

Open Culture: Public Domain Day Is Finally Here!: Copyrighted Works Have Entered The Public Domain Today For The First Time In 21 Years



Earlier this year we informed readers that thousands of works of art and entertainment would soon enter the public domain—to be followed every year by thousands more. That day is nigh upon us: Public Domain Day, January 1, 2019. At the stroke of midnight, such beloved classics as Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and “Yes! We Have No Bananas” will become the common property of the people, to be quoted at length or in full anywhere when the copyright expires on work produced in 1923. Then, 1924 will expire in 2020, 1925 in 2021, and so on and so forth.

It means that “hundreds of thousands of books, musical compositions, paintings, poems, photographs and films” will become freely available to distribute, remix, and remake, as Glenn Fleishman [writes at Smithsonian](#). “Any middle school can produce Theodore Pratt’s stage adaptation of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and any historian can publish Winston Churchill’s *The World Crisis* with her own extensive annotations... and any filmmaker can remake Cecil B. DeMille’s original *The Ten Commandments*.”

Read

more: <http://www.openculture.com/2019/01/public-domain-day-is-coming.html>