



camden libraries

CAMDEN COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

BOOK CLUB KITS

BOOK PLOT SUMMARIES

Use this list to pick your Book Club's next book. Descriptions provided below.

Australian Fiction and Non-fiction

'Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women' by Geraldine Brooks

'The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir' by Anh Do

'Lion' by Saroo Brierley with Larry Buttrose

'Wake in Fright' by Kenneth Cook*

'They're a Weird Mob' by Nino Culotta*

'Sons of the Rumour' by David Foster

'The Spare Room' by Helen Garner

'The Eye of the Sheep' by Sofie Laguna

'Jasper Jones' by Craig Silvey

'The Light Between Oceans' by M.L. Stedman

'Reckoning: A Memoir' by Magda Szubanski

'The Slap' by Christos Tsiolkas*

'Voss' by Patrick White

'Cloud Street' by Tim Winton*

'Carpentaria' by Alexis Wright

'The Book Thief' by Mark Zusak*

Fiction

'The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out The Window And Disappeared' by Jonas Jonasson*

'Zero Day' by David Baldacci

'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne*

'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins*

'Solo' by Rana Dasgupta

'XPD' by Len Deighton

'The Circle' by Dave Eggers

'Four Novels' by George Eliot

'Silence' by Shūsaku Endō

'A Death Divided' by Clare Francis

'Blasphemer' by Nigel Farndale

'American Gods' by Neil Gaiman

'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green*

'The Heart of the Matter' by Graham Greene

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon

'The Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins

'The Mulberry Empire' by Philip Hensher

'May We Be Forgiven' by A.M. Homes

'The Mystery of a Hansom Cab' by Fergus Hume

'Daughters of Fortune' by Tara Hyland

'Stardust' by Joseph Kanon

'The Lacuna' by Barbara Kingsolver

'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee*

'Moonlight' Mile by Dennis Lehane

'The Giver' by Lois Lowry

'Life of Pi' by Yann Martel*

'A Conspiracy of Friends' by Alexander McCall Smith

'Blood Meridian' by Cormac McCarthy

'The Guns of Navarone' by Alistair Maclean

'HMS Ulysses' by Alistair Maclean

'Watchmen' by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons*

'Night Circus' by Erin Morgenstern

'Me Before You' by Jojo Moyes

'Serena' by Ron Nash

'The Storyteller' by Jodi Picoult

'Vanity Fair' by William Makepeace-Thackeray

'The Lightkeeper's Wife' by Karen Viggers

Biography and Non-Fiction

'A Walk in the Woods' by Bill Bryson

'The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District' by James Rebanks

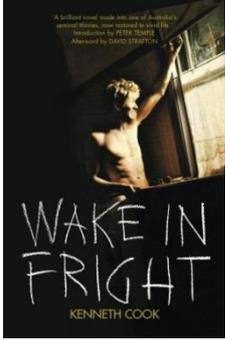
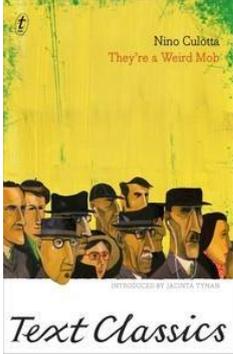
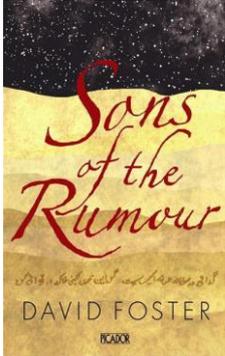
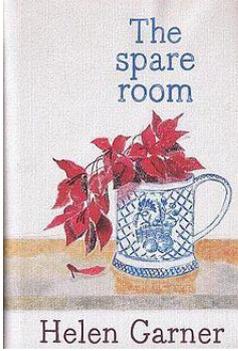
'In Cold Blood' by Truman Capote

