

**Love, relationships and families, from contemporary teen romance to fully fledged classics and simply dealing with life:**

**Eleanor and Park** by Rainbow Rowell. *Teen romance in the 1980s, a heart - wrenching portrayal of imperfect but unforgettable first love.*

**The shock of the fall** by Nathan Filer. *Winner of the Costa Book of the Year 2013, shows one young man's descent into mental illness.*

**One Day** by David Nicholls. *The ultimate love story for anyone who ever wanted someone they couldn't have.*

**Never let me go** by Kazuo Ishiguro. *Love, friendship and memory intermingle in this dark tale.*

**Enduring Love** by Ian McEwan. *A balloon accident, obsession, madness and murder – and of course, love.*

**The sense of an ending** by Julian Barnes. *Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2011, Tony reflects on his sixth form friendships and how they swore to be friends for life, but does his memory betray him?*



**Love, relationships and families, from contemporary teen romance to fully fledged classics and simply dealing with life  
(continued):**

**On beauty** by Zadie Smith (you could combine reading this with E M Forster's *Howard's End*, on which *On Beauty* is loosely based). *A pair of feuding families, doomed affairs, low morals and high ideals.*

**Big Brother** by Lionel Shriver. *Pandora tries to help her brother lose the hundreds of pounds in weight which he has gained, but how much should she sacrifice for someone who doesn't want to be saved?*

Don't forget the wonderful historical classics such as:

**Emma** or **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen

**Far from the madding crowd** by Thomas Hardy

**Madame Bovary** by Gustave Flaubert

**Washington Square** by Henry James

**The Age of Innocence** by Edith Wharton



## Out of this world – science fiction and fantasy

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams. *A humorous look at one character's experience when the Earth is demolished to make way for an interplanetary bypass.*

**The Lord of the Rings** by JRR Tolkien. *A classic fight between good and evil across Middle Earth.*

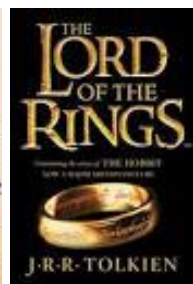
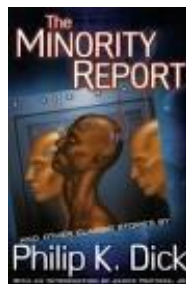
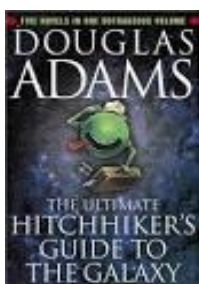
**The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood. *One woman's inner rebellion against the totalitarian blindness of a Christian fundamentalist regime.*

**1984** by George Orwell (the original dystopian novel before The Hunger Games and Divergent came along). *Timeless political satire, where "Room 101" and "Big Brother" were first encountered, and the Ministry of Truth rewrites history.*

Any **Culture** novel by Iain M Banks. *The series features a world where benign AI space ships oversee an egalitarian culture with limitless wealth and virtually no physical constraints.*

Anything by Isaac Asimov, often considered the godfather of science fiction writing.

Anything by Philip K Dick – you may have seen the movies based on his books, such as *Bladerunner*, *Minority Report* and *The Adjustment Bureau*.



**“The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there” said LP Hartley.**

**Explore the past with these historical novels.**

**Wolf Hall** and **Bring up the Bodies** by Hilary Mantel. *The story of the advisor to Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell, the son of a brutal blacksmith, a political genius, and with a delicate and deadly expertise in manipulating people and events.*

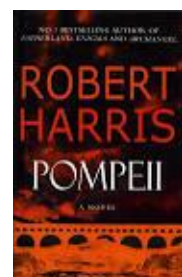
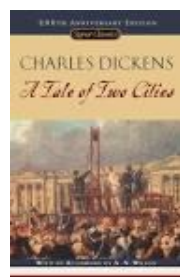
**The Other Boleyn girl** by Philippa Gregory. *The story of Anne Boleyn’s sister Mary, and her life at court.*

