

## GR. 12 UNIVERSITY ENGLISH CPT NOVEL LIST – 2019-2020 – BY GENRE

<b>ADVENTURE AND/OR SURVIVAL FICTION</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>COMING-OF-AGE / SELF-DISCOVERY FICTION</b>	<b>5-8</b>
<b>DYSTOPIAN OR SCIENCE FICTION</b>	<b>8-10</b>
<b>FANTASY FICTION</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>WAR STORIES</b>	<b>11-13</b>
<b>FAMILY-BASED FICTION</b>	<b>13-19</b>
<b>MYSTERIOUS/SUSPENSEFUL/HORRIFIC/THRILLER FICTION</b>	<b>19-23</b>
<b>HUMOUROUS/FEEL-GOOD FICTION</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>ROMANTIC FICTION</b>	<b>26-27</b>
<b>HISTORICAL OR POLITICAL FICTION</b>	<b>28-33</b>

### ADVENTURE AND/OR SURVIVAL FICTION



***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho: A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens....features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.

***All the Pretty Horses*** by Cormac McCarthy: Cut off from the life of ranching he has come to love, by his grandfather's death, John Grady Cole flees to Mexico, where he and his two companions embark on a rugged and cruelly idyllic adventure.

***Angela's Ashes*** by Frank McCourt: Life in impoverished Depression-era Ireland holds little promise for young Frank McCourt, the oldest son in a tightly knit family. Living by his wits, cheered by his irrepressible spirit, and sustained by his mother's fierce love, Frank embarks on an inspiring journey to overcome the poverty of his childhood and reach the land of his dreams: America.

***Children of Blood and Bone*** by Tomi Adeyemi: They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orísha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.

***Eat, Pray, Love*** by Elizabeth Gilbert: A celebrated writer's irresistible, candid, and eloquent account of her pursuit of worldly pleasure, spiritual devotion, and what she really wants out of life. Setting out for a year to study three different aspects of her nature amid three different cultures, Gilbert explores the art of pleasure in Italy, the art of devotion in India, and then a balance between the two on the Indonesian island of Bali.

***The Edible Woman*** by Margaret Atwood: Ever since her engagement, the strangest thing has been happening to Marian McAlpin: she can't eat. First meat. Then eggs, vegetables, cake, pumpkin seeds—everything! Worse yet, she has the crazy feeling that she's *being* eaten. Marian ought to feel consumed with passion, but really she just feels...consumed. A brilliant and powerful work, rich in irony and metaphor.

***The Education of Little Tree*** by Forrest Carter: Recounts the childhood remembrances of an orphaned Native American boy living with his Cherokee grandparents in a mountain log cabin in eastern Tennessee during the 1930's. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education, but when Little Tree is taken away for schooling by whites, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way.

***The English Patient*** by Michael Ondaatje: A poetic novel of four people in the final days of WWII.

***A Fine Balance*** by Rohinton Mistry: Set against the emergency measures imposed by Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970's, *A Fine Balance* follows the lives of four unlikely people as they struggle to maintain a *fine balance* between hope and

despair. Originally published in 1995, *A Fine Balance* is both a warning about the human terrors that await a society without compassion and a testimony to the enduring greatness of the human spirit.

***Floating in My Mother's Palm*** by Ursula Hegi: In their small German town during the 1950's, no one mentions Hitler or the past, and Hanna's mother, an artist, feels both confined and protected in that place. Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway: The story of an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War, his loyalty and courage and his eventual disillusionment with love and defeat.

***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls: The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant.

***The God of Small Things*** by Arundhati Roy: In 1969, in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life, as they discover that the entire world can be transformed in a single moment.

***The Goldfinch*** by Donna Tartt: A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life.

***Great Expectations*** by Charles Dickens: humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge, but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

***Heart of Darkness*** by Joseph Conrad: Taking readers with him deep into the Congo, the narrator witnesses firsthand the bitter juxtaposition of the beauty of the African jungle and the brutality dealt out to its inhabitants by Belgian imperialists. *Heart of Darkness* is a model of economic storytelling, an indictment of the inner and outer turmoil caused by the European imperial misadventure, and a piercing account of the fragility of the human soul.

***The High Mountains of Portugal*** by Yann Martel: A suspenseful, mesmerizing story that revolves around the search for an extraordinary artifact, the novel offers a haunting exploration of great love and great loss.

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** by Victor Hugo: The archdeacon of Notre Dame, Claude Frollo, falls in lust with Esmerelda, a gypsy dancer who is much admired in Paris and convinces Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, to kidnap her. Esmerelda is rescued by the Captain of the Royal Archers and falls mistakenly in love with his bravery when he is, in reality, something of a rogue and a braggart.

***The Hundred Secret Senses*** by Amy Tan: Kwan, a seventeen-year-old half-sister from China, turns young Olivia's world upside-down with her stories of ghosts of another time, tales that have a profound impact on Olivia's life and imagination, until she discovers a way to reconcile the ghosts of the past with her dreams of the future.

***The Illegal*** by Lawrence Hill: Keita Ali is on the run. He is desperate to flee Zantoroland, a mountainous black island that produces the fastest marathoners in the world. Keita signs on with notorious marathon agent, Anton Hamm, who provides Keita with a chance to run the Boston marathon. But when Keita fails to place among the top finishers, rather than being sent back to his own country, he goes into hiding.

***In the Skin of a Lion*** by Michael Ondaatje: Reflective and tender, muscular and erotic, *In the Skin of a Lion* weaves real and invented histories with a moving love story; set in Toronto in the 20's and 30's ... a blend of history, lore, passion and poetry.

***Juba!*** by Walter Dean Myers: In Five Points, New York, in the 1840's, African American teenager William Henry "Juba" Lane works hard to achieve his dream of becoming a professional dancer, but his real break comes when he is invited to perform in England. Based on the life of Master Juba; includes historical note.

***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he wastes away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

***Luka and the Fire of Life*** by Salman Rushdie: On a beautiful starry night in the city of Kahani in the land of Alifbay a terrible thing happened: 12 year-old Luka's storyteller father, Rashid, fell suddenly and inexplicably into a sleep so deep that nothing and no one could rouse him. To save him from slipping away entirely, Luka must embark on a journey through the Magic World, encountering a slew of phantasmagorical obstacles along the way, to steal the Fire of Life

***The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*** by Mitch Albom: Sent to America at age nine with nothing but an old guitar, Frankie Presto achieves success on the mid-twentieth-century music scene before becoming overburdened by his ability to affect people's futures through his music.

***The Martian*** by Andy Weir: Stranded on Mars by a dust storm that compromised his space suit and forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and harsh environmental challenges that test his ingenuity in unique ways.

***Middlesex*** by Jeffery Eugenides- This is a story about what it means to occupy the complex and unnamed middle ground between male and female, Greek and American, past and present. For Cal, caught between these identities, the journey to adulthood is particularly fraught. Jeffrey Eugenides' epic portrayal of Cal's struggle is classical in its structure and scope and contemporary in its content; a tender and honest examination of a battle that is increasingly relevant to us all.

***Midnight Robber*** by Nalo Hopkinson: It's Carnival time and the Caribbean-colonized planet of Toussaint is celebrating with music, dance, and pageantry. Masked "Midnight Robbers" waylay revelers with brandished weapons and spellbinding words. To young Tan-Tan, the Robber Queen is simply a favorite costume to wear at the festival --until her power-corrupted father commits an unforgivable crime. Suddenly, both father and daughter are thrust into the brutal world of New Half-Way Tree.

***Mosquitoland*** by David Arnold: When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

***The Neverending Story*** by Michael Ende: Bastian, a lonely boy, steps through the pages of a book and finds himself caught up in a dangerous quest in a magical kingdom known as Fantastica.

***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern: A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane*** by Neil Gaiman: Presents a modern fantasy about fear, love, magic, and sacrifice in the story of a family at the mercy of dark forces, whose only defense is the three women who live on a farm *at the end of the lane*.

***On the Road*** by Jack Kerouac: *On the Road* is a thinly fictionalized autobiography, filled with a cast made of Kerouac's real life friends, lover, and fellow travelers. Narrated by Sal Paradise, one of Kerouac's alter-egos, *On the Road* is a cross-country bohemian odyssey that not only influenced writing in the years since its 1957 publication, but penetrated into the deepest level of American thought and culture.

***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** by Ken Kesey: McMurphy, a criminal who feigns insanity, is admitted to a mental hospital where he challenges the autocratic authority of the head nurse.

***The Orenda*** by Joseph Boyden: Set in 17th-century Ontario during the French conquest of Canada, this sweeping, richly detailed historical epic unfolds through the eyes of three individuals: Huron (Wyandot) warrior Bird, his Iroquois captive Snow Falls, and Jesuit Missionary Pere Christophe. As these three souls dance with each other through intricately woven acts of duplicity, their social, political and spiritual worlds collide - and a new nation rises from a world in flux.

**Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood: Snowman, known as Jimmy before humankind was overwhelmed by a plague, is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx whom they both loved. In search of answers, Snowman embarks on a journey—with the help of the green-eyed Children of Crake—through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride.

**The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver: The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa.

**The Rainbow Troops** by Andrea Harata: At the poorest village school in Indonesia, Ikal and his friends struggle to pursue their dream of providing schooling for all the children.

**A Recipe for Bees** by Gail Anderson Argatz: Awaiting news about her much-loved son-in-law Gabe, as he undergoes surgery, Augusta reminisces about her sometimes harsh, sometimes wonderful life, from her mother's early death and her difficult marriage to a life-changing love affair and the benefits of old age.

**Robinson Crusoe** by Daniel Defoe: During one of his several adventurous voyages in the 1600's an Englishman becomes the sole survivor of a shipwreck and lives for nearly thirty years on a deserted island.

**Room** by Emma Donoghue: A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

**She's Come Undone** by Wally Lamb: Eating herself into obesity in the wake of her lost childhood and over-anxious mother, Dolores Price finds herself facing adulthood in a cruel world and resolves to rise to the occasion.

**The Shipping News** by E. Annie Proulx: When Quoye's two-timing wife meets her just deserts, he retreats with his two daughters to his ancestral home on the starkly beautiful Newfoundland coast, where a rich cast of local characters and family members all play a part in Quoye's struggle to reclaim his life.

**The Speed of Dark** by Elizabeth Moon: In the near future, disease will be a condition of the past. Most genetic defects will be removed at birth; the remaining during infancy. Unfortunately, there will be a generation left behind. For members of that missed generation, small advances will be made. Through various programs, they will be taught to get along in the world despite their differences. They will be made active and contributing members of society, but they will never be normal.

**A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens: After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.

**The Tenant of Wildfell Hall** by Anne Bronte: This is the story of a woman's struggle for independence. Helen "Graham" has returned to Wildfell Hall in flight from a disastrous marriage. Exiled to the desolate moorland mansion, she adopts an assumed name and earns her living as a painter.

**Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe: Chinua Achebe's first novel portrays the collision of African and European cultures in people's lives. Okonkwo, a great man in Igbo traditional society, cannot adapt to the profound changes brought about by British colonial rule. Yet, as in classic tragedy, Okonkwo's downfall results from his own character as well as from external forces.

**Through Black Spruce** by Joseph Boyden: Maintaining a bedside vigil for her comatose uncle, Annie Bird remembers a painful search for her missing model sister; while her uncle Will, a legendary Cree bush pilot, ruminates on a tragic betrayal that cost him his family.

**'Tis** by Frank McCourt- 'Tis is the story of Frank's American journey from impoverished immigrant to brilliant teacher and raconteur. Frank lands in New York at age nineteen, in the company of a priest he meets on the boat. He gets a job at the Biltmore Hotel, where he immediately encounters the vivid hierarchies of this "classless country," and then is drafted into the army. He is sent to Germany to train dogs and type reports. It is Frank's incomparable voice, his uncanny humour, and his astonishing ear for dialogue, that renders these experiences spellbinding.

**A Town Like Alice** by Nevil Shute: This tale of love and war follows its enterprising heroine from the Malayan jungle during World War II to the rugged Australian outback. Jean Paget, a young Englishwoman living in Malaya, is captured by the invading Japanese and forced on a brutal seven-month death march with dozens of other women and children.

**Unbroken** by Laura Hillenbrand: Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams: Fiver could sense danger -- something terrible was going to happen to the warren. His brother Hazel could sense it too. They had to leave the warren, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so, a band of rabbits begin a long and perilous journey.