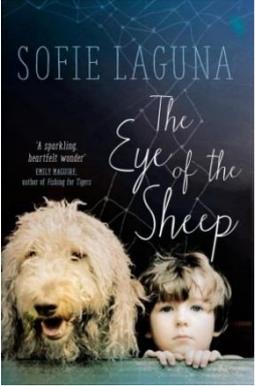
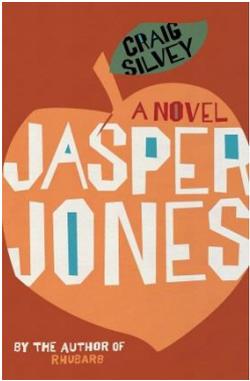
'Alan Turning: The Enigma' by Andrew Hodges

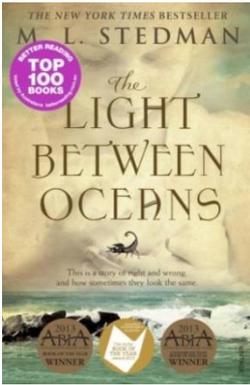
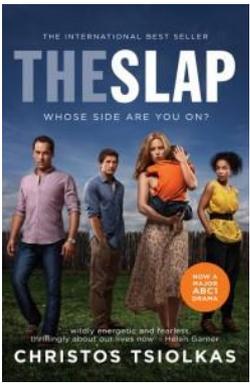
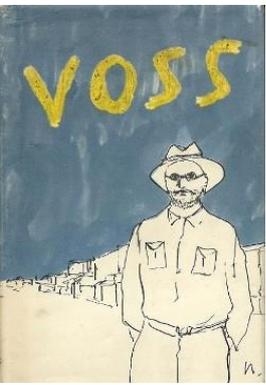
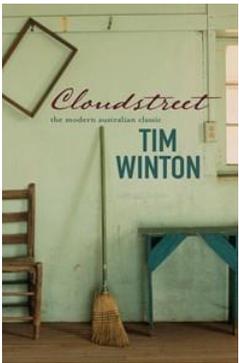
'Twelve Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup*

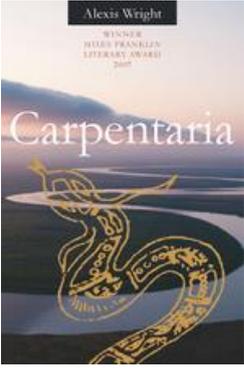
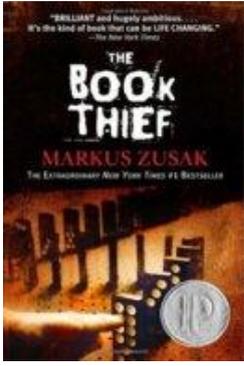
*Kits contain a copy of the film adaptation.

