

## ARMADALE ACADEMY LIBRARY. Suggestion list for Higher Personal Reading.

This list suggests titles which could be used for Higher Personal Reading.

A range of reading guides have been used in compiling this list. Please see the librarian for these:

**1001 Books you must read before you die,**      **The Good Fiction Guide** from OUP,    **The Good Reading Guide** from Bloomsbury and    **The big read** from the BBC.

Achebe, C	Things fall apart	Anti-colonial novel. Describes the historical tragedy caused by the arrival of the British in Igboland, in eastern Nigeria. Local culture is shown to be complex.
Adams, D	The hitch-hiker's guide to the galaxy	A wild journey through time and space - a satire on modern life.
Adichie, C N	Half of a yellow sun	Set in 1960s Nigeria at the outset of civil war. The story is told through the lives of a young village boy, a young woman from a privileged background, her university husband and an Englishman. Themes: Class, race, ethnicity, war.
Allende, I	The house of the spirits	Love and political upheaval in Chile with four generations of a family. Myth and magic are interwoven with realistic historical description.
Ali, M	Brick Lane	Epic saga about a Bangladeshi family. Deals with race, social disgrace and love.
Angelou, M	I know why the caged bird sings (920 ANG)	Autobiography. Maya is raped by her mother's boyfriend. For five years she does not talk. About evolving identity of a young African American woman. Lyrically written with backdrop of the racial tension of Southern USA.
Asimov, I	I, Robot	Collection of future-detective stories in which the protagonists have to tackle crimes that may have been committed by robots.
Atkinson, K	Behind the scenes at the museum	A bizarre account of a childhood spent above a pet shop in York. The narrative zigzags between the generations in search of explanations for family flaws and frailties.
Atwood, M	Cat's Eye The handmaid's tale	A woman painter is overwhelmed by memories of childhood cruelties and betrayals. Vivid exploration of bullying, Describes a future society dominated by fundamentalist religion and a male elite. Fertility has plummeted and women are handmaids, Marthas, Aunts or wives to the elite. Themes religion and oppression
Austen, J	Emma Mansfield Park Persuasion Pride and Prejudice Sense and sensibility	The beautiful Emma Woodward matchmakes but gradually realizes the arrogance of interfering in the lives of others. One of Austen's more sober novels. Fanny Price is the poor relation brought up in a wealthy family's home. Deals with familiar Austen themes of marriage, money and manners. Anne Elliot is persuaded to give up Captain Wentworth. The novel is about second chances and the triumph of true love over social obstacles, snobbishness and other people's selfish concerns. The five single Bennet sisters compete for the attention of the eligible men. A classic romantic comedy full of wit. Tale of two sisters, Elinor and Marianne and the uneasy course of true love.

Banks, I	The Crow Road	Prentice McHoan is the middle son of an affluent Scottish family. There is a mystery involving his Uncle Rory who has not been seen in 8 years and Prentice sets out to play detective. Novel about death, desire and the exhuming of buried secrets.
	The Wasp factory	A gothic horror novel of black humour. Told in the first person 16 year old Frank Cauldhome a self-confessed multiple murderer, lives alone with his father and waits for the return of his half brother Eric, an escapee from a mental institution. A violent end with a twist undermines all that Frank believed about himself. Repelling yet compulsive reading.
Banks, L R	The L shaped room	The story of an unmarried woman in her twenties whose first sexual encounter makes her pregnant. Set in the sixties.
Boyd, W	An ice-cream war	Black comedy about a war within a war- set in East Africa during World War One.
	Armadillo	Farce in which Lorimer Black a loss adjuster finds his carefully ordered world shattered by a series of grotesque and sinister events.
	Restless	Spy thriller of duplicity and betrayal. What happens to your life when everything you thought you knew about your mother turns out to be an elaborate lie? Ruth discovers that her very English mother is really a Russian émigré and one-time spy.
Bradbury, R	Fahrenheit 451	Futuristic novel where a TV screen hands out happiness, scholars are cast out and a task force of fireman is specially trained to burn books. Deals with freedom of speech and the future of education.
Bronte, C	Jane Eyre	Intense love story. A poor governess who falls in love with her employer. He is a man with a dark and tragic secret.
Brookner, A	Hotel du Lac	Booker prize winner. The story of Edith who is staying at a Swiss hotel having jilted her lover at the altar. She worries about what behaviour most becomes a woman and the seeming impossibility of combining love and marriage.
Brookmyre, C	Any title	Contemporary crime novels set in Scotland with outrageous plots. Great comedy.
	Be my enemy	An assignment for journalist Jack Parlabane sends him to the Scottish countryside to write about PR people shooting each other with paintball guns. Things are never quite what they seem. Witty black humour.
	Boiling a frog	Sex and scandal at the Scottish parliament. Jack Parlabane, journalist is set to investigate but first must get himself out of prison. Sex, perversion, murder and floor-polishing. This novel is surreal, irreverent and very, very funny.
	One fine day in the middle of the night	A school reunion where there are the usual rekindled passions and old secrets but then vengeance, jealousy, murder and hijackers put a twist on things. Violent but very funny.
	The sacred art of stealing	Surreal robbery where the thief is not quite what you would expect. Crime novel with a difference.
Brown, G M	House with the green shutters	Set in 19 <sup>th</sup> century rural Scotland., this is the story of the collapse/ruin of an important family in the community. Savagely different from the romantic picture of rural life.
Bryson, B	-various (914 Non-fiction)	Travel writing with humour. Notes from a small island (Britain) A walk in the woods (Appalachian mountain).
Burgess, A	A clockwork orange	Set in a grim future time inhabited by the haves and the have-nots. Book narrated by a gang leader in his private language