**Where the Heart Is** by Billie Letts: A funny thing happens to Novalee Nation on her way to Bakersfield, California. Her ne'er-do-well boyfriend, Willie Jack Pickens, abandons her in an Oklahoma Wal-Mart and takes off on his own, leaving her with just 10 dollars and the clothes on her back. Not that hard luck is anything new to Novalee, who is "seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight--and superstitious about sevens".

**Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** by Jung Chang: An engrossing record of Mao's impact on China, an unusual window on the female experience in the modern world, and an inspiring tale of courage and love. *Wild Swans* is a landmark book, with the intimacy of a memoir and the panoramic vision of a monumental human saga, which shares the lives of Jung Chang, her mother, her grandmother, and of 20th-century China.

## COMING-OF-AGE / SELF-DISCOVERY FICTION



**The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho: A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.

**All the Bright Places** by Jennifer Niven: Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr: Set during World War II in Europe, this novel is sobering without being sentimental. The tension builds as the alternating, parallel stories of Werner, the young German soldier, and Marie-Laure, the blind French girl, unfold and their paths cross. A beautiful and compelling story.

**Angela's Ashes** by Frank McCourt: Life in impoverished Depression-era Ireland holds little promise for young Frank McCourt, the oldest son in a tightly-knit family. Living by his wits, cheered by his irrepressible spirit, and sustained by his mother's fierce love, Frank embarks on an inspiring journey to overcome the poverty of his childhood and reach the land of his dreams: America.

**The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz** by Mordecai Richler: A young Jewish man in 1948 Montreal is driven by an insatiable desire to be a somebody, and stops at nothing to get there.

**Atonement** by Ian McEwan: On the hottest day of the summer of 1934, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis sees her sister Cecilia strip off her clothes and plunge into the fountain in the garden of their country house. Briony accuses Robbie, her sister's childhood friend and their housemaid's son, of raping her cousin, Lola. Robbie and Cecilia will have crossed a boundary they had not even imagined at its start, and will have become victims of the younger girl's imagination.

**Bastard Out of Carolina** by Dorothy Allison: Bone, an illegitimate child in a family of social outcasts, sees her mother's happiness with her new husband and will not tell when the stepfather begins abusing her in the 1950s.

**Beartown** by Fredrik Backman: A poignant story of a hockey town paralyzed by scandal. Jobs are disappearing and Beartown is slowly dying, so for its citizens, hockey is everything. 15-year-old Maya Andersson's father, Peter, is the general manager of the hockey club, and although he loves hockey, he loves his family more. Some of his all-star players, as he discovers, are not truly worthy of their town's idolatry.

**A Beautiful Mind** by Sylvia Nasar: In a masterful blend of biography and science writing, Nasar traces John Forbes Nash, Jr.'s rise to the heights of intellectual achievement and his harrowing descent from "eccentricity" to insanity.

**The Bell Jar** by Sylvia Plath: The story of a gifted young woman's mental breakdown beginning during a summer internship as a junior editor at a magazine in New York City in the early 1950s.

**The Bluest Eyes** by Toni Morrison: Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove -- a black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others -- prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.

**The Chosen** by Chaim Potok: A baseball game between Jewish schools is the catalyst that starts a bitter rivalry between two boys and their fathers.

**A Complicated Kindness** by Miriam Toews: A witty, beleaguered teenager whose family is shattered by fundamentalist Christianity balances grief and hope in this coming-of-age novel. Left alone with her sad, peculiar father, she spends her days piecing together why her mother and sister left.

**The Cure for Death by Lightning** by Gail Anderson Dargatz: Beth Weeks, 14, escapes her abusive father during the days of shortages in World War II by reading her mother's scrapbook and visiting a friend on a reservation near her farm.

**Dandelion Wine** by Ray Bradbury: The summer of '28 was a vintage season for a growing boy. A summer of green apple trees, mowed lawns, and new sneakers. Of half-burnt firecrackers, of gathering dandelions, of Grandma's belly-busting dinner. It was a summer of sorrows and marvels and gold-fuzzed bees. A magical, timeless summer in the life of a twelve-year-old boy named Douglas Spaulding--remembered forever by the incomparable Ray Bradbury.

**Ellen Foster** by Kaye Gibbons: Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

**Flannery** by Lisa Moore: Sixteen-year-old Flannery struggles with love, friendship, and growing up in this novel which is by turns heartbreaking and hilarious, empowering and harrowing — often all on the same page. It is a novel whose spell no reader will be able to resist.

**Floating in My Mother's Palm** by Ursula Hegi: In their small German town during the 1950s, no one mentions Hitler or the past, and Hanna's mother, an artist, feels both confined and protected in that place. Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view.

**The Girls** by Lori Lansens: One of the world's oldest living craniopagus conjoined twins at the approach of her thirtieth birthday, bookish Rose Darlen attempts to pen her autobiography while remembering the joys and challenges of her life with sister Ruby. In spite of their situation, the girls lead surprisingly separate lives. Rose is bookish and a baseball fan. Ruby is fond of trash TV and has a passion for local history.

**The Goldfinch** by Donna Tartt: A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life.

**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens: humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

***The House on Mango Street*** by Sandra Cisneros: For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.

***Icy Sparks*** by Gwyn Hyman Rubio: At the age of 10, an Appalachian girl develops croaks, jerks and spasms, which leads to her expulsion from school. After treatment-- she has Tourette's syndrome--she learns to control herself, attends college and there is a happy ending.

***The Jade Peony*** by Wayson Choy: In this award-winning novel, three children come of age in an immigrant Chinese family living in Vancouver during the early 1940s. Side by side, the family survives hardships and heartbreaks with grit and humor, discovers this new land, and never forgets their common ground.

***Jane Eyre*** by Charlotte Bronte: In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret.

***A Long Way Gone*** by Ishmael Beah: In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

***Memoirs of a Geisha*** by Arthur Golden: Tells the story of a geisha girl. Summoning up years of Japan's most dramatic history, this title conjures up the perfection and the ugliness of life behind rice-paper screens, where young girls learn the arts of geisha - dancing and singing, how to wind the kimono, how to walk and pour tea, and how to beguile the most powerful men.

***My Name is Asher Lev*** by Chaim Potok: Here is the original, deeply moving story of Asher Lev, the religious boy with an overwhelming need to draw, to paint, to render the world he knows and the pain he feels, on canvas for everyone to see. A loner, Asher has an extraordinary God-given gift that possesses a spirit all its own. It is this force that must learn to master without shaming his people or relinquishing any part of his deeply felt Judaism. It will not be easy for him, but he knows, too, that even if it is impossible, it must be done.

***My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult: Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

***Ordinary People*** by Judith Guest: The Jarrets are a typical American family. Calvin is a determined, successful provider and Beth is an organized, efficient wife. They had two sons, Conrad and Buck, but now they have one. In this moving, memorable novel, Judith Guest takes the reader into their lives to share their misunderstandings, pain ... and ultimate healings.

***The Outsider*** by Albert Camus: Meursault leads the life of a bachelor in Algiers until he becomes involved in an act of violence that threatens to forever alienate him from the rest of society. He begins to question the moral values that he has so far taken for granted, and comes face-to-face with a new world that is both bleak and absurd.

***Pay it Forward*** by Catherine Ryan Hyde: Trevor's teacher challenges his class to do a project that will change the world. Trevor decides to do something good for people, but instead of them paying him back he asks them to pay it forward by doing good things for more people.

***A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*** by James Joyce: The portrayal of Stephen Dedalus's Dublin childhood and youth, his quest for identity through art and his gradual emancipation from the claims of family, religion and Ireland itself, is also an oblique self-portrait of the young James Joyce and a universal testament to the artist's 'eternal imagination'.

***A Prayer of Owen Meany*** by John Irving: The stunted Owen Meany, whose life is touched by God, and the orphaned Johnny Wheelwright, whose life is touched by Owen. From the accident that links them to the mystery that follows them--and the martyrdom that parts them--the events of their lives form a tapestry of fate and faith in a novel that is Irving at his irresistible best.

***Push*** by Sapphire: Precious Jones, 16 years old and pregnant by her father with her second child, meets a determined and highly radical teacher who takes her on a journey of transformation and redemption

***The Rapture of Canaan*** by Sheri Reynolds: At the Church of Fire and Brimstone and God's Almighty Baptizing Wind, Grandpa Herman makes the rules for everyone, and everyone obeys, or else. But even in this isolated community where it seems nearly everything is forbidden, temptation occasionally touches the congregation ... and for Ninah, temptation comes in the form of her prayer partner, James.

***The Reader*** by Bernhard Schlink- When he falls ill on his way home from school, fifteen-year-old Michael Berg is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. In time she becomes his lover—then she inexplicably disappears. When Michael next sees her, he is a young law student, and she is on trial for a hideous crime. As he watches her refuse to defend her innocence, Michael gradually realizes that Hanna may be guarding a secret she considers more shameful than murder.

***Room*** by Emma Donoghue: A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

***Salt Dancers*** by Ursula Hegi: Julia, pregnant at age forty-one, travels through fear, longing, and love on a journey back to childhood when she returns home to the father she has not seen in twenty-three years to learn why her family came apart.

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd: After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles: Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, charismatic athlete. What happened between them at boarding school during the early years of WWII is the subject of this classic coming-of-age novel.

***She's Come Undone*** by Wally Lamb: Eating herself into obesity in the wake of her lost childhood and over-anxious mother, Dolores Price finds herself facing adulthood in a cruel world and resolves to rise to the occasion.

***Stones from the River*** by Ursula Hegi: Trudi Montag is a dwarf living in Germany during the two World Wars. There's Trudi's mother, who slowly goes insane living in an "earth nest" beneath the family house; Trudi's best friend Georg, who was dressed as the girl his parents always wanted; and, of course, Trudi herself, whose condition dooms her to long for an impossible normalcy.

***'Tis*** by Frank McCourt- 'Tis is the story of Frank's American journey from impoverished immigrant to brilliant teacher and raconteur. Frank lands in New York at age nineteen, in the company of a priest he meets on the boat. He gets a job at the Biltmore Hotel, where he immediately encounters the vivid hierarchies of this "classless country," and then is drafted into the army and is sent to Germany to train dogs and type reports. It is Frank's incomparable voice, his uncanny humour and his astonishing ear for dialogue-that renders these experiences spellbinding.

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*** by Betty Smith: The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

***Where The Heart Is*** by Billie Letts: A funny thing happens to Novalee Nation on her way to Bakersfield, California. Her ne'er-do-well boyfriend, Willie Jack Pickens, abandons her in an Oklahoma Wal-Mart and takes off on his own, leaving her with just 10 dollars and the clothes on her back. Not that hard luck is anything new to Novalee, who is "seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight--and superstitious about sevens.

***Women of the Silk*** by Gail Tsukiyama: Sent by her family to work in a silk factory just prior to World War II, young Pei grows to womanhood, working fifteen-hour days and sending her pay to the family who abandoned her.

## DYSTOPIAN OR SCIENCE FICTION



***Animal Farm*** by George Orwell: A satire on totalitarianism in which farm animals overthrow their human owner and set up their own government.



**Anthem** by Ayn Rand: The book takes place at some unspecified future date when mankind has entered another dark age characterized by irrationality, collectivism, and socialistic thinking and economics. Technological advancement is now carefully planned (when it is allowed to occur at all) and the concept of individuality has been eliminated (for example, the use of the word "I" is punishable by death).

**Blindness** by Jose Sara Mago: A city is hit by an epidemic of "white blindness" whose victims are confined to a vacant mental hospital, while a single eyewitness to the nightmare guides seven oddly assorted strangers through the barren urban landscape.

**Brown Girl in the Ring** by Nalo Hopkinson: When the rich and privileged leave the city behind, barricaded behind roadblocks, the people of the inner city must adopt the old ways of farming, barter, and herb lore, but when the monied need a harvest of bodies, one girl bargains with the gods and gives birth to new legends.

**A Canticle for Liebowitz** by Walter Miller: A monk struggles to preserve spiritual life and wisdom in the years following a nuclear holocaust; a true landmark of twentieth-century literature—a chilling and still provocative look at a post-apocalyptic future.

**A Clockwork Orange** by Anthony Burgess: In this nightmare vision of a not-too-distant future, fifteen-year-old Alex and his three friends rob, rape, torture and murder - for fun. Alex is jailed for his vicious crimes and the State undertakes to reform him - but how and at what cost?

**Crime and Punishment** by Fyodor Dostoyevsky: What makes this novel unique is that Dostoyevsky's preoccupation with the dualities of the human soul are consistently merging and splintering, causing the internal battle of the two forces within the soul of one character, Raskolnikov. The notion that any human being can fall prey to desperation, and therefore, commit a characteristically or uncharacteristically desperate act is compelling. Whether readers can find compassion for Raskolnikov or view him as nothing but despicable, we are forced, if only for a moment, to consider empathizing with Raskolnikov.

**Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep** by Philip K. Dick: It was January 2021, and Rick Deckard had a license to kill. Somewhere among the hordes of humans out there, lurked several rogue androids. Deckard's assignment--find them and then..."retire" them. Trouble was, the androids all looked exactly like humans, and they didn't want to be found!

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** by Robert Louis Stevenson: A kind and well-respected doctor is transformed into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug of his own creation.

**Dune** by Frank Herbert: Set on the desert planet Arrakis, Dune is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Maud'dib. He would avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family-and would bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.

**The Edible Woman** by Margaret Atwood: Ever since her engagement, the strangest thing has been happening to Marian McAlpin: she can't eat. First meat. Then eggs, vegetables, cake, pumpkin seeds—everything! Worse yet, she has the crazy feeling that she's *being* eaten. Marian ought to feel

**Fifteen Dogs: An Apologue** by Alexis Andre: Gods Apollo and Hermes grant human intelligence and consciousness to fifteen dogs who wrestle with the challenges that arise as the result of their elevated thinking.

**Foundation** by Isaac Asimov: A band of psychologists, under the leadership of psycho-historian Hari Seldon, plant a colony to encourage art, science, and technology in the declining Galactic Empire and to preserve the accumulated knowledge of humankind.

**The Marrow Thieves** by Cherie Dimaline: In this futuristic dystopian novel for teens, the Indigenous people of North America are on the run in a fight for survival.

**The Martian** by Andy Weir: Stranded on Mars by a dust storm that compromised his space suit and forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and harsh environmental challenges that test his ingenuity in unique ways.

**On the Beach** by Nevil Shute: Following a nuclear war in the Northern Hemisphere, the inhabitants of a small Australian community await the inevitable after-effects of the bombs to reach them.

***On the Road*** by Jack Kerouac: *On the Road* is a thinly fictionalized autobiography, filled with a cast made of Kerouac's real life friends, lover, and fellow travelers. Narrated by Sal Paradise, one of Kerouac's alter-egos, *On the Road* is a cross-country bohemian odyssey that not only influenced writing in the years since its 1957 publication but penetrated into the deepest level of American thought and culture.

***Oryx and Crake*** by Margaret Atwood: Snowman, known as Jimmy before humankind was overwhelmed by a plague, is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx whom they both loved. In search of answers, Snowman embarks on a journey—with the help of the green-eyed Children of Crake—through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride.

***The Rapture of Canaan*** by Sheri Reynolds: At the Church of Fire and Brimstone and God's Almighty Baptizing Wind, Grandpa Herman makes the rules for everyone, and everyone obeys, or else. But even in this isolated community where it seems nearly everything is forbidden, temptation occasionally touches the congregation ... and for Ninah, temptation comes in the form of her prayer partner, James.

***Slaughterhouse Five*** by Kurt Vonnegut: Billy Pilgrim, a chaplain's assistant during the Second World War, returns home only to be kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, who teach him that time is an eternal present.

***The Speed of Dark*** by Elizabeth Moon: In the near future, disease will be a condition of the past. Most genetic defects will be removed at birth; the remaining during infancy. Unfortunately, there will be a generation left behind. For members of that missed generation, small advances will be made. Through various programs, they will be taught to get along in the world despite their differences. They will be made active and contributing members of society. But they will never be normal.

***Station Eleven*** by Emily St. John Mandel: An actor playing King Lear dies onstage just before a cataclysmic event changes the future of everyone on Earth. What will be valued and what will be discarded? Will art have a place in a world that has lost so much? What will make life worth living? These are just some of the issues explored in this beautifully written dystopian novel.



## FANTASY FICTION

***After Alice*** by Gregory Maguire: A tale inspired by Lewis Carroll's beloved classic follows the experiences of Alice's friend, Ada, who, upon tumbling down the same rabbit hole, embarks on an odyssey to find and reclaim her friend from a surreal world.

***Children of Blood and Bone*** by Tomi Adeyemi: They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.

***The Fellowship of the Ring*** by J.R.R. Tolkien: Frodo the hobbit and his companions set out to deliver the One Ring of Power to the dark land of Mordor in order to destroy the ring in the forge of its creation.

***Foundation*** by Isaac Asimov: A band of psychologists, under the leadership of psycho-historian Hari Seldon, plant a colony to encourage art, science, and technology in the declining Galactic Empire and to preserve the accumulated knowledge of humankind.

***Green Grass, Running Water*** by Thomas King: A great human drama is played out from a Blackfoot reservation to Hollywood while the mythical trickster, Coyote, watches from the sidelines, playfully manipulating events.

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*** by Douglas Adams: It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace bypass and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed with the big, friendly words: DON'T PANIC. The weekend has only just begun.

***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R Tolkien: Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent

***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquirel: At the beginning of the 20th century, Tita, the youngest of three daughters, is expected to serve her mother for the rest of her life, but in order to show her love to Pedro, who is engaged to her sister, Tita cooks for him. Charged with baking the couple's wedding cake, Tita mixes tears of sorrow into the cake, which has an extraordinary effect

***Luka and the Fire of Life*** by Salman Rushdie: On a beautiful starry night in the city of Kahani in the land of Alifbay a terrible thing happened: 12 year-old Luka's storyteller father, Rashid, fell suddenly and inexplicably into a sleep so deep that nothing and no one could rouse him. To save him from slipping away entirely, Luka must embark on a journey through the Magic World, encountering a slew of phantasmagorical obstacles along the way, to steal the Fire of Life

***The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*** by Mitch Albom: Sent to America at age nine with nothing but an old guitar, Frankie Presto achieves success on the mid-twentieth-century music scene before becoming overwhelmed by his ability to affect peoples' futures through his music.

***Middlesex*** by Jeffery Eugenides- This is a story about what it means to occupy the complex and unnamed middle ground between male and female, Greek and American, past and present. For Cal, caught between these identities, the journey to adulthood is particularly fraught. Jeffrey Eugenides' epic portrayal of Cal's struggle is classical in its structure and scope and contemporary in its content; a tender and honest examination of a battle that is increasingly relevant to us all

***Midnight Robber*** by Nalo Hopkinson: It's Carnival time and the Caribbean-colonized planet of Toussaint is celebrating with music, dance, and pageantry. Masked "Midnight Robbers" waylay revelers with brandished weapons and spellbinding words. To young Tan-Tan, the Robber Queen is simply a favorite costume to wear at the festival-until her power-corrupted father commits an unforgiveable crime. Suddenly, both father and daughter are thrust into the brutal world of New Half-Way Tree.

***The Neverending Story*** by Michael Ende: Bastian, a lonely boy, steps through the pages of a book and finds himself caught up in a dangerous quest in a magical kingdom known as Fantastica.

***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern: A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane*** by Neil Gaiman: Presents a modern fantasy about fear, love, magic, and sacrifice in the story of a family at the mercy of dark forces, whose only defense is the three women who live on a farm at the end of the lane.

***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad.

***The Robber Bride*** by Margaret Atwood: Roz, Charis and Tony have come together at a trendy restaurant for their monthly lunch when in walks the seemingly resurrected Zenia, whose funeral they had recently attended.

***Slaughterhouse Five*** by Kurt Vonnegut: Billy Pilgrim, a chaplain's assistant during the Second World War, returns home only to be kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, who teach him that time is an eternal present.

## WAR STORIES



***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr: Set during World War II in Europe, this novel is sobering without being sentimental. The tension builds as the alternating, parallel stories of Werner, the young German soldier, and Marie-Laure, the blind French girl, unfold and their paths cross. A beautiful and compelling story.

***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel-a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***Captain Corelli's Mandolin*** by Louis de Bernieres: Corelli, an Italian army captain, falls in love with Pelagia Iannis on the island of Cephalonia after the Axis forces occupy the island in World War II.

***Catch 22*** by Joseph Heller: The novel is set during World War II, from 1942 to 1944. It mainly follows the life of Captain John Yossarian, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bombardier. Most of the events in the book occur while the fictional 256th Squadron is based on the island of Pianosa, in the Mediterranean Sea, west of Italy. The novel looks into the experiences of Yossarian and the other airmen in the camp, who attempt to maintain their sanity while fulfilling their service requirements so that they may return home.

***Chocolat*** by Joanne Harris: When an exotic stranger, Vianne Rocher, arrives in the French village of Lansquenet and opens a chocolate boutique directly opposite the church, Father Reynaud identifies her as a serious danger to his flock - especially as it is the beginning of Lent, the traditional season of self-denial. War is declared as the priest denounces the newcomer's wares as the ultimate sin.

***The Cure for Death by Lightning*** by Gail Anderson Dargatz: Beth Weeks, 14, escapes her abusive father during the days of shortages in World War II by reading her mother's scrapbook and visiting a friend on a reservation near her farm.

***The English Patient*** by Michael Ondaatje: A poetic novel of four people in the final days of WWII.

***A Farewell to Arms*** by Ernest Hemingway: The epic love story of American ambulance driver Frederic Henry and British nurse Catherine Barkley, drawn together yet torn apart by the tides of war in Italy during the First World War.

***Floating in My Mother's Palm*** by Ursula Hegi: In their small German town during the 1950s, no one mentions Hitler or the past, and Hanna's mother, an artist, feels both confined and protected in that place. Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway: The story of an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War, his loyalty and courage and his eventual disillusionment with love and defeat.

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*** by Mary Ann Shaffer: In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.

***Night*** by Elie Wiesel: A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family.

***The Painted Bird*** by Jerzy Kozinski: A harrowing story that follows the wanderings of a boy abandoned by his parents during World War II, *The Painted Bird* is a dark masterpiece that examines the proximity of terror and savagery to innocence and love. It is the first, and the most famous, novel by one of the most important and original writers of this century.

***Schindler's List*** by Thomas Keneally: Based on the true story of German industrialist and war profiteer, Oskar Schindler, who, confronted with the horror of the extermination camps, gambled his life and fortune to rescue 1,300 Jews from the gas chambers. Working with the actual testimony of Schindler's Jews, Thomas Keneally artfully depicts the courage and shrewdness of an unlikely savior, a man who is a flawed mixture of hedonism and decency and who, in the presence of unutterable evil, transcends the limits of his own humanity.

***Stones from the River*** by Ursula Hegi: Trudi Montag is a dwarf living in Germany during the two World Wars. There's Trudi's mother, who slowly goes insane living in an "earth nest" beneath the family house; Trudi's best friend Georg, who was dressed as the girl his

***Stones from the River*** by Ursula Hegi: Trudi Montag is a dwarf living in Germany during the two World Wars. There's Trudi's mother, who slowly goes insane living in an "earth nest" beneath the family house; Trudi's best friend Georg, who was dressed as the girl his

***Three Day Road*** by Joseph Boyden: The nephew of a Canadian Ojibwe who is the last of a line of healers and diviners, Cree reserve student Xavier enlists in the military during World War I, a conflict throughout which he and his friend, Elijah,

***A Town Like Alice*** by Nevil Shute: This tale of love and war follows its enterprising heroine from the Malayan jungle during World War II to the rugged Australian outback. Jean Paget, a young Englishwoman living in Malaya, is captured by the invading Japanese and forced on a brutal seven-month death march with dozens of other women and children.

***Unbroken*** by Laura Hillenbrand: Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

***Women of the Silk*** by Gail Tsukiyama: Sent by her family to work in a silk factory just prior to World War II, young Pei grows to womanhood, working fifteen-hour days and sending her pay to the family who abandoned her.

***The Zookeeper's Wife*** by Diane Ackerman: When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw—and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages.

## FAMILY-BASED FICTION



***All the Bright Places*** by Jennifer Niven: Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school--both teetering on the edge--it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another.

***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr: Set during World War II in Europe, this novel is sobering without being sentimental. The tension builds as the alternating, parallel stories of Werner, the young German soldier, and Marie-Laure, the blind French girl, unfold and their paths cross. A beautiful and compelling story.

***Any Known Blood*** by Lawrence Hill: A racially mixed African-Canadian-American man embarks on a journey to uncover his family's history, from their present day lives in the predominantly white suburbs of Oakville, Ontario to their roots as slaves in nineteenth century Virginia.

***The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*** by Mordecai Richler: A young Jewish man in 1948 Montreal is driven by an insatiable desire to be a somebody, and stops at nothing to get there.