Australian Fiction

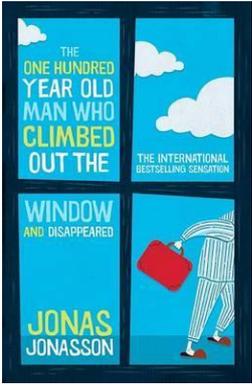
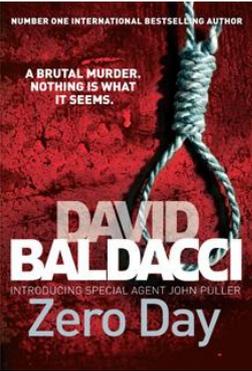
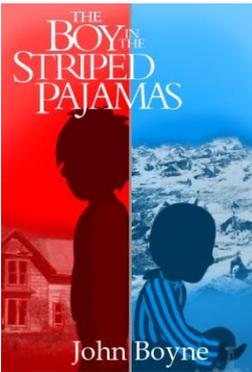
	<p>'Wake in Fright' by Kenneth Cook</p>	<p>Recently graduated from university with a large debt, John Grant takes a job at tiny school in Tiboonda, a town deep in the arid Australian Outback. Disgruntled by having to work in this 'prison' Grant looks forward to visiting his girlfriend in Sydney during the Christmas school holidays. Along his journey Grant finds himself in Bundanyabba where he begins his journey into an alcoholic, sexual and spiritual nightmare. It is the original and the greatest outback horror story. Bundanyabba and its citizens will forever haunt its readers.</p>
	<p>'They're a Weird Mob' by Nino Culotta</p>	<p>Just off the boat from Italy—the north—Nino Culotta arrives in Sydney. He thought he spoke English but he's never heard anything like the language these Australians are speaking. 'They're a Weird Mob' is an hilarious snapshot of the immigrant experience in Menzies-era Australia, by a writer with a brilliant ear for the Australian way with words.</p>
	<p>'Sons of the Rumour' by David Foster</p>	<p>Foster retells the tale of the legendary eighth-century King Shahrban of Persia who, furious at his wife's infidelity, has decided to marry and then behead a fresh virgin every day. But the beautiful Scheherazade manages to entertain him for 1001 nights, staving off death for both herself and her countrywomen. Intersecting this historical tale is the story of Al Morrissey, a middle-aged, Anglo-Irish everyman, on the run from a failed marriage.</p>
	<p>'The Spare Room' by Helen Garner</p>	<p>Helen lovingly prepares her spare room for her friend Nicola. She is coming to visit for three weeks, to receive treatment she believes will cure her cancer. From the moment Nicola staggers off the plane, gaunt and hoarse but still somehow grand, Helen becomes her nurse, her guardian angel and her stony judge. 'The Spare Room' tells a story of compassion, humour and rage. The two women—one sceptical, one stubbornly serene—negotiate an unmapped path through Nicola's bizarre therapy, stumbling towards the novel's terrible and transcendent finale.</p>

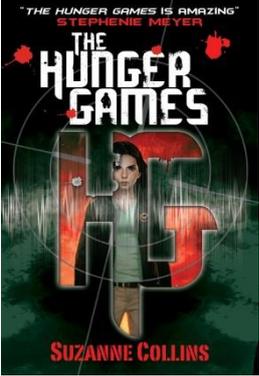
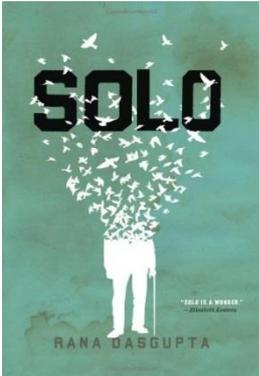
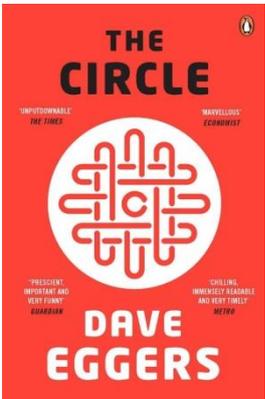
	<p>'The Eye of the Sheep' by Sofie Laguna</p>	<p>Winner of the Miles Franklin Award 2015. Meet Jimmy Flick. He's not like other kids—the's both too fast and too slow. He sees too much, and too little. Jimmy's mother Paula is the only one who can manage him. She teaches him how to count sheep so that he can fall asleep. She holds him tight enough to stop his cells spinning. It is only Paula who can keep Jimmy out of his father's way. But when Jimmy's world falls apart, he has to navigate the unfathomable world on his own, and make things right. Sofie Laguna's first novel One Foot Wrong received rave reviews, sold all over the world and was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award and shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award. In The Eye of the Sheep, her great originality and talent will again amaze and move readers. In the tradition of Room and The Lovely Bones, here is a surprising and brilliant novel from one of our finest writers.</p>
	<p>'Jasper Jones' by Craig Silvey</p>	<p>Late on a hot summer night in 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. When Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery.</p>
	<p>'Reckoning: A Memoir' by Magda Szubanski</p>	<p>Heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory, 'Reckoning' is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia's most beloved performers, tells her story. In this extraordinary memoir, Magda describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood, haunted by the demons of her father's espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family. With courage and compassion she addresses her own frailties and fears, and asks the big questions about life, about the shadows we inherit and the gifts we pass on. Honest, poignant, utterly captivating, Reckoning announces the arrival of a fearless writer and natural storyteller. It will touch the lives of its readers.</p>

