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Subject: Major new Great Writers series. Will Self on Ulysses, Saul Bellow, Henry James, Dostoevsky and more.

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How to: Read – The Great Writers Series

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**how to:
Read – The Great
Writers Series**

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
Waterstones, Piccadilly

**'I read a book one day, and my whole life was
changed' – Orhan Pamuk**

In the Great Writers series, the How To Academy have invited a host of distinguished writers and critics to introduce a monumental work of their choice. Whether it's *Ulysses* or *Alice in Wonderland*, *Herzog* or *The Brothers Karamazov*, you will come away equipped to make the book a friend for life.

16th September

: •James Joyce, Ulysses
with Will Self

30th September

**: •Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland,**

11th November

**: •Thomas De Quincey, Confessions of
an English Opium-Eater**
with Frances Wilson

25th November

: •Henry James, The Spoils of Poynton

with Robert Douglas-Fairhurst

14th October

: •Saul Bellow: Herzog
with Zachary Leader

28th October

: •F Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby
with Sarah Churchwell

with Jonathan Keates

9th December

: •Dostoevsky, The Brothers
Karamazov
with Paul Keegan



16th September James Joyce, Ulysses, with Will Self

'I hold this book to be the most important expression which the present age has found; it is a book to which we are all indebted, and from which none of us can escape' – T S Eliot

Divided into eighteen sections, it contains a quarter of a million words. Modeled on Homer's Odyssey, it is based on the events of June 16, 1922 and includes, said Joyce, 'so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries'. It is, said Anthony Burgess 'inimitable, and also possibly mad'. So what better person to take on the possibly mad challenge of introducing Ulysses in an hour and a half than the inimitable **Will Self?**



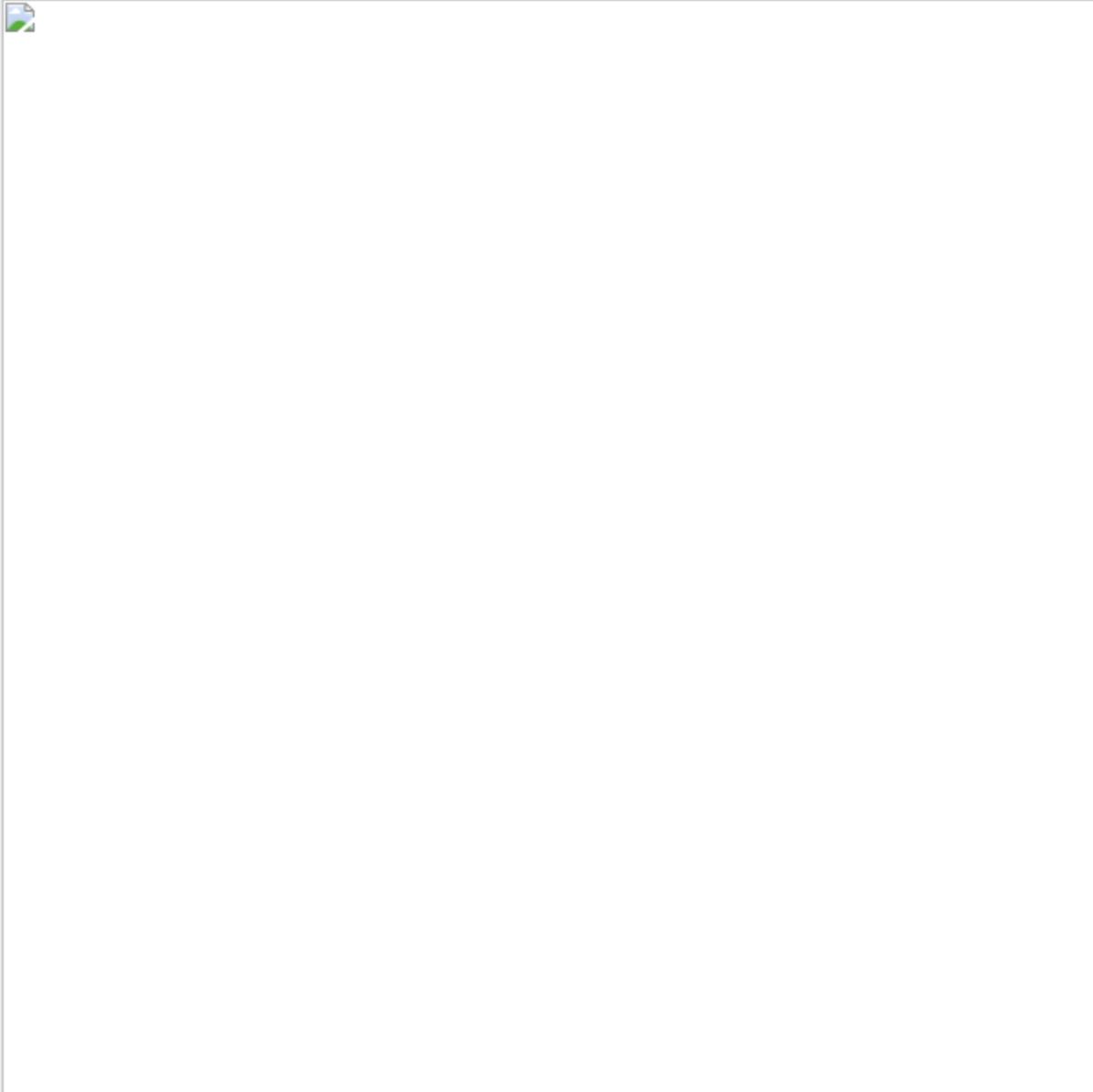
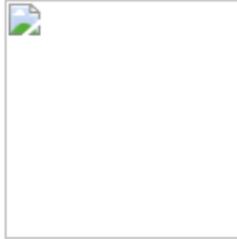