***Bastard Out of Carolina*** by Dorothy Allison: Bone, an illegitimate child in a family of social outcasts, sees her mother's happiness with her new husband and will not tell when the stepfather begins abusing her in the 1950s.

***Beartown*** by Fredrik Backman: A poignant story of a hockey town paralyzed by scandal. Jobs are disappearing and Beartown is slowly dying, so for its citizens, hockey is everything. 15-year-old Maya Andersson's father, Peter, is the general manager of the hockey club, and although he loves hockey, he loves his family more. Some of his all-star players, as he discovers, are not truly worthy of their town's idolatry.

***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison: Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

***Belzhar*** by Meg Wolitzer: Jam Gallahue, fifteen, unable to cope with the loss of her boyfriend Reeve, is sent to a therapeutic boarding school in Vermont, where a journal-writing assignment for an exclusive, mysterious English class transports her to the magical realm of Belzhar, where she and Reeve can be together. Inspired by Plath's *The Bell Jar*.

***The Bonesetter's Daughter*** by Amy Tan: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* dramatically chronicles the tortured, devoted relationship between LuLing Young and her daughter, Ruth. A strong novel filled with idiosyncratic, sympathetic characters, haunting images, historical complexity, significant contemporary themes, and suspenseful mystery.

***The Book of Ruth*** by Jane Hamilton: Having come within an inch of her life, Ruth Dahl is determined to take a good look at it -- to figure out whether, in fact, she's to blame for the mess. Pegged the loser in a small-town family that doesn't have much going for it in the first place.

***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** by Junot Diaz: Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.

***Brooklyn*** by Colm Toibin: Leaving her family and home in Ireland in the 1950s, Eilis sets off to forge a new life for herself in Brooklyn, USA. But when tragic news summons her back to Ireland, she finds herself facing a terrible choice: between love and happiness in the land where she belongs and the promises she must keep on the far side of the ocean.

***Brown Girl in the Ring*** by Nalo Hopkinson: When the rich and privileged leave the city behind, barricaded behind roadblocks, the people of the inner city must adopt the old ways of farming, barter, and herb lore, but when the monied need a harvest of bodies, one girl bargains with the gods and gives birth to new legends.

***The Chosen*** by Chaim Potok: A baseball game between Jewish schools is the catalyst that starts a bitter rivalry between two boys and their fathers.

***Clara Callan*** by Richard B. Wright: Clara Callan is a deeply moving portrait of two women and of an age heralding seismic changes--the Depression era--that will alter the fabric of their inner lives and the world as they once knew it.

***A Complicated Kindness*** by Miriam Toews: A witty, beleaguered teenager whose family is shattered by fundamentalist Christianity balances grief and hope in this coming-of-age novel. Left alone with her sad, peculiar father, she spends her days piecing together why her mother and sister left.

***Crow Lake*** by Mary Lawson: In the rural farm country of northern Ontario, the lives of two families--the farming Pye family, and zoologist Kate Morrison and her three brothers--are brought together and torn apart by misunderstanding, resentment, family love, and tragedy.

***Drowning Ruth*** by Christina Schwarz: In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. The narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning.

***East of Eden*** by John Steinbeck: This sprawling and often brutal novel, set in the rich farmlands of California's Salinas Valley, follows the intertwined destinies of two families--the Trasks and the Hamiltons--whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel.

***The Edible Woman*** by Margaret Atwood: Ever since her engagement, the strangest thing has been happening to Marian McAlpin: she can't eat. First meat. Then eggs, vegetables, cake, pumpkin seeds—everything! Worse yet, she has the crazy feeling that she's *being* eaten. Marian ought to feel consumed with passion. But really she just feels...consumed. A brilliant and powerful work, rich in irony and metaphor.

***The Education of Little Tree*** by Forrest Carter: Recounts the childhood remembrances of an orphaned Native American boy living with his Cherokee grandparents in a mountain log cabin in eastern Tennessee during the 1930s. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education, but when Little Tree is taken away for schooling by whites, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way.

***Ellen Foster*** by Kaye Gibbons: Having suffered abuse and misfortune for much of her life, a young child searches for a better life and finally gets a break in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

***Fall on Your Knees*** by Ann-Marie MacDonald: Often compared to the great Victorian family sagas, this complex tale of a Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, family from the early 1900s is often extreme, violent, beautiful and moving. The processes of human love and betrayal, faith and suffering are described in a full-bodied and theatrical prose.

***Family Matters*** by Rohinton Mistry: This story centers on a 79-year-old Parsi widower named Nariman who lives with his stepson and stepdaughter. Nariman's wife died many years before, leaving behind the two children from her first marriage and the daughter, Roxanna, they had together.

***A Fine Balance*** by Rohinton Mistry: Set against the emergency measures imposed by Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970s, *A Fine Balance* follows the lives of four unlikely people as they struggle —to maintain a fine balance between hope and despair. Originally published in 1995, *A Fine Balance* is both a warning about the human terrors that await a society without compassion and a testimony to the enduring greatness of the human spirit.

***Five People You Meet in Heaven*** by Mitch Albom: Killed in a tragic accident at a seaside amusement park while trying to save a little girl, Eddie, an elderly man who believes that he had lived an uninspired life, awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people, acquaintances and strangers, explain the meaning of one's life.

***Floating in My Mother's Palm*** by Ursula Hegi: In their small German town during the 1950s, no one mentions Hitler or the past, and Hanna's mother, an artist, feels both confined and protected in that place. Hanna's courageous voice evokes her unconventional mother, who swims during thunderstorms; the illegitimate son of an American GI, who learns from Hanna about his father; and the librarian, Trudi Montag, who lets Hanna see her hometown from a dwarf's extraordinary point of view.

***The Girls*** by Lori Lansens: One of the world's oldest living craniopagus conjoined twins at the approach of her thirtieth birthday, bookish Rose Darlen attempts to pen her autobiography while remembering the joys and challenges of her life with sister Ruby. In spite of their situation, the girls lead surprisingly separate lives. Rose is bookish and a baseball fan. Ruby is fond of trash TV and has a passion for local history.

***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls: *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant.

***The Glory Field*** by Walter Dean Myers: Follows a family's two hundred and forty-one year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750's, through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.

***The God of Small Things*** by Arundhati Roy: In 1969, in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life, as they discover that the entire world can be transformed in a single moment.

***The Goldfinch*** by Donna Tartt: A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life.

***A Good House*** by Bonnie Burnard: Beginning in 1949, we follow the Chambers for the next fifty years through the many joys and disappointments of their lives: a childhood accident, a tragic illness ending in death, and a remarriage for Bill. But despite the heart-aches and difficulties each member of the family faces, there is never a lack of love to be found.

***The Grapes of Wrath*** by John Steinbeck: Journey with the Joads for 21 hours in this controversial (even shocking when it was written) classic. It poses fundamental questions about justice, the ownership and stewardship of the land, the role of government, power, and the

***Great Expectations*** by Charles Dickens: humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

***I Know This Much is True*** by Wally Lamb: Dominick Birdsey, a forty-year-old housepainter living in Three Rivers, Connecticut, finds his subdued life greatly disturbed when his identical twin brother Thomas, a paranoid schizophrenic, commits a shocking act of self-mutilation.

***In the Unlikely Event*** by Judy Blume: a richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events. In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life.

***The Invention of Wings*** by Sue Monk Kidd: Traces more than three decades in the lives of a wealthy Charleston debutante who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life; and the urban slave, Handful, who is placed in her charge as a child before finding courage and a sense of self.



***The Joy Luck Club*** by Amy Tan: After being drawn together by the shadows of their past, four women start meeting every week in San Francisco to engage in hobbies they all enjoy. After one of the four members dies, her daughter takes her place to fulfill her mother's dying wish. After the revelation of a secret, the women are forced to think back to their pasts and remember the sometimes painful events of their lives.

***The Kitchen God's Wife*** by Amy Tan: For forty years, in China and in San Francisco, Winnie Louie and Helen Kwong have kept certain confidences. Suddenly, those shattering secrets are about to be revealed. So begins a series of comic misunderstandings and heartbreaking realizations about luck, loss, and trust; about the things a mother cannot tell her daughter, the secrets daughters keep, and the miraculous resiliency of love.

***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquirel: At the beginning of the 20th century, Tita, the youngest of three daughters, is expected to serve her mother for the rest of her life, but in order to show her love to Pedro, who is engaged to her sister, Tita cooks for him. Charged with baking the couple's wedding cake, Tita mixes tears of sorrow into the cake, which has an extraordinary effect on all

***The Lovely Bones*** by Alice Sebold: After having been raped and murdered, Susie Salmon realizes gradually that she is in an interim heaven until she can let go of her earthly concerns. The narrator observes the disparate ways her family and friends cope, and finally sees that they are resolving their grief as "the lovely bones" of their lives knit themselves around the empty space that was her life.

***Madame Bovary*** by Gustave Flaubert: --Emma Bovary, bored provincial housewife, abandons her husband to pursue the libertine Rodolphe in a desperate love affair. A scandal in its day, *Madame Bovary* remains a powerful and scintillating novel. A brilliant psychological portrait, *Madame Bovary* searingly depicts the human mind in search of transcendence.

***A Man Called Ove*** by Fredrik Backman: A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** by Kim Edwards: A moving and poignant novel about grief, family and betrayal. Families have secrets they hide even from themselves. It should have been an ordinary birth, the start of an ordinary happy family. But the night Dr. David Henry delivers his wife's twins is a night that will haunt five lives forever. For though David's son is a healthy boy, his daughter has Down's syndrome.

***Mosquitoland*** by David Arnold: When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

***My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult: Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

***Night*** by Elie Wiesel: A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family.

***No Country for Old Men*** by Cormac McCarthy- Stumbling upon a bloody massacre, a cache of heroin, and more than \$2 million in cash during a hunting trip, Llewelyn Moss removes the money, a decision that draws him and his young wife into the middle of a violent confrontation.

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane*** by Neil Gaiman: Presents a modern fantasy about fear, love, magic, and sacrifice in the story of a family at the mercy of dark forces, whose only defense is the three women who live on a farm at the end of the lane.

***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women -- brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul

***Ordinary People*** by Judith Guest: The Jarrets are a typical American family. Calvin is a determined, successful provider and Beth is an organized, efficient wife. They had two sons, Conrad and Buck, but now they have one. In this moving, memorable novel, Judith Guest takes the reader into their lives to share their misunderstandings, pain ... and ultimate healings.



***The Pillars of the Earth*** by Ken Follett: The spellbinding epic set in twelfth-century England, *The Pillars of the Earth* tells the story of the lives entwined in the building of the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has ever known--and a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother.

***The Poisonwood Bible*** by Barbara Kingsolver: The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa.

***The Polished Hoe*** by Austin Clarke: When Mary Mathilda of the West Indies' Birnshire Island confesses to killing a powerful sugar plantation owner, whom she has served for more than thirty years and who is the father of her grown son, she sets off a devastating all-night vigil.

***The Polished Hoe*** by Austin Clarke: When Mary Mathilda of the West Indies' Birnshire Island confesses to killing a powerful sugar plantation owner, whom she has served for more than thirty years and who is the father of her grown son, she sets off a devastating all-night vigil.

***Push*** by Sapphire: Precious Jones, 16 years old and pregnant by her father with her second child, meets a determined and highly radical teacher who takes her on a journey of transformation and redemption

***A Recipe for Bees*** by Gail Anderson Argatz: Awaiting news about her much-loved son-in-law Gabe, as he undergoes surgery, Augusta reminisces about her sometimes harsh, sometimes wonderful life, from her mother's early death and her difficult marriage to a life-changing love affair and the benefits of old age.

***Room*** by Emma Donoghue: A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

***Salt Dancers*** by Ursula Hegi: Julia, pregnant at age forty-one, travels through fear, longing, and love on a journey back to childhood when she returns home to the father she has not seen in twenty-three years to learn why her family came apart.

***Sea Glass*** by Anita Shreve: When Honora and Sexton Beecher are rendered penniless by the crash of the stock market, Sexton is forced to work in a nearby mill that

***The Secret Book of Grazia Dei Rossi*** by Jacqueline Park: In 16th century Italy, the daughter of a Jewish banker, Grazia dei Rossi, falls in love with a Christian nobleman. His family rejects her, and she goes on to marry a Jewish doctor. However, the marriage lacks passion and when she has a child it is by the nobleman.

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd: After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

***She's Come Undone*** by Wally Lamb: Eating herself into obesity in the wake of her lost childhood and over-anxious mother, Dolores Price finds herself facing adulthood in a cruel world and resolves to rise to the occasion.