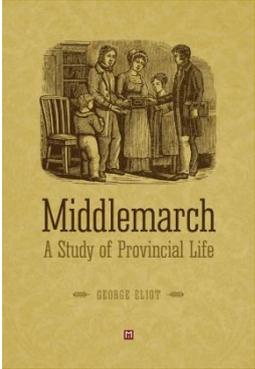
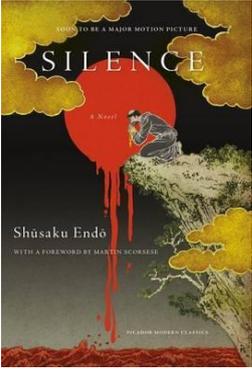
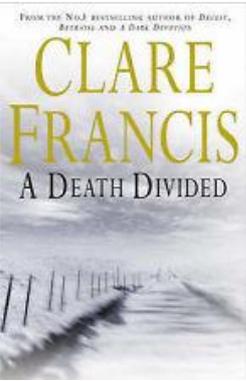
	<p>'The Light Between Oceans' by M.L. Stedman</p>	<p>They break the rules and follow their hearts. What happens next will break yours. 1926. Tom Sherbourne is a young lighthouse keeper on a remote island off Western Australia. The only inhabitants of Janus Rock, he and his wife Isabel live a quiet life, cocooned from the rest of the world. Then one April morning a boat washes ashore carrying a dead man and a crying infant - and the path of the couple's lives hits an unthinkable crossroads. Only years later do they discover the devastating consequences of the decision they made that day - as the baby's real story unfolds. Historical Novel of the Year 2012 by GoodReads' reading community.</p>
	<p>'The Slap' by Christos Tsiolkas</p>	<p>To smack or not to smack is the question that reverberates through the interconnected lives dissected in Christos Tsiolkas' 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize winning novel. At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own. It is a single act, but the slap reverberates through the lives of everyone who witnesses it. Told through the eyes of eight of those present at the barbecue, this acclaimed bestseller is an unflinching interrogation of the life of the modern family. Poignant and provocative, 'The Slap' makes us question the nature of commitment and happiness, compromise and truth. Whose side are you on?</p>
	<p>'Voss' by Patrick White</p>	<p>The novel that put Australian literature on the map. Set in nineteenth-century Australia, 'Voss' is the story of the secret passion between an explorer and a naïve young woman. Although they have met only a few times, Voss and Laura are joined by overwhelming, obsessive feelings for each other. Voss sets out to cross the continent. As hardships, mutiny and betrayal whittle away his power to endure and to lead, his attachment to Laura gradually increases. Laura, waiting in Sydney, moves through the months of separation as if they were a dream and Voss the only reality. From the careful delineation of Victorian society to the sensitive rendering of hidden love to the stark narrative of adventure in the Australian desert, Patrick White's novel is a work of extraordinary power and virtuosity.</p>
	<p>'Cloudstreet' by Tim Winton</p>	<p>Winner of the Miles Franklin in 1992, 'Cloudstreet' chronicles the lives of two families who flee their rural livings to share a house in the Perth suburb of West Leederville. Though initially resistant to each other, their search and journey for meaning in life brings the families closer together.</p>

