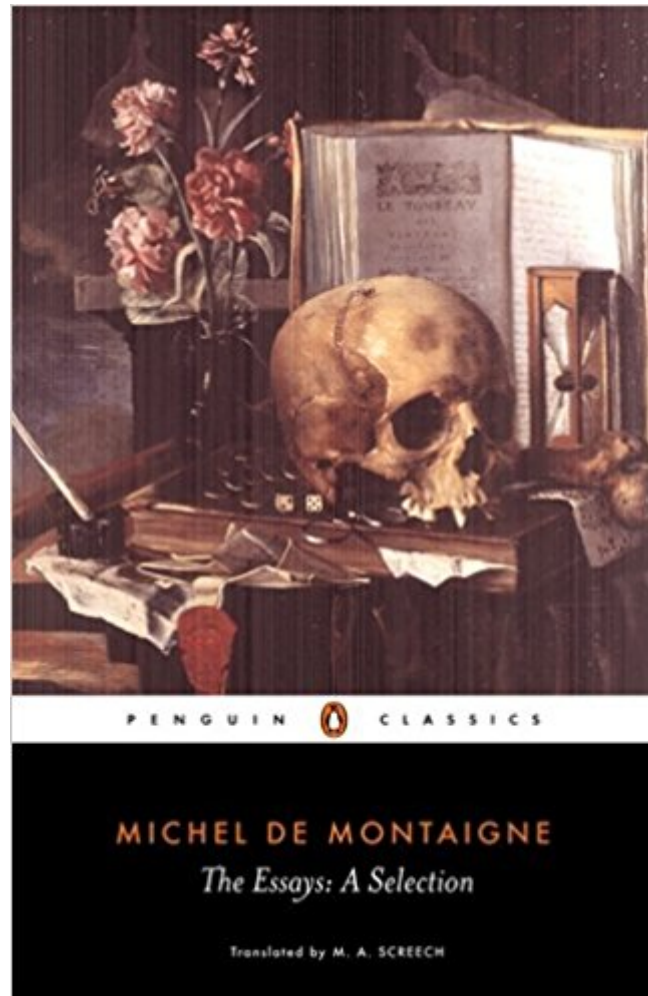




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# The Essays: A Selection (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

A survey of one of the giants of Renaissance thought, *The Essays: A Selection* collects some of Michel de Montaigne's most startling and original works, translated from the French and edited with an introduction and notes by M.A. Screech in Penguin Classics. To overcome a crisis of melancholy after the death of his father, Montaigne withdrew to his country estates and began to write, and in the highly original essays that resulted he discussed themes such as fathers and children, conscience and cowardice, coaches and cannibals, and, above all, himself. *On Some Lines of Virgil* opens out into a frank discussion of sexuality and makes a revolutionary case for the equality of the sexes. In *On Experience* he superbly propounds his thoughts on the right way to live, while other essays touch on issues of an age struggling with religious and intellectual strife, with France torn apart by civil war. These diverse subjects are united by Montaigne's distinctive voice - that of a tolerant man, sceptical, humane, often humorous and utterly honest in his pursuit of the truth. M.A. Screech's distinguished translation fully retains the light-hearted and inquiring nature of the essays. In his introduction, he examines Montaigne's life and times, and the remarkable self-portrait that emerges from his works. Michel de Montaigne (1533-1586) studied law and spent a number of years working as a counsellor before devoting his life to reading, writing and reflection. If you enjoyed *The Essays: A Selection*, you might like Francis Bacon's *The Essays*, also available in Penguin Classics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French

Born in 1533, Montaigne studied law and spent a number of years working as a counsellor before devoting his life to reading, writing and reflection. He died in 1586. Dr M.A. Screech is regarded as the world's greatest authority on Montaigne.

Wanting to read Montaigne after reading the excellent "How To Live" I found this selection of essays to be the perfect compliment to that book.

What this extremely modern writer had to say -- and how he said it -- is extremely modern and very much speaks to our times.

used as a text book. a very comprehensive study of Montaigne work.

Worthwhile reading It was a gift to a philosopher friend, and he's enjoying it a great deal. Montaigne is great for older people.

Received on time & as described.

excellent seller, would use this seller again, received on time, in like new condition, will recommend to everyone i know

What a wonderful book to have on the bookshelf. It took me about a year and half to read it, as I would leisurely consume an essay or two while between books, or if I was just looking for a pleasant respite from my other reading. Montaigne is every bit as readable, fascinating and wise as the judgment of history has deemed him.

Over the years I have kept a copy of the Essays by my favorite reading chair to be enjoyed at random, particularly in the middle of the night when Entropy seems to hold the upper hand. They exercise a remarkable calming effect. Seduced by the idea of having a complete set of all the Essays, I initially opted for the complete Screech translation, but found it wooden and pedantic. I moved to the Cohen translation, which does not include all of the Essays, but has all of the major

ones and is far more enjoyable.

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