**30th September
Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland, with Robert Douglas-
Fairhurst**

*'Why, sometimes I've believed in six impossible
things before breakfast.'*

Alice in Wonderland has been feeding the imaginations of children for the last 150 years. But what do Humpty Dumpty's riddles mean, and why have the Dodo, the Mock Turtle, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts embedded themselves so powerfully in our culture? In this magical mystery tour, Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, author of *The Story of Alice*, will lead us back down the rabbit hole in order to unravel Lewis Carroll's world of nonsense.

Professor Robert Douglas-Fairhurst is Tortoise in English Language and Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford. 'Why did you call him Tortoise if he wasn't one?' Alice asked. 'We called him Tortoise because he taught us,' said the Mock Turtle angrily.





14th October Saul Bellow, Herzog, with Zachary Leader

'People don't realize how much they are in the grip of ideas. We live among ideas much more than we live in nature' – Saul Bellow

Meet Moses E. Herzog: charmer, cuckold, sufferer, survivor, and the central intelligence of the greatest American novel. In the semi-autobiographical Herzog, Saul Bellow holds us captive inside the brilliant, energetic, and idea-driven consciousness of his forty-seven year old hero, a man grappling with his failures as a father, husband, teacher, and writer.

The Life of Saul Bellow: To Fame and Fortune, 1915-1964, the recently published first volume of **Zachary Leader's** two volume biography, is similarly captivating. Join Professor Leader on a perilous journey into the Herzog's world.