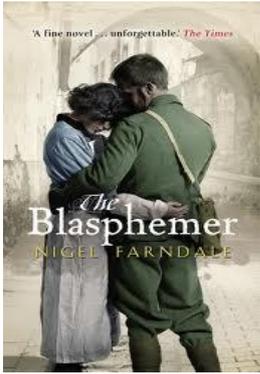
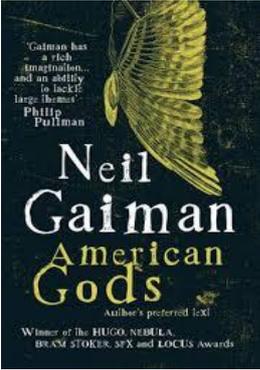
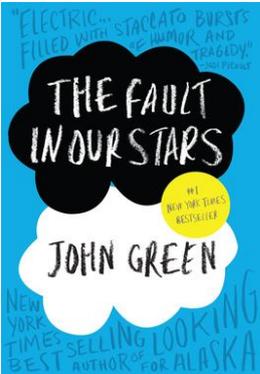
	<p>'Carpentaria' by Alexis Wright</p>	<p>Winner of the 2007 Miles Franklin Literary Award. 'Carpentaria' is a soaring epic set in the Gulf country of north-western Queensland. 'Carpentaria's' portrait of life in the precariously settled coastal town of Desperance, centres on the powerful Phantom family, whose members are the leaders of the Pricklebush people, and their battles with old Joseph Midnight's tearaway Eastend mob on the one hand, and the white officials of Uptown and the neighbouring Gurfurrit mine on the other.</p>
	<p>The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak</p>	<p>It is 1939, Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger, scratches out a meagre existence by stealing books wherever there are books to be found. When Leisel's foster family hides a Jewish fist-fighter in their basement, Leisel's world is both opened up, and closed down.</p>

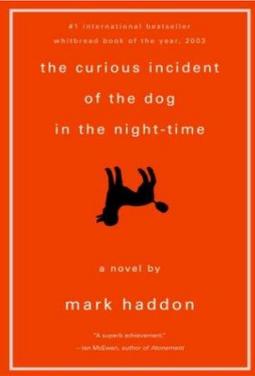
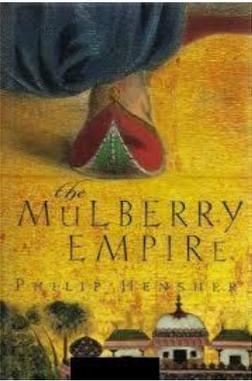
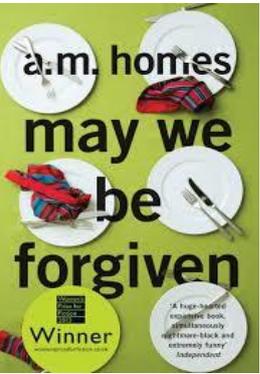
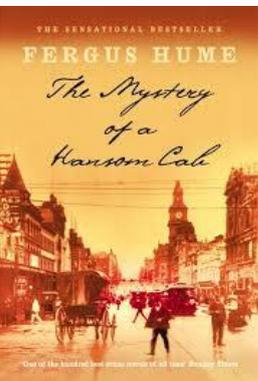
Fiction