		(mix Cockney/Russian). He has committed a horrific crime and is brainwashed into docile compliance. Themes: individual freedom, rise of popular culture.
Campion, J	The Piano	Ada has not spoken since age six. She migrates to New Zealand in an arranged marriage but her husband refuses to transport her piano. A neighbour acquires it in a bargain with Ada. Novel of love, relationships, colonialism and property ownership.
Camus, A	The Plague	Based on a real outbreak of typhoid in Algeria in 1941-2 this is an allegory of the German occupation of France. Initially unable to believe the invasion of plague rats, the inhabitants of Oran are quarantined and assaulted by loss and grief.
Carcatterra, L	Sleepers	Four young boys unjustly imprisoned find strength in their friendship and the courage to stand up for what they believe. A brutal and shocking book of child abuse.
Chandler, R	The big sleep	Ground breaking detective novel dealing with family feuding and the world of mobsters. An emphasis on atmospheric sense of place and character over plot.
Chang, J	Wild Swans (920 CHA)	Through the stories of 3 women,-a grandmother, mother, daughter- read about the tumultuous history of 20 <sup>th</sup> century China.
Coelho, P	The alchemist	The story of Santiago, a young Brazilian boy who decides to travel to Spain after dreaming of treasure.
Colegate, I	The shooting party	A novel of Edwardian manners and morals, full of irony, set in a country house weekend.
Conrad, J	Heart of darkness	A journey into Africa but also a journey into the darkness of the soul.
Conrad, J	Lord Jim	A split second decision ruins the life and career of a young seaman.
Dahl, R	Kiss, kiss (short stories)	Wickedly anarchic stories which explore the dark and sinister.
De Berniere	Captain Corelli's Mandolin	Romance during the occupation of the Greek island of Cephallonia in WW2. Told from multiple perspectives this novel is beautiful, sad, funny and horrific. Evokes the horror, pain and small miracles of war and the ordinary people caught up in it.
Dewar, I	Giving up on ordinary	Megs becomes a cleaner not realising how the role would define her to her clients. But Megs has as full a life as the people she works for.
	Women talking dirty	Ellen and Cora are total opposites but become good friends. Set in Scotland these women come to terms with being adults.
Dickens, C	David Copperfield	Story of a boy growing up. David appears passive and is at the mercy of others but matures with each experience.
	Great Expectations	Young Pip is taken up by a benefactor and turned into a gentleman. This book has pathos, comedy, a thrilling plot, and unforgettable characters from Victorian society. Themes; Human desire, snobbery and guilt.
Dillon, D	Me and ma gal	Classic account of childhood following Derrick and Gal. Set in Coatbridge in the 1970s with the background of slagpits and steelworks. Themes childhood, friendship, community.
	Itchy coo blue	Another day in the childhood of Derrick and Gal. Derrick's dad is suffering from asbestos. Derrick sets out to get a moorhen's egg to give to his Da but has to avoid Mackenzie, an escapee from Borstal. Violence and drugs intrude on this innocent task.
Donovan, Anne	Buddha Da	An endearing and humorous story of a working class Glaswegian who discovers Buddhism, rejects old habits but alienates

