One of the most famous poems in English literature is "Paradise Lost," by the British writer John Milton. Originally published in 1667, it is a didactic epic of over 12,000 lines, spanning 12 books, written in blank verse. The poem was inspired by the biblical story of the temptation of Adam and Eve and the subsequent expulsion from the garden of Eden. John Milton's "Paradise Lost" tells a story of the world of man, both fallen and unfallen, with the author's Protestant belief that man must have faith in God and that the nature of evil is the result of disobedience to the cherubim. This view of the world is not necessarily shared by everyone, as evidenced by the criticism from readers and scholars who have argued that Milton's work is anti-intellectualism. The poem is considered a masterpiece of English literature and has had a significant influence on subsequent literature, philosophy, and art.