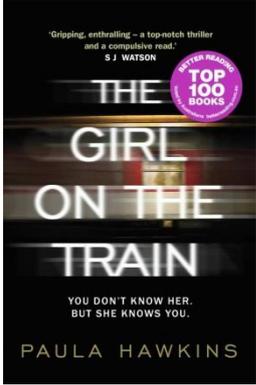
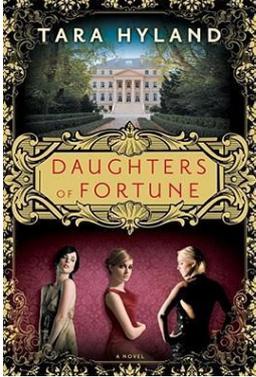
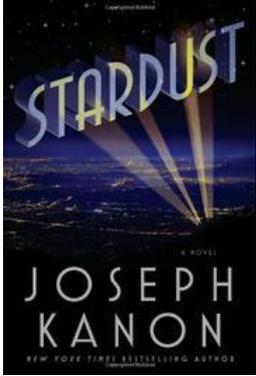
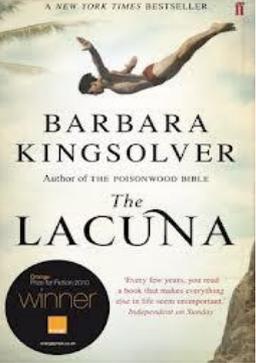
	<p>'The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared' by Jonas Jonasson</p>	<p>Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, Allan Karlsson is waiting for a party he doesn't want to begin. His one-hundredth birthday party to be precise. The Mayor will be there. The press will be there. But, as it turns out, Allan will not . . . Escaping (in his slippers) through his bedroom window, into the flowerbed, Allan makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving a suitcase full of cash, a few thugs, a very friendly hot-dog stand operator, a few deaths, an elephant and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, Allan's earlier life is revealed. A life in which - remarkably - he played a key role behind the scenes in some of the momentous events of the twentieth century. The One Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared is a charming, warm and funny novel, beautifully woven with history and politics</p>
	<p>'Zero Day' by David Baldacci</p>	<p>When a family with military connections is brutally murdered in a remote area of West Virginia, war hero and CID investigator John Puller is called in, teaming up with local homicide detective Samantha Cole. As the body count rises, it quickly becomes apparent that there's much more to this case than they had first thought.</p>
	<p>'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne</p>	<p>Nine-year-old Bruno has a lot of things on his mind. Who is the 'Fury'? Why did he make them leave their nice home in Berlin to go to 'Out-With'? And who are all the sad people in striped pyjamas on the other side of the fence? The grown-ups won't explain so Bruno decides there is only one thing for it—he will have to explore this place alone. What he discovers is a boy in striped pyjamas. But why can't they ever play together?</p>

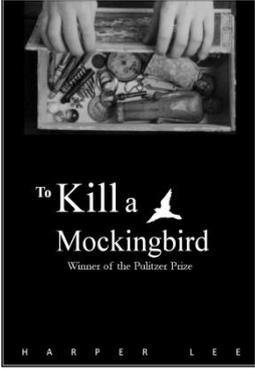
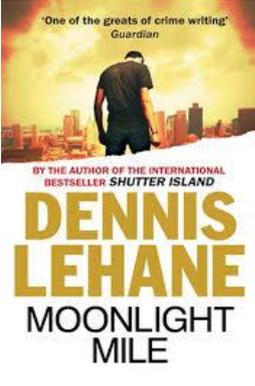
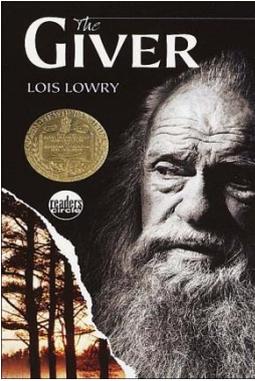
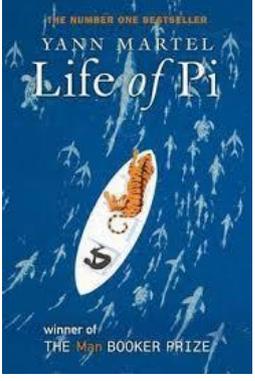
	<p>'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. If she is to win, she will have to start making choices that will weigh survival against humanity and life against love.</p>
	<p>'Solo' by Rana Dasgupta</p>	<p>Ulrich, the son of a railroad engineer, has two great passions—the violin and chemistry. Denied the first by his father, he leaves for the Berlin of Einstein and Fritz Haber to study the latter. His studies are cut short when his father's fortune evaporates, and he must return to Sofia. He never leaves Bulgaria again—except in his daydreams. This novel won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2010.</p>
	<p>'XPD' by Len Deighton</p>	<p>In the late 1970s, a group of former SS officers aim to seize power in West Germany and plan to publish explosive wartime documents about a secret meeting between Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler in June 1940. British intelligence agent Boyd Stuart races against the clock to prevent the documents becoming public.</p>
	<p>'The Circle' by Dave Eggers</p>	<p>When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users' personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. As Mae tours the open-plan office spaces, the towering glass dining facilities, the cozy dorms for those who spend nights at work, she is thrilled with the company's modernity and activity. There are parties that last through the night, there are famous musicians playing on the lawn, there are athletic activities and clubs and brunches, and even an aquarium of rare fish retrieved from the Marianas Trench by the CEO. Mae can't believe her luck, her great fortune to work for the most influential company</p>