		family on his way to a more meaningful life.
Doyle, R	The Commitments	Novel about the rise and fall of an R & B band. Made into a film.
	The Snapper	A very funny book about a girl who gets pregnant - who is the father?
	The Van	Trials and tribulations of two friends and their chip van enterprise. A funny bittersweet tale.
	Paddy Clarke Ha, Ha, Ha	Moving and hilarious account of the life of a 10 year old boy on a Dublin Council estate.
	The woman who walked into doors.	A stark description of a woman (Paula Spencer) who is the subject of continual physical abuse.
	Paula Spencer	Graphic and gritty account of a working class woman (recovering alcoholic cleaner) in Ireland. Told with humour.
Du Maurier	Rebecca	Young girl marries rich widower and is haunted by mystery death of first wife. Tale of murder, obsession & jealousy.
Elton, B	Popcorn	Darkly funny book about the lack of responsibility in the film business.
Evans, N	The horse whisperer	Story of a woman traumatised by a riding accident and the effects on her of her gentle horse-trainer. Themes of redemption, change, the need for understanding and love.
Faber, M	Under the skin	Isserly trawls the Scottish Highlands searching for well-built, muscular male hitch-hikers. An individual's struggle to make sense of world she lives in. A shocking novel with a macabre revelation. Themes: humanity, capitalism and animal ethics.
Faulkner, W	The sound and the fury	Story of how moral decadence overwhelms two generations of the white Compson family in the American South. Told by different members of the family, three of them are streams of consciousness including Benjy who has a mental age of 2.
Faulks, S	Birdsong	This book moves from the lazy boulevards of pre-war France to the stifling heat, to the terror and filth of the trenches during the First World War to the 1990s. Explores the impact of war on relationships.
Ferris, P	The Ferris Conspiracy (364)	Insight into Britain's crime world. By age of 21 Ferris was Glasgow's most feared gangster. Framed by other gangsters he is now in prison.
Fitzgerald, S	The Great Gatsby	A self-indulgent, self-critical man on the slide whilst trying to live the American dream. Set during the jazz age in the USA.
Fletcher, Susan	Eve Green	Evie aged 8 moves to rural Wales following her mother's death. A school friend disappears mysteriously whilst Evie has to deal with her mother's past. A coming of age novel on love, death, childhood innocence.
Foden, G	The last king of Scotland	A young Scottish doctor is drawn into the heart of the Ugandan dictator's surreal and brutal regime.
Forster, E.M.	A Passage to India	British culture is contrasted with Indian tradition when Adele Quested visits her fiancé with unexpected results. The story of a kidnapping. A nutty clerk captures and holds the art student he has become fixated upon. A fiendish interplay of sanity and insanity follows. Good and evil.
Fowles, J	The Collector	
Gale, P	Notes from an exhibition	Novel about bipolar artist with mysterious past. Reader is given glimpse into this chaotic world via her artistic works. Family.
Galloway, J	Foreign parts	Two Scottish women take a trip to the FWW graveyards of France. Theme- gender. Experiments with narrative form.

	The trick is to keep breathing	Joy, a young teacher, spirals into depression following the death of her married lover. Painful subject but spiked with humour. The narrative fragments and reconstructs in line with plot.
Garland, A	The beach	A search for a mythical secluded and unspoilt beach in Thailand. A dark and dramatic adventure story but also deals with concerns about environmental impact of Western tourism. Has become a cult read.
Gibbon, L G	Scots Quair	Trilogy of classic novels about the land and people of Scotland, based around the life of Chris Guthrie. Follows her from childhood on a bleak farm to bitter maturity in the 1930s, using Scots rhythms and vocabulary.
Glaister, L	Now you see me	Lamb walked out on life at 16 and has since become invisible living in the gaps of other people's lives. Daggo is a criminal on the run. Both are strangers to truth and have to learn to trust.
Golden, A	Memoirs of a Geisha	Written in the first person, this novel follows Nitta Sayuri as she leaves her Japanese fishing village to become a celebrated geisha. A vicious competitive world without love and trust where women are measured by the attention of men.
Golding, W	Lord of the flies	Boys revert to savagery after being marooned on a desert island. Themes civilisation/innocence.
Gray, A	Lanark	A surreal and sensitive story of an art student growing up in Glasgow and looking for love. An after-death experience sees him reborn into his own personal version of hell. A difficult read.
	Unlikely stories mostly	Short stories. Some fantastical, some humorous.
Greene, G	Brighton rock	Pinkie is a boy gangster in the Brighton underworld of the 1930s. In a dark setting of double crossing and razor slashes, his ambitions and hatreds are horribly fulfilled.
	The human factor	About the minor-public-school loyalties and betrayals of the British intelligence service.
Gunn, N	Highland river	The highland river is a magical playground for Kenn and friends. He battles for salmon in continual fear of the keepers. Kenn's journey up the river becomes a thrilling exploration into its source and into his self.
Hardy, T		Novels set in south western England. Descriptions of the seasons and the cycle of the farming year. The characters are part of that environment, struggling against the forces of nature and fate but also subject to violent passions and emotions.
	Jude the obscure	Jude a stonemason leaves the countryside to work in the city where he encounters a world of learning for which he has desires. Access is denied. Jude fails in all his relationships. Themes of desire and displacement.
	The Mayor of Casterbridge	Henchard sells his wife and child at a fair when drunk. He vows never to drink again, prospers and becomes Mayor then loses everything when his wife returns 18 years later.
	The Return of the Native	Set on the haunting and vividly described Egdon Heath. Tragic story of relationships and differences in perceptions.
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles	Subtitled "A Pure Woman" this novel pours scorn on the sexual hypocrisy of the time. Tess is seduced and falls pregnant. She is abandoned by the father and is later betrayed by another whom she thought she could trust, the wonderfully named Angel Clare.
Harris, J	Chocolat	Vianne Rocher with her six year old daughter open a chocolate shop in a tiny French village, opposite a Catholic church.

