the most Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles combined among active players. Her 39 Grand Slam titles puts her joint-third on the all-time list and second in the Open Era: In 2019, she was the only woman on the list of the world's highest-paid athletes, according to Forbes.



Simone Biles | Gymnastics

American gymnast Simone Biles won the individual all-around, vault, and floor gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics. At only 23 years old, Biles is a four-time World all-around champion, with three consecutive victories from 2013-15 and another in 2018. She is also a five-time US National all-around champion. Biles is the most decorated American gymnast with 25 Olympic and World Championship medals, and set the US record for most gold medals (4) in women's gymnastics at a single Olympics. Dominant on nearly every event, Biles is considered to be one of the greatest gymnasts of all-time.



Saina Nehwal | Badminton

One of the most talented sportspersons and the only female player from India to attain the world number one ranking, Saina Nehwal has many other firsts to her credit. She was the first Indian badminton player to win a medal at the Olympics and also the first Indian female and youngest Asian athlete to win a four-star tournament. Saina Nehwal's success has taken badminton to greater heights and has inspired many to consider taking up the sport professionally. This could, by far, be one of her biggest contributions to the sport and the country.

Photos: GETTY IMAGES



Mary Kom | Boxing

Kom is the only woman boxer to become World Amateur Boxing champion for a record six times, and only woman to clinch a medal in each one of the seven world championships. While speaking to Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli during an Instagram live session, Kom said she has learned over the years to remain focussed on her goals. "The naysayers do distract me but one's resilience can prove them wrong. We need to drive the youth to do the unthinkable, the formula doesn't see gender. It's hard work and preparation. Always go for goals, motivate, never give up and keep fighting. That's what I always tell young boxers, kids and parents."



Katie Ledecky | Swimming

American swimmer Katie Ledecky won five Olympic gold medals and 14 world championship gold medals, which is a record for a female swimmer. She currently holds the world record in women's 400-meter, 800-meter, and 1,500-meter freestyle. Ledecky made her international debut at the 2012 London Olympics at the age of 15 and surprised everyone when she won the gold medal in women's 800-meter freestyle, becoming the youngest ever to win the title. Four years later, she became the most decorated female athlete of the 2016 Olympics, with four gold medals, one silver medal, and two world records. She has broken fourteen world records throughout her career.