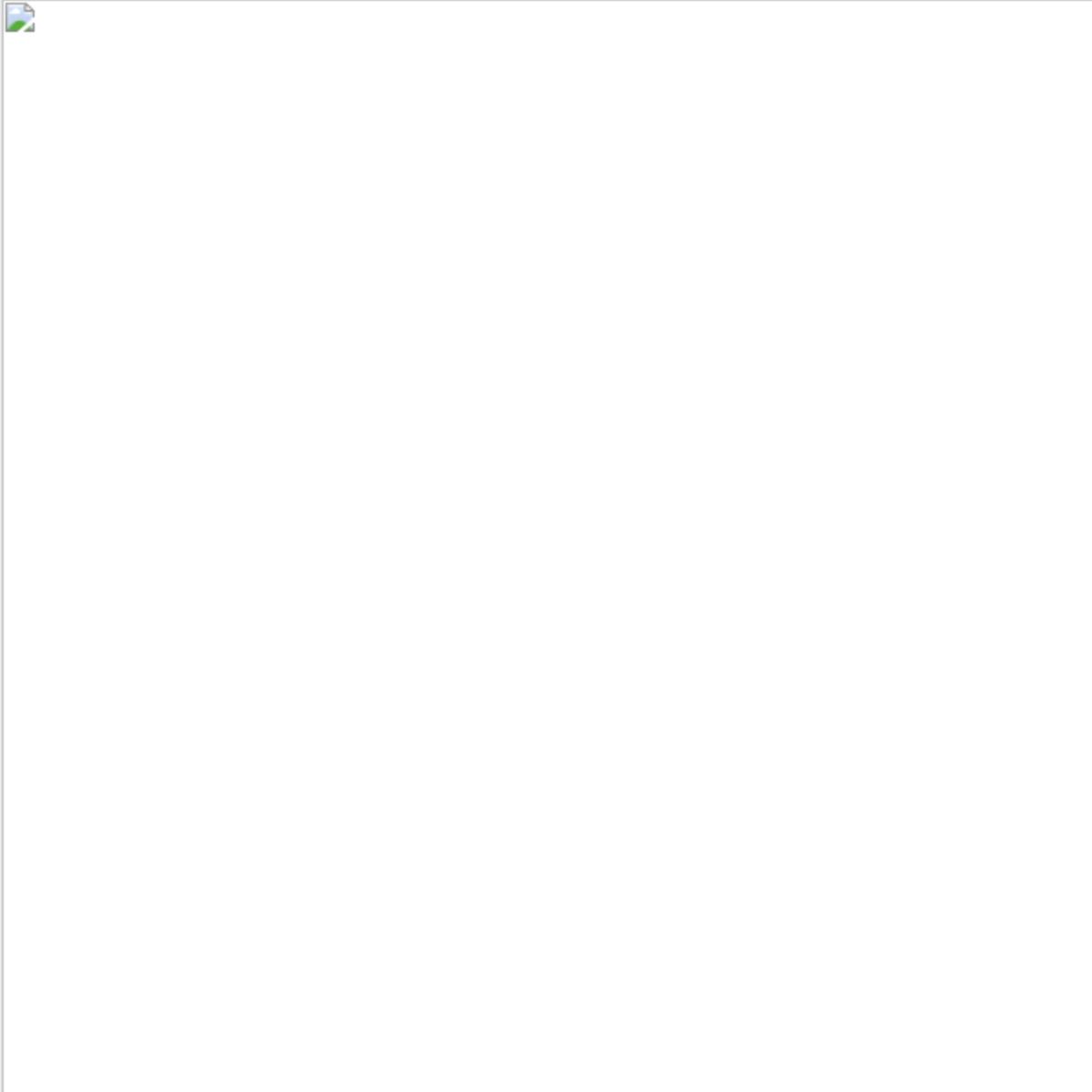
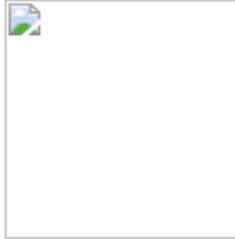


28th October
F Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*,
with Sara Churchwell

'The first step that American fiction has taken since Henry James' – TS Eliot.

In the doomed love affair between Jay Gatsby and Daisy Buchanan, F. Scott Fitzgerald saw into the heart of his nation. *The Great Gatsby* is a cautionary tale about the American dream, the invention of the self and the iniquities of inequality, but it also documents a precise historical moment whose significance is lost to the contemporary reader. The world of New York in 1922 is not the one we think we know: Sara Churchwell has unearthed the true story, including a forgotten tale of adultery and murder that helped inspire Fitzgerald.

Sarah Churchwell is Professor of American Literature and Public Understanding of the Humanities. Her latest book, *Careless People: Murder, Mayhem and the Invention of the Great Gatsby*, was published in 2013.





11th November Thomas De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, with Frances Wilson

'I wonder if I could have existed without Thomas De Quincey?' – Jorge Luis Borges

This is the book that Dostoevsky took with him to Siberia, that inspired Baudelaire's *Les Paradis Artificiel*, to which George Orwell paid homage in *Down and Out in Paris and London*, sections of which James Joyce knew by heart, on which Guy DeBord based the foundations of psychogeography, and without which we would not have Wilkie Collins or Arthur Conan Doyle. But what did Thomas De Quincey have to confess, and why are we still shocked?

In anticipation of her forthcoming biography, *Guilty Thing: An Inner Life of Thomas De Quincey*, **Frances Wilson** will unlock the meanings of one of the seminal texts of the Romantic Age.