***The Shipping News*** by E. Annie Proulx: When Quoye's two-timing wife meets her just deserts, he retreats with his two daughters to his ancestral home on the starkly beautiful Newfoundland coast, where a rich cast of local characters and family members all play a part in Quoye's struggle to reclaim his life.

***Silas Marner*** by George Eliot: Wrongly accused of theft and exiled from a religious community many years before, the embittered weaver Silas Marner lives alone in Raveloe, living only for work and his precious hoard of money. But when his money is stolen and an orphaned child finds her way into his house, Silas is given the chance to transform his life. His fate, and that of Eppie, the little girl he adopts, is entwined with Godfrey Cass, son of the village Squire, who, like Silas, is trapped by his past.

***Small Great Things*** by Jodi Picoult: A black neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist's newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby's heartbroken father.

***Song of Solomon*** by Toni Morrison- Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world.

***Stones from the River*** by Ursula Hegi: Trudi Montag is a dwarf living in Germany during the two World Wars. There's Trudi's mother, who slowly goes insane living in an "earth nest" beneath the family house; Trudi's best friend Georg, who was dressed as the girl his parents always wanted; and, of course, Trudi herself, whose condition dooms her to long for an impossible normalcy.

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*** by Alan Bradley: It is the summer of 1950—and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath.

***A Tale of Two Cities*** by Charles Dickens: *A Tale of Two Cities* begins on a muddy English road in an atmosphere charged with mystery and drama, and it ends in the Paris of the French Revolution with one of the most famous acts of suspense.

***The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*** by Anne Bronte: This is the story of a woman's struggle for independence. Helen "Graham" has returned to Wildfell Hall in flight from a disastrous marriage. Exiled to the desolate moorland mansion, she adopts an assumed name and earns her living as a painter.

***Three Day Road*** by Joseph Boyden: The nephew of a Canadian Oji-Cree who is the last of a line of healers and diviners, Cree reserve student Xavier enlists in the military during World War I, a conflict throughout which he and his friend, Elijah, are marginalized for their appearances, their culturally enhanced marksmanship, and their disparate views of the war.

***Through Black Spruce*** by Joseph Boyden: Maintaining a bedside vigil for her comatose uncle, Annie Bird remembers a painful search for her missing model sister; while her uncle Will, a legendary Cree bush pilot, ruminates on a tragic betrayal that cost him his family.

***Tuesdays With Morrie*** by Mitch Albom: Mitch rediscovers Morrie, a college professor (with whom he had forged a strong, though somewhat forgotten, bond) in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he is dying, Morrie visits with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final "class": lessons in how to live. *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

***Unless*** by Carol Shields: In the spring of her forty-fourth year, all the quiet satisfactions of Reta Winters' well-lived life disappear in a moment: her eldest daughter Norah suddenly runs from the family and ends up mute and begging on a Toronto street corner, with a hand-lettered sign reading GOODNESS around her neck. GOODNESS. With the inconceivable loss of her daughter like a lump in her throat, Reta tackles the mystery of this message.

***We Were the Mulvaney*** by Joyce Carol Oates: Judd Mulvaney, now age 30, and the youngest of the four Mulvaney children, looks back through his memories to tell the secrets that eventually ripped apart the fabric of his storybook family. Each of the Mulvaney's endures some form of exile—physical or spiritual—but in the end they find a way to bridge the chasms that have opened up among them, reuniting in the spirit of love and healing.

***Where The Heart Is*** by Billie Letts: A funny thing happens to Novalee Nation on her way to Bakersfield, California. Her ne'er-do-well boyfriend, Willie Jack Pickens, abandons her in an Oklahoma Wal-Mart and takes off on his own, leaving her with just 10 dollars and the clothes on her back. Not that hard luck is anything new to Novalee who is "seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight--and superstitious about sevens.

***White Oleander*** by Janet Fitch- Everywhere hailed as a novel of rare beauty and power, *White Oleander* tells the unforgettable story of Ingrid, a brilliant poet imprisoned for murder, and her daughter, Astrid, whose odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes--each its own universe, with its own laws, its own dangers, its own hard lessons to be learned--becomes a redeeming and surprising journey of self-discovery.

**Wide Sargasso Sea** by Jean Rhys: Taken from the plot of *Jane Eyre*, this book details the life of Antoinette Mason (known in *Jane Eyre* as Bertha), a West Indian who marries an unnamed man (Rochester) in Jamaica and returns with him to his home in England. Locked in a loveless marriage and settled in an inhospitable climate, Antoinette goes mad and is frequently violent. Her husband confines her to the attic of his house at Thornfield.

**A Widow for One Year** by John Irving: Richly comic as well as deeply disturbing, this is a multilayered love story of astonishing emotional force. Both ribald and erotic, it is also a brilliant novel about the passage of time and the relentlessness of grief.

**Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** by Jung Chang: An engrossing record of Mao's impact on China, an unusual window on the female experience in the modern world, and an inspiring tale of courage and love. *Wild Swans* is a landmark book, with the intimacy of memoir and the panoramic vision of a monumental human saga, which tells of the lives of Jung Chang, her mother, her grandmother, and of 20th-century China.

**Women of the Silk** by Gail Tsukiyama: Sent by her family to work in a silk factory just prior to World War II, young Pei grows to womanhood, working fifteen-hour days and sending her pay to the family who abandoned her.

**Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte: A brooding Yorkshire tale of a love that is stronger than death, it is also a fierce vision of metaphysical passion, in which heaven and hell, nature and society, are powerfully juxtaposed. Unique, mystical, with a timeless appeal, it has become a classic of English literature.

## MYSTERIOUS/SUSPENSEFUL/HORRIFIC/THRILLER FICTION



**Alias Grace** by Margaret Atwood: Takes readers into the life and mind of Grace Marks, one of the most notorious women of the 1840s, who is serving a life sentence for murders she claims she cannot remember.

**A Clockwork Orange** by Anthony Burgess: In this nightmare vision of a not-too-distant future, fifteen-year-old Alex and his three friends rob, rape, torture and murder - for fun. Alex is jailed for his vicious crimes and the State undertakes to reform him - but how and at what cost?

**Crime and Punishment** by Fyodor Dostoevsky: What makes this novel unique is that Dostoyevsky's preoccupation with the dualities of the human soul are consistently merging and splintering, causing the internal battle of the two forces within the soul of one character, Raskolnikov. The notion that any human being can fall prey to desperation, and therefore, commit a characteristically or uncharacteristically desperate act is compelling. Whether readers can find compassion for Raskolnikov or view him as nothing but despicable, they are forced, if only for a moment, to consider empathizing with him.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night** by Mark Haddon: Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** by Robert Louis Stevenson: A kind and well-respected doctor is transformed into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug of his own creation.

**The Electrical Field** by Kerri Sakamoto: When a lonely, middle-aged Japanese-Canadian woman is implicated in the murder of a beautiful young girl in a small Ontario suburb, the whole community is forced to come to terms with its dark past.

**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley: Obsessed by creating life itself, Victor Frankenstein plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, which he shocks into life by electricity. But his botched creature, rejected by Frankenstein and denied human companionship, sets out to destroy his maker and all that he holds dear.

**Green Grass, Running Water** by Thomas King: A great human drama is played out from a Blackfoot reservation to Hollywood while the mythical trickster, Coyote, watches from the sidelines, playfully manipulating events.

**The High Mountains of Portugal** by Yann Martel: A suspenseful, mesmerizing story revolves around the search of an extraordinary artifact, the novel offers a haunting exploration of great love and great loss.

***House of Sand and Fog*** by Andre Dubus: The lives of Kathy Nicolo and the Behrani family are forever changed when a misunderstanding about a house comes to a disastrous conclusion. In this riveting novel of almost unbearable suspense, three fragile yet determined people become dangerously entangled in a relentlessly escalating crisis. Combining unadorned realism with profound empathy, *House of Sand and Fog* is a devastating exploration of the American Dream gone awry.

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** by Victor Hugo: The archdeacon of Notre Dame, Claude Frollo, falls in lust with Esmerelda, a gypsy dancer who is much admired in Paris and convinces Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, to kidnap her. Esmerelda is rescued by the Captain of the Royal Archers and falls mistakenly in love with his bravery when he is in reality, something of a rogue and a braggart.

***The Hundred Secret Senses*** by Amy Tan: Kwan, a seventeen-year-old half-sister from China, turns young Olivia's world upside-down with her stories of ghosts of another time, tales that have a profound impact on Olivia's life and imagination, until she discovers a way to reconcile the ghosts of the past with her dreams of the future.

***I Know This Much is True*** by Wally Lamb: Dominick Birdsey, a forty-year-old housepainter living in Three Rivers, Connecticut, finds his subdued life greatly disturbed when his identical twin brother Thomas, a paranoid schizophrenic, commits a shocking act of self-mutilation.

***The Illegal*** by Lawrence Hill: Keita Ali is on the run. He is desperate to flee Zantoroland, a mountainous black island that produces the fastest marathoners in the world. Keita signs on with notorious marathon agent, Anton Hamm, who provides Keita with a chance to run the Boston marathon. But when Keita fails to place among the top finishers, rather than being sent back to his own country, he goes into hiding.

***In the Lake of the Woods*** by Tim O'Brien: The story tells of the disintegrating marriage of John and Kathy Wade, living in isolated Lake of the Woods, Minnesota. John is a politician who lost in a landslide after secrets of his past in Vietnam are revealed to the public. One day, John wakes up and finds Kathy missing. John is the main suspect, despite the lack of evidence. The book sets about to solve the mystery of Kathy's disappearance and divulge the dark secrets of John's past.

***In the Unlikely Event*** by Judy Blume: a richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events. In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life.

***The Kitchen God's Wife*** by Amy Tan: For forty years, in China and in San Francisco, Winnie Louie and Helen Kwong have kept certain confidences. Suddenly, those shattering secrets are about to be revealed. So begins a series of comic misunderstandings and heartbreaking realizations about luck, loss, and trust; about the things a mother cannot tell her daughter, the secrets daughters keep, and the miraculous resiliency of love.

***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

***The Lovely Bones*** by Alice Sebold: After having been raped and murdered, Susie Salmon realizes gradually that she is in an interim heaven until she can let go of her earthly concerns. The narrator observes the disparate ways her family and friends cope, and finally sees that they are resolving their grief as "the lovely bones" of their lives knit themselves around the empty space that was her life.

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** by Kim Edwards: A moving and poignant novel about grief, family and betrayal. Families have secrets they hide even from themselves. It should have been an ordinary birth, the start of an ordinary happy family. But the night Dr. David Henry delivers his wife's twins is a night that will haunt five lives forever. For though David's son is a healthy boy, his daughter has Down's syndrome.

***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*** by John Berendt: The most important party of the Savannah Christmas season ends with a bang when affable host Jim Williams shoots a man to death. The party is over; the investigation begins; and Williams' friends discover secrets that make them less eager to help with his courtroom defense.

***The Moonstone*** by Wilkie Collins: Hinging on the theft of an enormous diamond originally stolen from an Indian shrine, this riveting novel features the innovative Sergeant Cuff, the hilarious house steward Gabriel Betteridge, a lovesick housemaid, and a mysterious band of Indian jugglers.

***Mrs. Dalloway*** by Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway* chronicles a June day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway—a day that is taken up with running minor errands in preparation for a party and that is punctuated, toward the end, by the suicide of a young man she has never met.

***Native Son*** by Richard Wright: *Native Son* tells the story of a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's novel is just as powerful today as when it was written -- in its reflection of poverty and hopelessness, and what it means to be black in America.

***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern: A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.

***No Country for Old Men*** by Cormac McCarthy- Stumbling upon a bloody massacre, a cache of heroin, and more than \$2 million in cash during a hunting trip, Llewelyn Moss removes the money, a decision that draws him and his young wife into the middle of a violent confrontation.

***On the Beach*** by Nevil Shute: Following a nuclear war in the Northern Hemisphere, the inhabitants of a small Australian community await the inevitable after-effects of the bombs to reach them.

***The Orenda*** by Joseph Boyden: Set in 17th-century Ontario during the French conquest of Canada, this sweeping, richly detailed historical epic unfolds through the eyes of three individuals: Huron (Wyandot) warrior Bird, his Iroquois captive Snow Falls, and Jesuit Missionary Pere Christophe. As these three souls dance with each other through intricately woven acts of duplicity, their social, political and spiritual worlds collide - and a new nation rises from a world in flux.