		It is the start of Lent, a time of abstinence and denial and thus conflict ensues.
Hartley, H P	The go-between	A boy on holiday during an idyllic Edwardian summer becomes the messenger between two doomed lovers. He is left emotionally bereft by the passions he senses but barely understands.
Heller, J	Catch 22	Classic dark anti-war novel. Brilliantly funny as reality and farce become difficult to separate.
Hemingway, E	A farewell to arms.	Set in WW1 Frederic Henry is fighting on the Italian front. Sparse narrative style paints realistic account of war & contrasts with the sentimental language of romance as Henry is taken to hospital where he falls for Catherine an English nurse.
Highsmith, P	The talented Mr Ripley	Tom Ripley is a charming psychopath and con man, totally devoid of morality who “steals” other people’s lives. Somehow he manages to extricate himself from the consequences of his murderous activities. Themes morality, desire. identity.
Hill, S	The woman in black	Chilling ghost story of haunted Eel March House.
Hoeg, Peter	Miss Smilla’s feeling for snow	A six year old boy falls to his death. Is it murder? Smilia looks at the snow. Murder mystery and philosophical mediation.
Hollinghurst, A	A Line of beauty	A young Oxford graduate stays in London with the family of a new Tory MP and witnesses the public and private lives of the ruling class. A satirical take on Thatcher’s Britain.
Hornby, N	About a boy	Twelve year old Marcus “adopts” a thirty something father to teach him how to be streetwise and hip. Deals with the toughest aspects of growing up, role reversals and dysfunctional families in a humorous and sympathetic manner.
	Fever Pitch	An eccentric Arsenal fan who cannot let go of his obsession no matter how he tries.
	High Fidelity	A thirty-something record store owner whose life is an emotional mess. He hides his feelings behind relentless listmaking. Can music lyrics really reveal the secrets of male/female relationships?
Huxley, A	Brave New World	Set in a soulless world where genetic engineering programmes people from birth. A sharp satirical fiction which 70 years later stands as a chilling prophecy.
Irving, J	The Fourth Hand	A philandering journalist has his hand eaten by a lion live on television and falls in love with the widow of the man whose hand is used by the surgeons to replace his own. Surreal black comedy.
James, H	Portrait of a lady	About the moral and social consequences of a young American’s decision to settle in England and Italy.
Jenkins, R	The Cone-gatherers	Scottish novel set during WW2 about the growing tragedy between two brothers and an evil gamekeeper.
Joyce, J	Dubliners (short stories)	Collection of stories about Dublin life.
	A portrait of the artist as a young man	Follows Stephen Dedalus from childhood to early manhood. Herebels against his devout Catholic upbringing, questioning values of family, church and homeland. The language is manipulated to reflect Stephen’s age and intellectual maturity.
	Ulysses	Ulysses traces a day in the life of a Dubliner by means of a swirling stream of consciousness. Interludes of gossip, sex, intellectual sparring and debate about the nobility of the ordinary man.
Kay, J	Trumpet	Explores the life of Joss Moody a jazz trumpeter who lives as a man but is revealed at death to have been a woman.- Identity