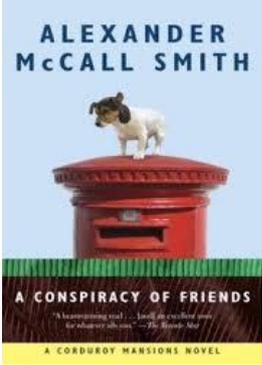
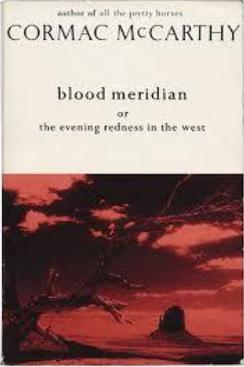
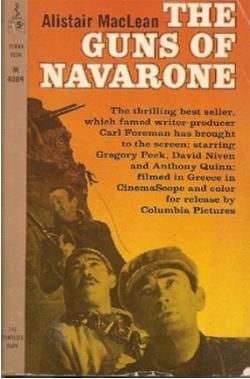
		<p>in the world—even as life beyond the campus grows distant, even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. What begins as the captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.</p>
	<p>'Four Novels' by George Eliot</p>	<p>Adam Bede tells a story of seduction, and is also a pioneering record of a long lost rural world. 'Middlemarch' is a complex tale of idealism, disillusion, loyalty and frustrated love. 'The Mill on the Floss' is a masterpiece of ambiguity in which moral choice is subjected to the hypocrisy of the Victorian age. 'Silas Marner' tells the tender and moving story of an unjustly exiled linen weaver in the agricultural heartland of England.</p>
	<p>'Silence' by Shūsaku Endō</p>	<p>Shusaku Endo's classic novel of enduring faith in dangerous times. Seventeenth-century Japan: Two Portuguese Jesuit priests travel to a country hostile to their religion, where feudal lords force the faithful to publicly renounce their beliefs. Eventually captured and forced to watch their Japanese Christian brothers lay down their lives for their faith, the priests bear witness to unimaginable cruelties that test their own beliefs. Shusaku Endo is one of the most celebrated and well-known Japanese fiction writers of the twentieth century, and 'Silence' is widely considered to be his great masterpiece.</p>
	<p>'A Death Divided' by Clare Francis</p>	<p>Joe, struggling to survive in a high-powered law firm, is faced with the challenge of finding his childhood friend Jenna, who has been missing for four years. But has she disappeared through choice? Or is she under the powerful influence of her husband, the restless troubled Chetwood? Helped by his prickly girlfriend Sarah, Joe manages to find the beautiful, faded Jenna, only to realise too late that he has set some terrible events in motion.</p>