***The Outsider*** by Albert Camus: Meursault leads the life of a bachelor in Algiers until he becomes involved in an act of violence that threatens to forever alienate him from the rest of society. He begins to question the moral values that he has so far taken for granted, and comes face-to-face with a new world that is both bleak and absurd.

***The Ox-Bow Incident*** by Walter van Tilburg Clark: Set in 1885, *The Ox-Bow Incident* is a searing and realistic portrait of frontier life and mob violence in the American West. First published in 1940, it focuses on the lynching of three innocent men and the tragedy that ensues when law and order are abandoned.

***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** by Oscar Wilde: An exquisitely beautiful young man in Victorian England retains his youthful and innocent appearance over the years while his portrait reflects both his age and evil soul as he pursues a life of decadence and corruption.

***The Pillars of the Earth*** by Ken Follett: The spellbinding epic set in twelfth-century England, *The Pillars of the Earth* tells the story of the lives entwined in the building of the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has ever known—and a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother.

***The Polished Hoe*** by Austin Clarke: When Mary Mathilda of the West Indies' Birnshire Island confesses to killing a powerful sugar plantation owner, whom she has served for more than thirty years and who is the father of her grown son, she sets off a devastating all-night vigil.

***A Prayer of Owen Meany*** by John Irving: The stunted Owen Meany, whose life is touched by God, and the orphaned Johnny Wheelwright, whose life is touched by Owen. From the accident that links them to the mystery that follows them—and the martyrdom that parts them—the events of their lives form a tapestry of fate and faith in a novel that is Irving at his irresistible best.

***The Reader*** by Bernhard Schlink- When he falls ill on his way home from school, fifteen-year-old Michael Berg is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. In time she becomes his lover—then she inexplicably disappears. When Michael next sees her, he is a young law student, and she is on trial for a hideous crime. As he watches her refuse to defend her innocence, Michael gradually realizes that Hanna may be guarding a secret she considers more shameful than murder.

**Rebecca** by Daphne DuMaurier: The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that she must face.

**The Robber Bride** by Margaret Atwood: Roz, Charis and Tony have come together at a trendy restaurant for their monthly lunch when in walks the seemingly resurrected Zenia, whose funeral they had recently attended.

**Room** by Emma Donoghue: A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

**A Separate Peace** by John Knowles: Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, charismatic athlete. What happened between them at boarding school during the early years of WWII is the subject of this classic coming-of-age novel.

**Seven Fallen Feathers** by Tanya Talaga: In 1966, twelve-year-old Chanie Wenjack froze to death on the railway tracks after running away from residential school. An inquest was called and four recommendations were made to prevent another tragedy. None of those recommendations were applied. Journalist Tanya Talaga delves into the history of the small northern city that has come to manifest Canada's long struggle with human rights violations against Indigenous communities.

**Silas Marner** by George Eliot: Wrongly accused of theft and exiled from a religious community many years before, the embittered weaver Silas Marner lives alone in Raveloe, living only for work and his precious hoard of money. But when his money is stolen and an orphaned child finds her way into his house, Silas is given the chance to transform his life. His fate, and that of Eppie, the little girl he adopts, is entwined with Godfrey Cass, son of the village Squire, who, like Silas, is trapped by his past.

**Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult: A black neonatal nurse is charged with causing the death of a white supremacist's newborn baby. The story is told from the points of view of the nurse, her attorney, and the baby's heartbroken father.

**Snow Falling on Cedars** by David Guterson: Presents a tense courtroom drama, a poignant love story, and a haunting reflection on the delicate balance between the mind and heart.

**The Speed of Dark** by Elizabeth Moon: In the near future, disease will be a condition of the past. Most genetic defects will be removed at birth; the remaining during infancy. Unfortunately, there will be a generation left behind. For members of that missed generation, small advances will be made. Through various programs, they will be taught to get along in the world despite their differences. They will be made active and contributing members of society. But they will never be normal.

**Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel: An actor playing King Lear dies onstage just before a cataclysmic event changes the future of everyone on Earth. What will be valued and what will be discarded? Will art have a place in a world that has lost so much? What will make life worth living? These are just some of the issues explored in this beautifully written dystopian novel.

**The Storyteller** by Jodi Picoult: Becoming friends with Josef Weber, an old man who's particularly loved in her community, Sage Singer is shocked when one day he asks her to kill him and reveals why he deserves to die, causing her question her beliefs--and to wonder if his request would be murder or justice.

**Surfacing** by Margaret Atwood: From the island Quebec cabin where she spent her childhood, a nameless twenty-something woman searches for her father. Despite the company of her lover and friends, these days are painful and excruciatingly lonely. Unbeknownst to them, the truth about her own life is surfacing inside her. Powerful and often frightening, this haunting quest for self is Margaret Atwood's second novel.

**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley: It is the summer of 1950--and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath.

***A Tale of Two Cities*** by Charles Dickens: After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.

***Three Cups of Tea*** by Greg Mortenson: The inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia. Over a decade he built fifty-five schools-especially for girls-that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, *Three Cups of Tea* combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit.

***Through Black Spruce*** by Joseph Boyden: Maintaining a bedside vigil for her comatose uncle, Annie Bird remembers a painful search for her missing model sister; while her uncle Will, a legendary Cree bush pilot, ruminates on a tragic betrayal that cost him his family.

***Unless*** by Carol Shields: In the spring of her forty-fourth year, all the quiet satisfactions of Reta Winters' well-lived life disappear in a moment: her eldest daughter Norah suddenly runs from the family and ends up mute and begging on a Toronto street corner, with a hand-lettered sign reading GOODNESS around her neck. GOODNESS. With the inconceivable loss of her daughter like a lump in her throat, Reta tackles the mystery of this message.

***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen: Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope. Caught between his love for Marlena and his need to belong in the crazy family of travelling performers, Jacob is freed only by a murderous secret that will bring the big top down.

***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams: Fiver could sense danger -- something terrible was going to happen to the warren. His brother Hazel could sense it too. They had to leave the warren, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so, a band of rabbits begin a long and perilous journey.

***Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!*** by Fannie Flagg: TV anchorwoman Dena Nordstrom, the pride of the network, is a woman whose future is full of promise her present rich with complications, and her past marked by mystery.

***We Were the Mulvaney*** by Joyce Carol Oates: Judd Mulvaney, now age 30, and the youngest of the four Mulvaney children, looks back through his memories to tell the secrets that eventually ripped apart the fabric of his storybook family. Each of the Mulvaney's endures some form of exile—physical or spiritual—but in the end they find a way to bridge the chasms that have opened up among them, reuniting in the spirit of love and healing.

***White Oleander*** by Janet Fitch- Everywhere hailed as a novel of rare beauty and power, *White Oleander* tells the unforgettable story of Ingrid, a brilliant poet imprisoned for murder, and her daughter, Astrid, whose odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes—each its own universe, with its own laws, its own dangers, its own hard lessons to be learned—becomes a redeeming and surprising journey of self-discovery.

***Wide Sargasso Sea*** by Jean Rhys: Taken from the plot of *Jane Eyre*, this book details the life of Antoinette Mason (known in *Jane Eyre* as Bertha), a West Indian who marries an unnamed man (Rochester) in Jamaica and returns with him to his home in England. Locked in a loveless marriage and settled in an inhospitable climate, Antoinette goes mad and is frequently violent. Her husband confines her to the attic of his house at Thornfield.

***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Bronte: A brooding Yorkshire tale of a love that is stronger than death, it is also a fierce vision of metaphysical passion, in which heaven and hell, nature and society, are powerfully juxtaposed. Unique, mystical, with a timeless appeal, it has become a classic of English literature.

***Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*** by Geraldine Brooks: *Year of Wonders* is at once a story of unconventional love, & a richly detailed evocation of a riveting moment in history. Told through the eyes of eighteen-year-old Anna Frith, the vicar's maid, as she confronts the loss of her family, the disintegration of her community, and the lure of a dangerous and illicit love. As the death toll rises and people turn from prayers and herbal cures to sorcery and murderous witch-hunting, Anna emerges as an unlikely and courageous heroine in the village's desperate fight to save itself.

## HUMOUROUS/FEEL-GOOD FICTION



***Ape House*** by Sara Gruen: This is the story of a family of bonobo apes that is violently torn from their laboratory by animal liberation activists and placed on a TV reality show. Like Gruen's phenomenal bestseller *Water for Elephants*, this novel explores humans' relationships with animals and shows that animals have much to teach people about what it means to be human.

***The Best Laid Plans*** by Terry Fallis: A burnt-out political aide quits just before an election but is forced to run a hopeless campaign on the way out. He makes a deal with a college professor who is tired of teaching, to let his name stand in the election, assuring him he is certain to lose. The aide is shocked however when their opponent steps down and the professor wins.

***Chocolat*** by Joanne Harris: When an exotic stranger, Vianne Rocher, arrives in the French village of Lansquenet and opens a chocolate boutique directly opposite the church, Father Reynaud identifies her as a serious danger to his flock - especially as it is the beginning of Lent, the traditional season of self-denial. War is declared as the priest denounces the newcomer's wares as the ultimate sin.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*** by Mark Haddon: Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

***Eat, Pray, Love*** by Elizabeth Gilbert: A celebrated writer's irresistible, candid, and eloquent account of her pursuit of worldly pleasure, spiritual devotion, and what she really wanted out of life. Setting out for a year to study three different aspects of her nature amid three different cultures, Gilbert explored the art of pleasure in Italy and the art of devotion in India, and then a balance between the two on the Indonesian island of Bali.

***Five People You Meet in Heaven*** by Mitch Albom: Killed in a tragic accident at a seaside amusement park while trying to save a little girl, Eddie, an elderly man who believes that he had lived an uninspired life, awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people, acquaintances and strangers, explain the meaning of one's life.

***Flannery*** by Lisa Moore: Sixteen-year-old Flannery struggles with love, friendship, and growing up in this novel which is by turns heartbreaking and hilarious, empowering and harrowing — often all on the same page. It is a novel whose spell no reader will be able to resist.

***A Good House*** by Bonnie Burnard: Beginning in 1949, we follow the Chambers for the next fifty years through the many joys and disappointments of their lives: a childhood accident, a tragic illness ending in death, and a remarriage for Bill. But despite the heart-aches and difficulties each member of the family faces, there is never a lack of love to be found.

***Have a Little Faith*** by Mitch Albom: *Have a Little Faith* is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

***The House on Mango Street*** by Sandra Cisneros: For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.

***Icy Sparks*** by Gwyn Hyman Rubio: At the age of 10, an Appalachian girl develops croaks, jerks and spasms, which leads to her expulsion from school. After treatment-- she has Tourette's syndrome--she learns to control herself, attends college and there is a happy ending.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** by Maya Angelou: Years after a tumultuous childhood and tragic youth, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.

***The Invention of Wings*** by Sue Monk Kidd: Traces more than three decades in the lives of a wealthy Charleston debutante who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life; and the urban slave, Handful, who is placed in her charge as a child before finding courage and a sense of self.



***The Little Paris Bookshop*** by Nina George: Quirky and delightful, Nina George's book focuses on Jean Perdu, owner of the Literary Apothecary, a floating bookshop. When a new tenant in his apartment building sets in motion events that force Jean to re-evaluate his past, he finds himself floating off down the rivers of France in search of lost love, new love, and friends he didn't know he needed.

***The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*** by Mitch Albom: Sent to America at age nine with nothing but an old guitar, Frankie Presto achieves success on the mid-twentieth-century music scene before becoming overwhelmed by his ability to affect peoples' futures through his music.

***A Man Called Ove*** by Fredrik Backman: A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

***Me Before You*** by Jojo Moyes: Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living.

***The Moonstone*** by Wilkie Collins: Hinging on the theft of an enormous diamond originally stolen from an Indian shrine, this riveting novel features the innovative Sergeant Cuff, the hilarious house steward Gabriel Betteridge, a lovesick housemaid, and a mysterious band of Indian jugglers.

***Pay it Forward*** by Catherine Ryan Hyde: Trevor's teacher challenges his class to do a project that will change the world. Trevor decides to do something good for people, but instead of them paying him back he asks them to pay it forward by doing good things for more people.

***The Rosie Project*** by Graeme Simsion: Don Tillman, a brilliant geneticist, thinks that having women fill out a six-page, double-sided questionnaire before a date is logical and reasonable. Rosie Jarman, an impetuous barmaid, thinks Don should loosen up and learn to live a little. Follow the unlikely pair in this laugh-out-loud, feel-good story of unexpected joys, discovery and love.

***Three Cups of Tea*** by Greg Mortenson: The inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia. Over a decade he built fifty-five schools-especially for girls-that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, *Three Cups of Tea* combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit.