Kelman, J	A disaffection	Patrick wants to leave teaching because he no longer believes in conventional education. Life is further complicated with his unrequited love for a fellow teacher.
Keneally, T	Schindler's ark	Schindler makes a fortune during WW2 buying up the businesses of disposed Jews. But his lifestyle is shown to be a façade for saving Jews from the gas chamber.
Kesson, J	The white bird passes	Set in a Scottish "city" of the 1920s this is the tale of the struggles and triumph of Janie growing up in the lane. The arrival of The "Cruelty Man" brings the threat of the orphanage. Gritty, moving portrayal of a young girl facing hardship and deprivation.
Kessey, K	One flew over the cuckoo's nest	The story of a mental institution told by Chief Bromden. This is a hilarious, yet tragic book which has become a classic.
Keyes, D	Flowers for Algernon	Charlie Gordon is a floor sweeper with limited intelligence. An experiment in human intelligence turns him into a genius. When Algernon, the mouse whose experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, Charlie faces up to his own quick demise.
Khadra, Y	The swallows of Kabul	Set in Kabul, Afghanistan at the time of the rule of the Taliban this is the story of four people struggling to hold on to their humanity in a place where pleasure is a deadly sin.
King, J	The football factory	Political satire of football hooliganism.
Kipling, R	Kim	A British orphan brought up as a beggar in Lahore becomes the disciple of a wandering Buddhist monk and then an agent of the British secret service. Tensions arise between the claims of Indian and Anglo-Indian societies on Kim.
Lawrence, D H	Sons and lovers	Mrs Morel is married to a stubborn, inarticulate often drunken miner. Their second son Paul becomes his mother's favourite as she focuses her hopes on him. This mother-son relationship is painful for young Paul as he matures and seeks to break free.
	Women in love	Sisters Ursula and Gudrun fall in love with two very different men and move away from their home background into more self-consciously artistic and intellectual society.
Legge, Gordon	The Shoe	Three days in the life of Archie and his friends with the camaraderie of street and pub life centred around arguments about football, music and sex.
Lessing, D	The Grass is Singing	Explores the position of white woman as guardian of the honour of the white master and the unequal power relationships under white supremacist rules in Rhodesia.
Lewycka, M	A short history of tractors in Ukrainian	Humerous tale of family truths. Nadezhda and Vera, two Ukrainian sisters, are upset when their aging father plans to marry Valentina, a young blonde from the Ukraine. Themes of identity and dysfunctional families.
McCabe, B	The other McCoy	Set in Edinburgh on New Years Eve. Pat McCoy a compulsive impersonator is on the brink of national acclaim from a five min spot on the Hogmonay show. But he is shadowed by another mysterious McCoy.
McCourt, F	Angela's Ashes (920 MCC)	Story of survival of childhood poverty and deprivation in 1930 & 1940s Limerick. Sometimes harrowing often funny. Sequel <i>Tis</i>
McEwan, I	Atonement	Self-absorbed child-writer Briony witnesses a moment of sexual tension between her sister and the housekeeper's son, Robbie.

		She makes assumptions about this scene with dire consequences. Years later Robbie suffers the horror of war at Dunkirk whilst Briony becomes a nurse coming to terms with her guilt. Themes: love, trust, guilt, war and the danger of interpretation.
	Enduring love	A death following a hot-air ballooning accident sees happily married and rationalistic science writer Joe fall prey to an obsessive stalker with a mission to bring him to God. Themes: Obsession, doubt and trust.
	Saturday	Set within a single day in February 2003, the life a contented middle-class man is turned upside down. An exploration of society today in post 9/11 Britain, of rationality via imagination and of the fragility of liberal middle class values and assumptions. Beautifully written.
McIllvanney, W	Docherty	The story of Tom Docherty and his family in a mining community in Ayrshire. It is largely autobiographical and a rich & fascinating account of a close knit family striving to live with dignity against the odds. Set in early part of the 20th century.
	Laidlaw	Jack Laidlaw a Glasgow detective is no ordinary detective but Glasgow is no ordinary city. His methods are unorthodox. In hunting down the killer of a young girl, it seems to him that the city is taking him deeper into its violent heart.
McKay, S	The Orchard on Fire	April Harlency returns to her childhood home to find her best friend Ruby. Set in the fifties this tale is full of nostalgia for childhood, friendship and village life. There are dark undertones with the threat of seduction by the sinister Mr Greenidge, and the physical abuse that Ruby suffers from her father. Themes Rites of passage, relationships, family and friendship, abuse.
MacDougall, C (ed)	The Devil and the Giro	Scottish short stories
MacLavery, B	Cal	Cal a young man living with his father is attacked as a member of the only Catholic family on their estate. A tragic love story set in the fearful and violent atmosphere of Ulster.
	Grace Notes	Catherine McKenna a young composer, returns to Belfast after a long absence to attend her father's funeral and recalls exactly why she left. A novel about coming to terms with the past and the healing power of music.
	Lamb	Brother Sebastian runs away from the bleak and cruel State Home, taking twelve year old Owen with him. A kidnapping or a rescue from abuse. Deals with the consequences of Ulster's sectarian violence.
MacLeod, A	No great mischief	In 1779 Calum McDonald sets sail from the Scottish Highlands with his extensive family to Nova Scotia. For the descendents life is viewed in terms of their ancestry. Clan , code of honour and betrayal.
Mah, A Y	Falling leaves (920 MAH)	Autobiography of a young Chinese girl, disliked by her stepmother (written as Chinese Cinderella for children).
Marquez, G G	Love in the time of cholera	A tale of unrequited passion revisited in the autumn of life.
Martell, Ya	Life of Pi	Story of a teenage boy in a lifeboat on the Pacific for 227 days with a Bengal tiger. An adventure but also a fable of belief.
Melville, H	Moby Dick	Adventure story about young Ishmael's gruelling voyage under the command of Captain Ahab who is obsessed in the pursuit of the great white whale. A fable for the human quest for meaning. Ambitious read.