**Girl with a pearl earring** by Tracy Chevalier. *Corruption and the price of artistic genius in 17<sup>th</sup> century Holland.*

**Pompeii**, **Enigma** or **Fatherland** by Robert Harris. *The master of historical adventure thrillers, enjoy his recreations of Pompeii during the Vesuvius eruption in AD79, the code breakers at Bletchley Park in World War II or a chilling view of the world as if the Nazis had won World War II.*

**A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens. *“The best story I have written” said Dickens, about his tale of people caught up in the French Revolution and the Terror which followed.*

**Possession** by AS Byatt. *A literary detective novel and a triumphant love story.*



**Gothic horror or just a hint of the macabre, grotesque or bizarre...**

**The Cement Garden** by Ian McEwan. *Four orphaned children find their own way of fending for themselves.*

**The Wasp Factory** by Iain Banks. *“That’s my score to date. Three. I haven’t killed anybody for years, and don’t intend to ever again. It was just a stage I was going through.” Enter the extraordinary private world of Frank, aged sixteen.*

**The Woman in Black** by Susan Hill. *A traditional English ghost story with a haunted house, a spooky landscape, terror and revenge.*

**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy. *A look into the desperate future of a father and son struggling to survive in a post-apocalyptic world, where other human beings are the enemy.*

**Under the skin** by Michael Faber. *Unlike anything else you have ever read – just try it.*

*To read the original Gothic Horror masters, try:*

**The turn of the screw** by Henry James

**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley

**Dracula** by Bram Stoker

**Ghost stories** of M R James

**Complete Stories and Poems** of Edgar Allan Poe



## Thrillers and Mysteries – who dunnits and why?

**Case Histories and When will there be good news?** By Kate Atkinson, Waterstone's Author of the Year 2013. *Astute observations of social interactions in these wonderful detective novels.*

**Ordinary Thunderstorms** by William Boyd. *A chance encounter and Adam loses everything – home, job, money, passport. With the police and a hit man in pursuit, Adam goes underground.*

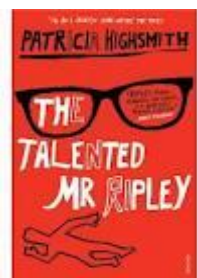
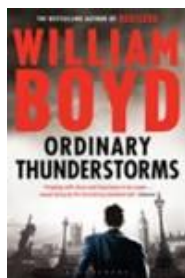
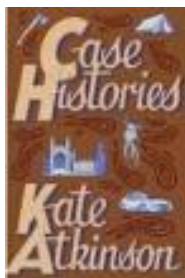
Anything by John le Carre. *One of the greatest spy novelists of our time.*

**The adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. *Before Benedict Cumberbatch and Robert Downey Jr, there were the original Sherlock Holmes books.*

**The Secret History** by Donna Tartt. *A group of misfit students go beyond the bounds of normal morality.*

**Rebecca** by Daphne du Maurier. *A young girl consumed by love and the struggle to find her identity.*

**The Mr Ripley** series by Patricia Highsmith. *Psychological thrillers featuring the anti-hero Tom Ripley, an amoral con artist and occasional murderer.*



**See the world through fresh eyes with these coming of age novels**

**Atonement** by Ian McEwan. *Briony witnesses mysteries, and commits a crime which she spends the rest of her life trying to atone for.*

**Oranges are not the only fruit** by Jeanette Winterson. *The bizarre outposts of religious excess and human obsession.*

**The Catcher in the Rye** by J D Salinger. *The world famous novel of disaffected youth.*

**Life after life** by Kate Atkinson. *What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right?*

**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens. *Pip grows from a boy of shallow dreams to a man with depth of character.*

**Room** by Emma Donoghue. *Jack lives with his ma in a single locked room. They don't have the key.*

**The Outsiders** by SE Hinton. *The original teenage rebel story, set in 1960s USA.*

**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee. *One man's struggle for justice against prejudice, violence and hypocrisy in the Deep South of America.*

