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Italo Calvino was a watershed for me in reading fiction in my 20s. I had always read a lot and even critically, but somehow Calvino's fiction which was more mathematical and structured in some ways than the more fluid literature I had read before changed my perspective.

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ITALO CALVINO (1923–1985) attained worldwide renown as one of the twentieth century's greatest storytellers. Born in Cuba, he was raised in San Remo, Italy, and later lived in Turin, Paris, Rome, and elsewhere. Among his many works are Invisible Cities, If on a winter 's night a traveler, The Baron in the Trees, and other novels, as well as numerous collections of fiction, folktales, criticism, and essays.

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Italo Calvino (/ k ə ɪ ˈ v ɪ ʁ n oʊ /, also US: / k ʔ ʔ ɪ ʔ -/; Italian: [ʔiʔtalo kal'viʔno]; 15 October 1923 – 19 September 1985) was an Italian journalist and writer of short stories and novels. His best known works include the Our Ancestors trilogy (1952–1959), the Cosmicomics collection of short stories (1965), and the novels Invisible Cities (1972) and If on a winter's night a ...

Italo Calvino - Wikipedia

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The Uses of Literature (1980, 1982/1986; The Literature Machine in the UK) consists of essays about the craft of literature. The Road to San Giovanni, a collection of five beautiful essays (1990/1993), and Numbers in the Dark, a book of short stories (1993/1995), were posthumously published.

This essay collection discusses literature in relation to science, philosophy, and politics in studies of great classical works and tributes to such contemporary writers as Eugenio Montale, Roland Barthes, and Marianne Moore

A posthumously published collection of thirty-six essays offering Italo Calvino's invigorating and illuminating analysis of his most treasured literary classics.

A collection of short stories compiled, edited, and introduced by Italo Calvino — including works of E.T.A. Hoffmann, Balzac, Gogol, Poe, and many others — surveying the phenomenon of the fantastic in 19th-century European literature.

Italo Calvino's beloved, intricately crafted novel about an Emperor's travels—a brilliant journey across far-off places and distant memory. "Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else." In a garden sit the aged Kublai Khan and the young Marco Polo—Mongol emperor and Venetian traveler. Kublai Khan has sensed the end of his empire coming soon. Marco Polo diverts his host with stories of the cities he has seen in his travels around the empire: cities and memory, cities and desire, cities and designs, cities and the dead, cities and the sky, trading cities, hidden cities. As Marco Polo unspools his tales, the emperor detects these fantastic places are more than they appear.

Given the range of his writing, teaching Calvino can seem a daunting task. This volume aims to help instructors develop creative and engaging classroom strategies. Part 1, "Materials," presents an overview of Calvino's writings, nearly all of which are available in English translation, as well as critical works and online resources. The essays in part 2, "Approaches," focus on general themes and cultural contexts, address theoretical issues, and provide practical classroom applications. Contributors describe strategies for teaching Calvino that are as varied as his writings, whether having students study narrative theory through If on a winter's night a traveler, explore literary genre with Cosmicomics, improve their writing using Six Memos for the Next Millennium, or read Mr. Palomar in a general education humanities course.

Three tales, each dominated by one of three senses, present a married couple touring Mexico, a tyrant made prisoner of contradictory messages, and a fashionable Parisian and a drugged rock musician impassioned by scents

"The posthumously published collection Hermit in Paris draws together an array of Italo Calvino's autobiographical writings that provide an illuminating and unexpectedly intimate portrait of one of the postwar era's most inventive and fascinating writers. In these pages, Calvino recounts his experiences in Italy's antifascist resistance, pays homage to his influences, traces the evolution of his literary style, and, in one of the book's most humorous and entertaining sections, provides a wry commentary on his travels in the United States in 1959 and 1960"--

Appearing here in its first English translation, Into the War contains three stories drawing on Italo Calvino's memories of the Second World War in Italy.

This "brilliant collection of essays" and travelogues by the celebrated author of Invisible Cities "may change the way you see the world around you" (The Guardian, UK). Italo Calvino's boundless curiosity and ingenious imagination are displayed in peak form in Collection of Sand, his last collection of new works published during his lifetime. Delving into the delights of the visual world—both in art and travel—the subjects of these 38 essays range from cuneiform and antique maps to Mexican temples and Japanese gardens. In Calvino's words, this collection is "a diary of travels, of course, but also of feelings, states of mind, moods...The fascination of a collection lies just as much in what it reveals as in what it conceals of the secret urge that led to its creation" (from Collection of Sand). Never before translated into English, Collection of Sand is an incisive and often surprising meditation on observation and knowledge, "beautifully translated by Martin McLaughlin" (The Guardian, UK).

Highlights Calvino's fascination with folk tales, knights, social & political allegories, & science fiction.

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