Min, A	Empress Orchid	Erotic story of Imperial China. Seventeen year old Orchid competes to be the Emperor's wife. She is chosen as a concubine in the Forbidden City and enters a world of jealousy and conspiracy. As China collapses she becomes the last Empress.
Mitchell, D	Cloud Atlas	Structured like a nest of Russian dolls this book has 6 narrators from a range of periods, places and genres. At its heart is the testimony of a young Pacific islander witnessing the end of civilization. Demanding read.
Moggach, D	Tulip fever	Set in seventeenth century Amsterdam where the young and beautiful Sophie is married to a rich old man who engages an artist to paint her portrait. Sophie and the artist fall in love and an ever- increasing spiral of deceit follows.
Morrison, T	Beloved	Set in Ohio in the post-Civil War period, this focuses on Sethe, a newly freed slave who kills her baby to save her from slavery. The house becomes haunted by this dead child. Powerful novel about the inhumane violence of slavery.
Murray, I (ed)	New penguin book of Scottish Short stories	
Nabokov	Lolita	Middle aged professor's obsession with a young girl. A classic of lyrical fiction which also deals with American consumerism.
Niffenegger, A	The time traveller's wife	Henry suffers from chronic displacement disorder. This means that periodically he finds himself pulled into the past or future. This has a harrowing effect on Henry and not surprisingly on his relationships. Love story.
O'Connor, J	Star of the sea	In 1847 the Star of the Sea sets sail from Ireland to New York. On board is a bankrupt aristocrat, his family and hundreds of refugees from the Irish famine. There is also a murderer. A historical thriller with wonderful descriptive characters.
O'Farrell, M	After you'd gone	A love story full of suspense. Alice boards a train in King's Cross to return to her family in Scotland but 6 hours later she catches sight of something so terrible that she returns immediately south. Left in a coma following an accident we follow Alice's journey to mental recovery and unravel the mystery of that journey. Narrative moves between characters and times.
	My lover's lover	A compulsive tale of betrayal and its impact upon a group of flatmates and lovers. It is also a superbly imagined story of a haunting. Moves from third to first person, from present to past to future.
	The distance between us	In typical O'Farrell style the book opens with a mystery which then has to be unravelled. A book about sibling rivalry, alienation, the need for roots and the need to escape them. A love story about two people who have never met.
	The vanishing act of Esme Lennox	Iris has never heard of Esme, her great aunt who for 60 years has been locked away in a mental institution. Strong narrative of jealousy and family betrayal.
Orwell, G	Nineteen eighty-four	A nightmarish vision of an authoritarian, state-controlled future, where you are always watched and thought can be a crime.
Parsons, T	The Family way	Three sisters, three couples and two pregnancies. Six men and women struggle to come to terms with love, sex fertility and the meaning of family.
	Man and boy	A man adapts his life bringing up his son on his own and learning what words like love and family really mean.
Pasternak, B	Doctor Zhivago	Set against the background of the First World War and the Russian revolution. Dr Zhivago's comfortable life is shattered by