**The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold. *Life and death, forgiveness and vengeance, and finding light in the darkest of places. A murdered school girl watches her family from heaven.*



**There was never a good war, or a bad peace” said Benjamin Franklin. Try some books from the War list to experience war through the ages.**

**Birdsong** by Sebastian Faulks (World War I). *Love, death and survival in France.*

The **Regeneration** trilogy by Pat Barker (World War I). *The traumas of war brutalise a generation of men.*

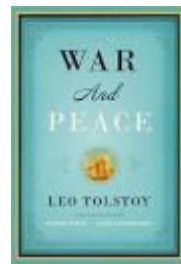
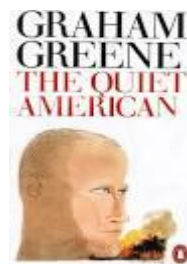
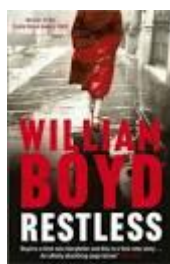
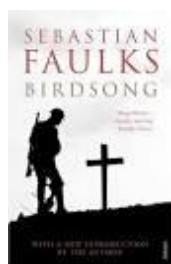
**Catch 22** by Joseph Heller (World War II). *What’s the catch? A bombardier in WW2 must complete dangerous missions: if he flies he is crazy and doesn’t have to; but if he doesn’t want to then he is sane and has to.*

**Charlotte Grey** by Sebastian Faulks (World War II). *A young woman goes to Occupied France with a dual mission to support the French resistance and to find her lover, an English airman missing in action.*

**Restless** by William Boyd (World War II). *Eva was a spy in the war, and now as a grandmother must complete one final assignment.*

**The Quiet American** by Graham Greene (Vietnam). *An idealistic young American causes problems with his naivety in French colonial Vietnam.*

**War and Peace** by Leo Tolstoy (Napoleonic wars). *A vast Russian epic.*





**“She travelled all over the world while sitting in her little room in an English village” Matilda by Roald Dahl. Follow Matilda around the world with these books set in different countries.**

**The White Tiger** by Aravind Adiga (India). *Balam is the “White Tiger”, looking to escape from his humble roots to the new India of Delhi.*

**The Reluctant Fundamentalist** by Mohsin Hamid (Pakistan). *A young Pakistani man tells his life story to an American traveller in Lahore.*

**The Kite Runner** by Khalid Hosseini (Afghanistan). *Amir must return to his home country of Afghanistan under Taliban rule in order to find redemption from a terrible event in his childhood.*

**Beloved** by Toni Morrison (post civil war America). *A dead child, a runaway slave and a terrible secret.*

**Small Island** by Andrea Levy (Jamaica and Britain in World War II). *Four intertwined lives that collide in post-war London and culminate in the birth of multicultural England.*

**Purple Hibiscus** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria). *Kambili’s life is defined by her father’s fanaticism, until a military coup in Nigeria shakes her world upside down.*

**The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan (China). *Chinese immigrants to San Francisco meet to exchange stories.*

**A Suitable Boy** by Vikram Seth (India). *Lata and her mother’s attempts to find her a suitable husband in newly independent India.*



**Non Fiction – Biography, plays, poetry.** The library has biographies, and different plays and poetry books for you to choose from.

**Wild Swans** by Three daughters of China by Jung Chang. *The story of 3 generations of Chinese women in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

Bill Bryson's travel writing books such as **Down Under** or **The Lost Continent**. *An American's view of the rest of the world.*

**The diary of Anne Frank.** *Anne and her family, fleeing German occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Anne kept a diary of her experiences until 1944 when the family were betrayed.*

**Losing my virginity** by Richard Branson. *Iconic entrepreneur Richard Branson's take on his business ventures, personal achievements and intrepid adventures.*

**I am Malala.** *In 2009 Malala Yousafzai began writing a blog on BBC Urdu about life in the Swat Valley as the Taliban gained control, at times banning girls from attending school. One day gunmen boarded her school bus and shot her the face. She survived, and this is her story.*