***'Tis*** by Frank McCourt- 'Tis is the story of Frank's American journey from impoverished immigrant to brilliant teacher and raconteur. Frank lands in New York at age nineteen, in the company of a priest he meets on the boat. He gets a job at the Biltmore Hotel, where he immediately encounters the vivid hierarchies of this "classless country," and then is drafted into the army and is sent to Germany to train dogs and type reports. It is Frank's incomparable voice, his uncanny humour and his astonishing ear for dialogue-that renders these experiences spellbinding.

***Tuesdays With Morrie*** by Mitch Albom: Mitch rediscovers Morrie, a college professor (with whom he had forged a strong, though somewhat forgotten, bond) in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he is dying, Morrie visits with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final "class": lessons in how to live. Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

***Where The Heart Is*** by Billie Letts: A funny thing happens to Novalee Nation on her way to Bakersfield, California. Her ne'er-do-well boyfriend, Willie Jack Pickens, abandons her in an Oklahoma Wal-Mart and takes off on his own, leaving her with just 10 dollars and the clothes on her back. Not that hard luck is anything new to Novalee, who is "seventeen, seven months pregnant, thirty-seven pounds overweight--and superstitious about sevens.

***A Widow for One Year*** by John Irving: Richly comic as well as deeply disturbing, this is a multilayered love story of astonishing emotional force. Both ribald and erotic, it is also a brilliant novel about the passage of time and the relentlessness of grief.

## ROMANTIC FICTION



***The Blind Assassin*** by Margaret Atwood: Iris describes the 1945 death of her sister, who drives her car off a bridge, followed, two years later, by the death of her husband, in a story that features a novel-within-a-novel about two unnamed lovers who meet in a dark backstreet room.

***Brooklyn*** by Colm Toibin: Leaving her family and home in Ireland in the 1950s, Eilis sets off to forge a new life for herself in Brooklyn, USA. But when tragic news summons her back to Ireland, she finds herself facing a terrible choice: between love and happiness in the land where she belongs and the promises she must keep on the far side of the ocean.

***Captain Corelli's Mandolin*** by Louis de Bernieres: Corelli, an Italian army captain, falls in love with Pelagia Iannis on the island of Cephalonia after the Axis forces occupy the island in World War II.

***Eat, Pray, Love*** by Elizabeth Gilbert: A celebrated writer's irresistible, candid, and eloquent account of her pursuit of worldly pleasure, spiritual devotion, and what she really wanted out of life. Setting out for a year to study three different aspects of her nature amid three different cultures, Gilbert explored the art of pleasure in Italy and the art of devotion in India, and then a balance between the two on the Indonesian island of Bali.

***A Farewell to Arms*** by Ernest Hemingway: The epic love story of American ambulance driver Frederic Henry and British nurse Catherine Barkley, drawn together yet torn apart by the tides of war in Italy during the First World War.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls*** by Ernest Hemingway: The story of an American fighting in the Spanish Civil War, his loyalty and courage and his eventual disillusionment with love and defeat.

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** by Victor Hugo: The archdeacon of Notre Dame, Claude Frollo, falls in lust with Esmerelda, a gypsy dancer who is much admired in Paris and convinces Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, to kidnap her. Esmerelda is rescued by the Captain of the Royal Archers and falls mistakenly in love with his bravery when he is in reality, something of a rogue and a braggart.

***In the Skin of a Lion*** by Michael Ondaatje: Reflective and tender, muscular and erotic, *In the Skin of a Lion* weaves real and invented histories with a moving love story; set in Toronto of the 20s and 30s ... a blend of history, lore, passion and poetry.

***Jane Eyre*** by Charlotte Bronte: In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret.

***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquirel: At the beginning of the 20th century, Tita, the youngest of three daughters, is expected to serve her mother for the rest of her life, but in order to show her love to Pedro, who is engaged to her sister, Tita cooks for him. Charged with baking the couple's wedding cake, Tita mixes tears of sorrow into the cake, which has an extraordinary effect on all who eat it. Peppered with traditional Mexican cooking recipes throughout, this unique novel will captivate readers.

***The Little Paris Bookshop*** by Nina George: Quirky and delightful, Nina George's book focuses on Jean Perdu, owner of the Literary Apothecary, a floating bookshop. When a new tenant in his apartment building sets in motion events that force Jean to re-evaluate his past, he finds himself floating off down the rivers of France in search of lost love, new love, and friends he didn't know he needed.

***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

***Madame Bovary*** by Gustave Flaubert: --Emma Bovary, bored provincial housewife, abandons her husband to pursue the libertine Rodolphe in a desperate love affair. A scandal in its day, *Madame Bovary* remains a powerful and scintillating novel. A brilliant psychological portrait, *Madame Bovary* searingly depicts the human mind in search of transcendence.

***Me Before You*** by Jojo Moyes: Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living.

***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen: The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

***The Rapture of Canaan*** by Sheri Reynolds: At the Church of Fire and Brimstone and God's Almighty Baptizing Wind, Grandpa Herman makes the rules for everyone, and everyone obeys, or else. But even in this isolated community where it seems nearly everything is forbidden, temptation occasionally touches the congregation ... and for Ninah, temptation comes in the form of her prayer partner, James.

***Rebecca*** by Daphne DuMaurier: The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that she must face.

***A Recipe for Bees*** by Gail Anderson Argatz: Awaiting news about her much-loved son-in-law Gabe, as he undergoes surgery, Augusta reminisces about her sometimes harsh, sometimes wonderful life, from her mother's early death and her difficult marriage to a life-changing love affair and the benefits of old age.

***The Rosie Project*** by Graeme Simsion: Don Tillman, a brilliant geneticist, thinks that having women fill out a six-page, double-sided questionnaire before a date is logical and reasonable. Rosie Jarman, an impetuous barmaid, thinks Don should loosen up and learn to live a little. Follow the unlikely pair in this laugh-out-loud, feel-good story of unexpected joys, discovery and love.

***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne: In early colonial Massachusetts, a young woman endures the consequences of her sin of adultery and spends the rest of her life in atonement.

***The Secret Book of Grazia Dei Rossi*** by Jacqueline Park: In 16th century Italy, the daughter of a Jewish banker, Grazia dei Rossi, falls in love with a Christian nobleman. His family rejects her, and she goes on to marry a Jewish doctor. However, the marriage lacks passion and when she has a child it is by the nobleman.

***Snow Falling on Cedars*** by David Guterson: Presents a tense courtroom drama, a poignant love story, and a haunting reflection on the delicate balance between the mind and heart.

***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen: Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope. Caught between his love for Marlena and his need to belong in the crazy family of travelling performers, Jacob is freed only by a murderous secret that will bring the big top down.

***Wide Sargasso Sea*** by Jean Rhys: Taken from the plot of *Jane Eyre*, this book details the life of Antoinette Mason (known in *Jane Eyre* as Bertha), a West Indian who marries an unnamed man (Rochester) in Jamaica and returns with him to his home in England. Locked in a loveless marriage and settled in an inhospitable climate, Antoinette goes mad and is frequently violent. Her husband confines her to the attic of his house at Thornfield.

***A Widow for One Year*** by John Irving: Richly comic as well as deeply disturbing, this is a multilayered love story of astonishing emotional force. Both ribald and erotic, it is also a brilliant novel about the passage of time and the relentlessness of grief.

***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Bronte: A brooding Yorkshire tale of a love that is stronger than death, it is also a fierce vision of metaphysical passion, in which heaven and hell, nature and society, are powerfully juxtaposed. Unique, mystical, with a timeless appeal, it has become a classic of English literature.

## HISTORICAL OR POLITICAL FICTION

***Alias Grace*** by Margaret Atwood: Takes readers into the life and mind of Grace Marks, one of the most notorious women of the 1840s, who is serving a life sentence for murders she claims she cannot remember.

***Angela's Ashes*** by Frank McCourt: Life in impoverished Depression-era Ireland holds little promise for young Frank McCourt, the oldest son in a tightly-knit family. Living by his wits, cheered by his irrepressible spirit, and sustained by his mother's fierce love, Frank embarks on an inspiring journey to overcome the poverty of his childhood and reach the land of his dreams: America.

***Anthem*** by Ayn Rand: The book takes place at some unspecified future date when mankind has entered another dark age characterized by irrationality, collectivism, and socialistic thinking and economics. Technological advancement is now carefully planned (when it is allowed to occur at all) and the concept of individuality has been eliminated (for example, the use of the word "I" is punishable by death).

***Any Known Blood*** by Lawrence Hill: A racially mixed African-Canadian-American man embarks on a journey to uncover his family's history, from their present day lives in the predominantly white suburbs of Oakville, Ontario to their roots as slaves in nineteenth century Virginia.

***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison: Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

***The Birth House*** by Amy McKay: Practicing midwife Dora Rare works in Scots Bay, Nova Scotia during the early part of the twentieth century, but the midwifery tradition is threatened when medical doctor Gilbert Thomas arrives with promises of fast, painless childbirth.

***The Bishop's Man*** by Linden Macintyre: The year is 1993 and Father Duncan MacAskill stands at a small Cape Breton fishing harbour a few miles from where he grew up. Enjoying the timeless sight of a father and son piloting a boat, Duncan takes a moment's rest from his worries. But he does not yet know that his already strained faith is about to be tested by his interactions with a troubled boy, 18-year-old Danny MacKay.

***The Bitter Side of Sweet*** by Tara Sullivan: They only wanted to make some money during the dry season to help their impoverished family; instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods Amadou and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. Then Khadija comes, the first girl who has ever come to camp, and she's a wild thing. She fights, but the bosses break her. Now the three band together as family and try just once more to escape.

***The Boat People*** by Sharon Bala: When the rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and 500 fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches the shores of British Columbia, the young father believes the struggles that he and his six-year-old son have long faced are finally over. But their journey has only just begun. This is a timely novel that provokes a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis.

***The Bonesetter's Daughter*** by Amy Tan: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* dramatically chronicles the tortured, devoted relationship between LuLing Young and her daughter, Ruth. A strong novel filled with idiosyncratic, sympathetic characters, haunting images, historical complexity, significant contemporary themes, and suspenseful mystery.

***The Book of Ruth*** by Jane Hamilton: Having come within an inch of her life, Ruth Dahl is determined to take a good look at it -- to figure out whether, in fact, she's to blame for the mess. Pegged the loser in a small-town family that doesn't have much going for it in the first place, Ruth grows up in the shadow of her brilliant brother, trying to hold her own in a world of poverty and hard edges.

***The Book of Negroes*** by Lawrence Hill: Based on a true story. Aminata, a young girl who is abducted from her village in Mali aged 11 in 1755, and who, after a deathly journey on a slave ship where she witnesses the brutal repression of a slave revolt, is sold to a plantation owner in South Carolina, who rapes her. She is brought to New York, where she escapes her owner, and finds herself helping the British by recording all the freed slaves on the British side in the Revolutionary War in *The Book of Negroes* (a real historical document that can be found today at the National Archives at Kew).

***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***The Chosen*** by Chaim Potok: A baseball game between Jewish schools is the catalyst that starts a bitter rivalry between two boys and their fathers.

***Clara Callan*** by Richard B. Wright: Clara Callan is a deeply moving portrait of two women and of an age heralding seismic changes—the Depression era—that will alter the fabric of their inner lives and the world as they once knew it.

***Crime and Punishment*** by Fyodor Dostoyevsky: What makes this novel unique is that Dostoyevsky's preoccupation with the dualities of the human soul are consistently merging and splintering, causing the internal battle of the two forces within the soul of one character, Raskolnikov. The notion that any human being can fall prey to desperation, and therefore, commit a characteristically or uncharacteristically desperate act is compelling. Whether readers can find compassion for Raskolnikov or view him as nothing but despicable, we are forced, if only for a moment, to consider empathizing with Raskolnikov.

***Cry, the Beloved Country*** by Alan Paton: *Cry, the Beloved Country* is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

***Death Comes for the Archbishop*** by Willa Cather: In 1851 Bishop Latour and his friend Father Valliant are dispatched to New Mexico to reawaken its slumbering Catholicism. Moving along the endless prairies, Latour spreads his faith the only way he knows - gently, although he must contend with the unforgiving landscape, derelict and sometimes openly rebellious priests, and his own loneliness. Over nearly forty years, they leave converts and enemies, crosses and occasionally ecstasy in their wake. But it takes a death for them to make their mark on the landscape forever ...

***Drowning Ruth*** by Christina Schwarz: In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. The narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning.