		war. In the chaos of war he falls for Lara. Both are already married and know their relationship cannot last.
Peake, M	Titus Groan	Book 1 of the Gormenghast trilogy. A gothic fantasy, grotesque and funny.
Picoult, Jodi	My sister's keeper	Anna was born in order that her cord blood could be donated to her seriously ill sister. By 13 Anna has undergone countless operations to help Kate beat leukaemia. Now she wants control of her own body. Tackles serious ethical issues. Love and family.
Poe, Edgar Allan	The complete stories	Macabre short stories. Less about the supernatural than about people driven crazy by their own imagination.
Proulx, E A	Postcards	Tragic saga of American farming family. Loyal is driven into exile by act of violence. Held together by sequence of postcards, including those from Loyal, unaware of what happened to family he abandoned. Harsh bleak lives set against backdrop of unforgiving landscapes.
	The shipping news	Set in the Newfoundland wasteland where the warm hearted Quoyle is forced to return with his two children and aunt after family trauma. Despite the bleakness, hope and humour shine through.
Rankin, I	Black and Blue	Detective novel as much about the psychology of the main character Rebus as about plot. Four cases take Rebus across Scotland. There are media problems, a colleague's marriage and job are under threat and Rebus has his own drink problems.
Remarque, E M	All quiet on the western front	Paul and his friends, young German men are encouraged by their teachers and parents to fight in the war. Disillusion spreads as conditions of trench warfare are told in graphic detail. One of the best anti-war novels.
Rose, D	War Dolls	Short stories covering childhood, adolescence, adult life, relationships and chance encounters.
Rushdie, S	Midnight's children	Story of a rich Indian family over the past 80 years and Indian independence. Saleem is one of 1001 children born at midnight on 15 Aug 1947, the moment of India's independence. Their birth gives them extraordinary powers. Novel of magic realism.
Rubinfeld, J	The Interpretation of murder	The strangulation of a stunning debutante sees the involvement of Sigmund Freud in New York in 1909. Ideas. Thriller..
Salinger, J D	The catcher in the rye	Cult satirical novel of adolescence. Holden Caulfield leaves his school 3 days early wanting to put off the moment his parents discover he has been kicked out. Alone, he survives in New York.
Sansom, C.J	Winter in Madrid	An action-packed thriller and love story set in war- time Spain. Reveals the profound impact of choices.
Scott, W	Rob Roy	Scottish novel about Rob Roy MacGregor which mythologizes the Scottish highlands.
Sebold, A	The lovely bones	Narrated by 14 year old Susie Salmon, recently murdered by a reclusive neighbour who turns out to be a serial killer. Susie looks down from heaven as her family and friends attempt to continue their lives.
	Lucky (920 SEB)	Reveals how her life was utterly transformed after she was brutally raped in a park near her college campus
Seierstad, Asne	The bookseller of Kabul (920 SEI)	Seierstad, a Norwegian journalist writes an account of her time in Kabul living with the Khan (bookseller) family. Narrative written as though fiction.. Themes: culture, role of women.

Sheridan, S	Truth or die	Story of two girls who go after an IRA cell. Humorous adventure story of female friendship, family, murder.
Shreve, A	Eden Close	Andrew returns home for his mother's funeral. Back in his old farmhouse he relives the night Eden Close was blinded by the same gun that killed her father.
	Fortune's rock	Set in the 1900s in Boston, a romantic tale of a young girl's rite of passage.
	Light on snow	A father and daughter find a baby abandoned in snow. An emotional journey to find the secrets behind the abandoned child.
Smith, A	Other stories and other stories	Short stories-
Smith, A McCall	The No 1 Ladies Detective agency	(Tears of the Giraffe: In the Company of Cheerful Ladies: The Kalahari typing school for men). These novels set in Botswana. Themes: Culture, morality.
	44 Scotland Street	Written as a serialised novel and published daily in the Scotsman. Witty observations on life following the characters of a small part of Edinburgh's New Town
Smith I C	Consider the lilies	An old woman is evicted from her croft and betrayed by the Free Church during the Highland Clearances.
Smith, Z	White teeth	Archie a working class Englishman meets Samad a Muslim during WW2. Friendship ensues through marriage, parenthood, and the changing social landscape of post-war Britain. Themes –fate/disappointment, immigration, religion and being English.
Solzhenitsyn, A	One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich	Stark description of life in a Russian prison camp. A tough spirit helps peasant Denisovich survive the inhumane conditions.
Spark, M	Memento Mori and the girls of slender means	<i>Memento Mori</i> - old people are mysteriously telephoned and reminded that they are about to die. In <i>Girls of slender means</i> a group of young ladies live in a run-down London club for distressed gentlefolk. It is 1945. They are told of the possibility of an unexploded bomb in the garden. How do they cope with the possibility that life may end?
	The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	Set in the 1930's, just before the outbreak of WW2, in an Edinburgh school for girls. Miss Brodie is an inspirational and charismatic teacher who cultivates a group of her "elite" girls. Her political views make her a dangerous teacher.
Stevenson, R L	Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Psychological thriller. A man with a double life uses drugs to change himself from kindly family doctor to deformed killer.
Stoker, B	Dracula	Blood-curdling Gothic novel.
Suskind, P	Perfume	Fable about an 18 <sup>th</sup> century foundling, Jean Baptiste Grenouille- a monster, a murderer with an outstanding talent for smell.
Syal, M	Life isn't all ha, ha, hee, hee	Hilarious story of friendship and betrayal. Issues of working women, arranged marriages, adultery, racism and violence.
Tan, A	The Bone-setter's daughter	LuLing's writes her memoir of life as a girl in 1930's China. Through reading it her American daughter Ruth is able to understand her mother and draw closer to her: Culture, lies, barriers and family.
	The Joy Luck Club	Collection of interlocking narratives told by four Chinese mothers and their daughters. Some contemporary, others set in semi-feudal and Communist China.