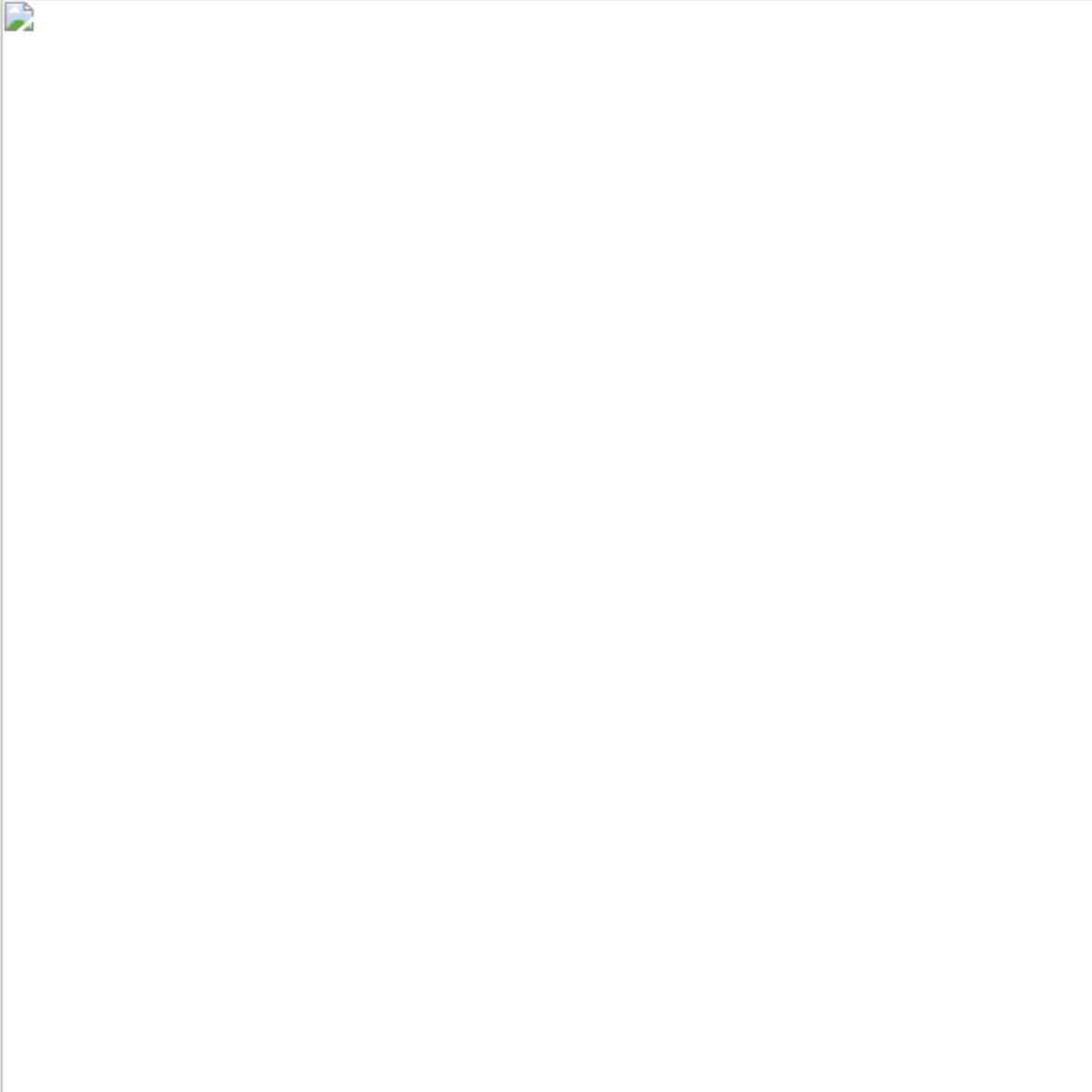
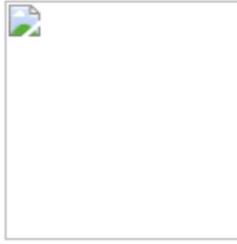


25th November
Henry James, *The Spoils of Poynton*,
with Jonathan Keates

'Blindfold, in the dark, with the brush of a finger, I could tell one from another. They're living things to me; they know me, they return the touch of my hand' – *The Spoils of Poynton*

Poynton is filled with Mrs Gereth's precious antiques, but Owen, her son and heir, is engaged to a woman too vulgar to appreciate their beauties. This is the premise of James's most loved novel, a brief masterpiece about the tyranny of good taste. **Jonathan Keates** is a novelist, biographer and chairman of Venice in Peril fund. A devotee of Henry James, there is no better critic to take us to the critical heart of this witty and insightful work.

'To criticize is to appreciate, to appropriate, to take intellectual possession, to establish a fine relation with the criticized thing and to make it one's own' – Henry James.





9th December Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, with Paul Keegan

'One of the most magnificent novels ever written' –
Sigmund Freud

Dostoevsky's nightmarish novel, the story of a penny-pinching lecher and his four sons, is one the supreme achievements in literature. Set in Russia on the brink of socialist ferment, *The Brothers Karamazov* is a study of patricide, a satire on human corruption, and a complex spiritual drama. 'The thing about Dostoevsky's characters', said David Foster Wallace, 'is that they are alive'; in this seminar, **Paul Keegan**, former editor of Penguin Classics, will discuss the astounding vitality of this monumental work.





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