***The Education of Little Tree*** by Forrest Carter: Recounts the childhood remembrances of an orphaned Native American boy living with his Cherokee grandparents in a mountain log cabin in eastern Tennessee during the 1930s. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education, but when Little Tree is taken away for schooling by whites, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way.

***Einstein's Dreams*** by Alan Lightman: In this provocative national bestseller, first-time novelist Lightman takes us back to 1905 and into the dreams of a young patent clerk named Albert Einstein, just as he was completing his theory of relativity.

***Fifteen Dogs: An Apologue*** by Alexis Andre: Gods Apollo and Hermes grant human intelligence and consciousness to fifteen dogs who wrestle with the challenges that arise as the result of their elevated thinking.

***Fight Club*** by Chuck Palahniuk: Every weekend, in the basements and parking lots of bars across the country, young men with white collar jobs and failed lives take off their shoes and shirts and fight each other barehanded just as long as they have to. Then they go back to those jobs with blackened eyes and loosened teeth and the sense that they can handle anything. Fight club is the invention of Tyler Durden, projectionist, waiter, and dark, anarchic genius, and it's only the beginning of his plans for violent revenge on an empty consumer-culture world.

***A Fine Balance*** by Rohinton Mistry: Set against the emergency measures imposed by Indira Gandhi in the mid-1970s, *A Fine Balance* follows the lives of four unlikely people as they struggle —to maintain a fine balance between hope and despair. Originally published in 1995, *A Fine Balance* is both a warning about the human terrors that await a society without compassion and a testimony to the enduring greatness of the human spirit.

***The Glory Field*** by Walter Dean Myers: Follows a family's two hundred and forty-one year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750's, through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.

***The God of Small Things*** by Arundhati Roy: In 1969, in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life, as they discover that the entire world can be transformed in a single moment.

***Go Set a Watchman*** by Harper Lee: Twenty years after the trial of Tom Robinson, Scout returns home to Maycomb to visit her father and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

***The Grapes of Wrath*** by John Steinbeck: Journey with the Joads for 21 hours in this controversial (even shocking when it was written) classic. It poses fundamental questions about justice, the ownership and stewardship of the land, the role of government, power, and the very foundations of capitalist society. As history, this brings the Dust Bowl years to life in a most memorable way.

***The Handmaid's Tale*** by Margaret Atwood: Enter a surrealistic future world where women and men are neatly placed into ready-made roles as nurturer, provider or child bearer. This is the story of one woman, chosen as a child bearer, or handmaiden, for a well-to-do family. Slowly she remembers her past and her own daughter, taken from her when she tried to escape the totalitarian state she now obeys. Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order.

***The Hanging of Angelique*** by Afua Cooper: Marie-Joseph Angellique, a slave woman convicted of starting a fire that destroyed a large part of Montreal in April 1734 and condemned to die a brutal death. In a powerful retelling of Angellique's story -- now supported by archival illustrations -- Cooper builds on 15 years of research to shed new light on a rebellious Portuguese-born black woman who refused to accept her indentured servitude. At the same time, Cooper completely demolishes the myth of a benign, slave-free Canada, revealing a damning 200-year-old record of legally and culturally endorsed slavery.

***Heart of Darkness*** by Joseph Conrad: Taking readers with him deep into the Congo, the narrator witnesses firsthand the bitter juxtaposition of the beauty of the African jungle and the brutality dealt out to its inhabitants by Belgian imperialists. *Heart of Darkness* is a model of economic storytelling, an indictment of the inner and outer turmoil caused by the European imperial misadventure, and a piercing account of the fragility of the human soul.

***How It Went Down*** by Kekla Magoon: When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

***The Inconvenient Indian*** by Thomas King: At once a "history" and the complete subversion of a history—in short, a critical and personal meditation that the remarkable Thomas King has conducted over the past 50 years about what it means to be "Indian" in North America.

***The Invention of Wings*** by Sue Monk Kidd: Traces more than three decades in the lives of a wealthy Charleston debutante who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life; and the urban slave, Handful, who is placed in her charge as a child before finding courage and a sense of self.

***The Jade Peony*** by Wayson Choy: In this award-winning novel, three children come of age in an immigrant Chinese family living in Vancouver during the early 1940s. Side by side, the family survives hardships and heartbreaks with grit and humor, discovers this new land, and never forgets their common ground.

***The Joy Luck Club*** by Amy Tan: After being drawn together by the shadows of their past, four women start meeting every week in San Francisco to engage in hobbies they all enjoy. After one of the four members dies, her daughter takes her place to fulfill her mother's dying wish. After the revelation of a secret, the women are forced to think back to their pasts and remember the sometimes painful events of their lives.

***Juba!*** by Walter Dean Myers: In Five Points, New York, in the 1840s, African American teenager William Henry "Juba" Lane works hard to achieve his dream of becoming a professional dancer but his real break comes when he is invited to perform in England. Based on the life of Master Juba; includes historical note.

***A Long Way Gone*** by Ishmael Beah: In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

***Memoirs of a Geisha*** by Arthur Golden: Tells the story of a geisha girl. Summoning up years of Japan's most dramatic history, this title conjures up the perfection and the ugliness of life behind rice-paper screens, where young girls learn the arts of geisha - dancing and singing, how to wind the kimono, how to walk and pour tea, and how to beguile the most powerful men.

***Midwives*** by Chris Bohjalian: A seasoned midwife in rural Vermont faces the antagonism of the law, the hostility of traditional doctors, and the accusations of her own conscience.

***My Name is Asher Lev*** by Chaim Potok: Here is the original, deeply moving story of Asher Lev, the religious boy with an overwhelming need to draw, to paint, to render the world he knows and the pain he feels, on canvas for everyone to see. A loner, Asher has an extraordinary God-given gift that possesses a spirit all its own. It is this force that must learn to master without shaming his people or relinquishing any part of his deeply felt Judaism. It will not be easy for him, but he knows, too, that even if it is impossible, it must be done.

***Native Son*** by Richard Wright: *Native Son* tells the story of a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's novel is just as powerful today as when it was written -- in its reflection of poverty and hopelessness, and what it means to be black in America.

***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** by Ken Kesey: McMurphy, a criminal who feigns insanity, is admitted to a mental hospital where he challenges the autocratic authority of the head nurse.

***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women -- brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul.

***The Orenda*** by Joseph Boyden: Set in 17th-century Ontario during the French conquest of Canada, this sweeping, richly detailed historical epic unfolds through the eyes of three individuals: Huron (Wyandot) warrior Bird, his Iroquois captive Snow Falls, and Jesuit Missionary Pere Christophe. As these three souls dance with each other through intricately woven acts of duplicity, their social, political and spiritual worlds collide - and a new nation rises from a world in flux.

***The Ox-Bow Incident*** by Walter van Tilburg Clark: Set in 1885, *The Ox-Bow Incident* is a searing and realistic portrait of frontier life and mob violence in the American West. First published in 1940, it focuses on the lynching of three innocent men and the tragedy that ensues when law and order are abandoned.

***The Painted Bird*** by Jerzy Kozinski: A harrowing story that follows the wanderings of a boy abandoned by his parents during World War II, *The Painted Bird* is a dark masterpiece that examines the proximity of terror and savagery to innocence and love. It is the first, and the most famous, novel by one of the most important and original writers of this century.

***A Passage to India*** by E.M. Forster: Two women come to Chandrapore, India, and their lack of understanding of the culture causes one of them to make an unjust accusation.

***Persepolis*** by Marjane Satrapi: The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life

***The Pillars of the Earth*** by Ken Follett: The spellbinding epic set in twelfth-century England, *The Pillars of the Earth* tells the story of the lives entwined in the building of the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has ever known-and a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother.

***The Pilot's Wife*** by Anita Shreve: When her husband, a pilot, dies in an airplane crash off the Irish coast, Kathryn Lyons finds herself in the media spotlight as rumors abound of her husband's shocking secret past.

***The Polished Hoe*** by Austin Clarke: When Mary Mathilda of the West Indies' Birnshire Island confesses to killing a powerful sugar plantation owner, whom she has served for more than thirty years and who is the father of her grown son, she sets off a devastating all-night vigil

***A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*** by James Joyce: The portrayal of Stephen Dedalus's Dublin childhood and youth, his quest for identity through art and his gradual emancipation from the claims of family, religion and Ireland itself, is also an oblique self-portrait of the young James Joyce and a universal testament to the artist's 'eternal imagination'.

***The Rainbow Troops*** by Andrea Harata: At the poorest village school in Indonesia, Ikal and his friends struggle to pursue their dream of schooling.

***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne: In early colonial Massachusetts, a young woman endures the consequences of her sin of adultery and spends the rest of her life in atonement.

***Sea Glass*** by Anita Shreve: When Honora and Sexton Beecher are rendered penniless by the crash of the stock market, Sexton is forced to work in a nearby mill that is plagued by violence, and as they try to reconstruct their lives, they are confronted by passions of every kind.

***The Secret Book of Grazia Dei Rossi*** by Jacqueline Park: In 16th century Italy, the daughter of a Jewish banker, Grazia dei Rossi, falls in love with a Christian nobleman. His family rejects her, and she goes on to marry a Jewish doctor. However, the marriage lacks passion and when she has a child it is by the nobleman.

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd: After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

***Seven Fallen Feathers*** by Tanya Talaga: In 1966, twelve-year-old Chanie Wenjack froze to death on the railway tracks after running away from residential school. An inquest was called and four recommendations were made to prevent another tragedy. None of those recommendations were applied. Journalist Tanya Talaga delves into the history of the small northern city that has come to manifest Canada's long struggle with human rights violations against Indigenous communities.

***Song of Solomon*** by Toni Morrison- Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world.

***A Tale of Two Cities*** by Charles Dickens: After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille, the ageing Doctor Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There the lives of two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil roads of London, they are drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror, and they soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.

***Things Fall Apart*** by Chinua Achebe: Chinua Achebe's first novel portrays the collision of African and European cultures in people's lives. Okonkwo, a great man in Igbo traditional society, cannot adapt to the profound changes brought about by British colonial rule. Yet, as in classic tragedy, Okonkwo's downfall results from his own character as well as from external forces.

***Three Came Home*** by Agnes Newton Keith: It describes Keith's life in North Borneo in the period immediately before the Japanese invasion in 1942, and her subsequent internment and suffering, separated from her husband Harry, and with a young son to care for. She tries to retain some dignity and give her son as normal a life as possible, but it is almost impossible, given the extremely harsh conditions of their lives.

***Three Cups of Tea*** by Greg Mortenson: The inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia. Over a decade he built fifty-five schools-especially for girls-that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, *Three Cups of Tea* combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit.

***Three Day Road*** by Joseph Boyden: The nephew of a Canadian Oji-Cree who is the last of a line of healers and diviners, Cree reserve student Xavier enlists in the military during World War I, a conflict throughout which he and his friend, Elijah, are marginalized for their appearances, their culturally enhanced marksmanship, and their disparate views of the war.



***A Town Like Alice*** by Nevil Shute: This tale of love and war follows its enterprising heroine from the Malayan jungle during World War II to the rugged Australian outback. Jean Paget, a young Englishwoman living in Malaya, is captured by the invading Japanese and forced on a brutal seven-month death march with dozens of other women and children.

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*** by Betty Smith: The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** by Harriet Beecher Stowe: Uncle Tom's master sells him, separating him from his wife, and he becomes attached to the gentle daughter of his new owner, but after her death, he is sold to the evil Simon Legree.

***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams: Fiver could sense danger -- something terrible was going to happen to the warren. His brother Hazel could sense it too. They had to leave the warren, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so a band of rabbits begin a long and perilous journey.

***We*** by Yevgeny Zamyatin: A page turning science fiction adventure that accurately predicts the horrors of Stalinism with a message of hope and warning.

***Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*** by Jung Chang: An engrossing record of Mao's impact on China, an unusual window on the female experience in the modern world, and an inspiring tale of courage and love. *Wild Swans* is a landmark book, with the intimacy of memoir and the panoramic vision of a monumental human saga, which tells of the lives of Jung Chang, her mother, her grandmother, and of 20th-century China.

***Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*** by Geraldine Brooks: *Year of Wonders* is at once a story of unconventional love, & a richly detailed evocation of a riveting moment in history. Told through the eyes of eighteen-year-old Anna Frith, the vicar's maid, as she confronts the loss of her family, the disintegration of her community, and the lure of a dangerous and illicit love. As the death toll rises and people turn from prayers and herbal cures to sorcery and murderous witch-hunting, Anna emerges as an unlikely and courageous heroine in the village's desperate fight to save itself.