Taylor, A	An American boy	Edgar Allan Poe is the American boy. A historical crime novel interweaving real and fictional elements.
Theroux, M	The Paperchase	Damien March hasn't thought of his eccentric uncle, Patrick, for almost twenty years, so is shocked to learn that he has inherited his ramshackle house on an island off Cape Cod. He discovers a fragment of an unpublished novel, The Confessions of Mycroft Holmes, which seems to hold a sinister meaning,. Perceptively written with an engaging wit explores family relationships.
Tolstoy	Anna Karenina	Story of adultery, sexual passion and marital love set in the stifling, morally incompetent aristocratic Russia of 1860s.
	War and peace	Follows the fortunes of several aristocratic Russian families caught up in the Napoleonic wars of 1805-12. With over 500 characters this is a vast novel of how war touches on the lives of individuals.
Trevor, W	A bit on the side	Short stories exploring adultery, secret passion, domestic infidelities, office romances and the rules of love.
Trevor, W	The story of Lucy Gault	Following an attempt to burn their home in 1921 Ireland Lucy parents decide to move back to England. Eight year old Lucy's decision to run away sets in motion the most devastating consequences.
Tyler, A	Back when we were grown ups	At 53 Rebecca wakes up and realises she has turned into the wrong person. Gentle but perceptive reflection on life and family.
	Digging to America	Two Korean babies are delivered to two Baltimore families. Humorous novel of belonging,, pride, prejudice, love, & families.
	Ladder of years	One day, during a family seaside holiday Delia simply walks off the beach, away from her husband, Sam, and her three almost grown-up children. In a nearby town, she reinvents herself as a serious and independent-minded woman without ties.
Walker, A	The colour purple	Range of imaginative narrative devices tell the story of Celie who is abused by her stepfather and her husband but learns to value herself through a relationship with her husband's mistress.
Warner, A	Morvern Caller	Morvern Callar, a low-paid supermarket employee in a remote Highland sea port, wakes one morning to find her strange boyfriend has committed suicide on the kitchen floor. Morvern's reaction is both intriguing and immoral.
Waugh, E	Brideshead revisited	Looks back to a golden age before the Second World War as it tells the story of Charles Ryder's infatuation with the Marchmain family and the rapidly disappearing world of privilege they inhabit.
	Decline and fall	Witty and biting satire of British upper classes.
Weldon, F	Life and Loves of a she-devil	Ruth discovers her husband is having an affair. She embarks on a course of destruction which brings her amazing rewards and those around her their just deserts. A story about re-inventing yourself.
Wells, HG	War of the worlds	Martians descend on the Home Countries. How will earth defend itself?
	Time Machine	A scientist's journey into the future to discover the fate of mankind.
Wells, R	Divine secrets of the Ya-Ya sisterhood	In Siddalee Walker's hit play her mother is described as a "tap dancing child abuser." Her mother disowns her but the Ya-Yas, (friends) send Siddalee a scrapbook of divine secrets to help her make up. Mother/daughter relationships, female friendship.
Welsh, I	Trainspotting	This novel looks at life in the dark underside of Edinburgh, the AIDS capital of Europe, through the jaded eyes and harsh vernacular of heroin addict Mark Renton.

Weisberger, L	The devil wears Prada	Life in a Manhattan fashion publishers is not quite what Andrea had expected. Insight into modern day values.
Wharton, E	The age of innocence	Novel of repressed sexuality set in New York in 1870s. Love triangle between a man and 2 women when he marries for duty not love.
Woolf, V	Mrs Dalloway	Clarissa Dalloway, the fashionable wife of an MP, is seen in this novel largely through the impressions and memories within her mind. The action is contained within the limits of a single day - the day on which she is to hold an important party.
Wyndham, J	The day of the Triffids	Science fiction novel in which all human beings are suddenly blinded and at the same time enormous mobile predatory plants appear. The hero attempts to organise and save the human race.
	The Kraken Wakes	Ships sink for no apparent reason, hundreds go to a dark underwater grave. Strange fireballs race through the sky above the oceans. Something is about to show itself, something terrible & alien, a force capable of causing global catastrophe.
	The Midwich Cuckoos	Science fiction novel of a village enveloped by a mysterious force. The villagers awaken to find that every woman of childbearing age is pregnant. The resulting children are extraordinary, alike, well-developed and telepathic. Unease follows.
Wells, H G	The War of the worlds	Martians invade the world. Humans appear powerless. Novel questions human social and moral beliefs.

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