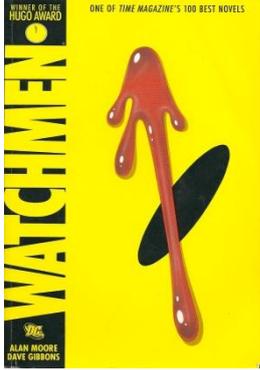
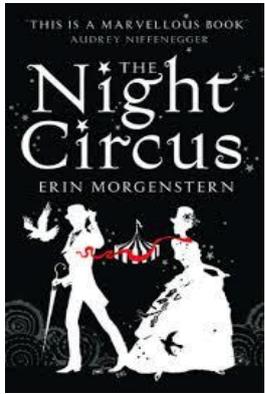
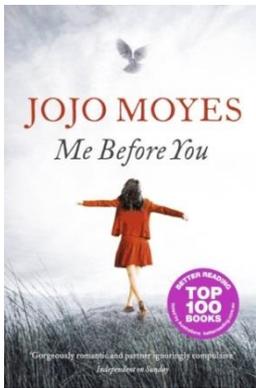
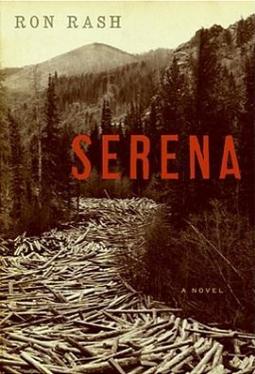
	<p>'Blasphemer' by Nigel Farndale</p>	<p>A light aircraft ditches into the sea. As the water floods through the cabin, Daniel Kennedy faces an impossible choice—should he save himself, or Nancy, the woman he loves? In a parallel narrative, it is 1917 and Daniel's great-grandfather Andrew is preparing to go over the top at Passchendaele. He, too, will have his courage tested, and must live with the moral consequences of his actions.</p>
	<p>'American Gods' by Neil Gaiman</p>	<p>Days before his release from prison, Shadow's wife, Laura, dies in a mysterious car crash. On the plane home, he encounters the enigmatic Mr Wednesday, who claims to be a refugee from a distant war, a former god and the king of America. Together they embark on a profoundly strange journey across the heart of the USA, whilst all around them a storm of epic proportions threatens to break.</p>
	<p>'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green</p>	<p>Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p>
	<p>'The Heart of the Matter' by Graham Greene</p>	<p>Scobie, a police officer serving in a war-time West African state, is distrusted, being scrupulously honest and immune to bribery. But then he falls in love, and in doing so he is forced to betray everything he believes in, with drastic and tragic consequences.</p>

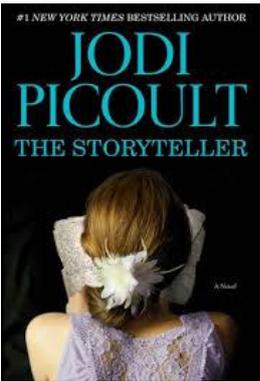
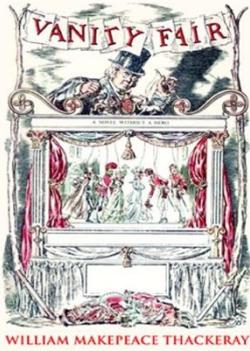
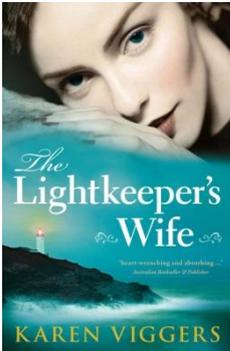
	<p>'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon</p>	<p>Christopher knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher is autistic. Christopher's carefully constructed world falls apart when he finds his neighbour's dog, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork, and he is initially blamed for the killing. Christopher decides that he will track down the real killer and turns to his favourite fictional character, Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration.</p>
	<p>'The Mulberry Empire' by Philip Hensher</p>	<p>This epic historical novel relates England's tragic adventure in Afghanistan, which began with the triumphant arrival of the Army of the Indus in 1839 and ended three years later in rout and massacre. Alexander Burnes, a Scots explorer, travels to the kingdom of Afghanistan and first befriends and then reluctantly betrays its wise and impeccably courteous Amir.</p>
	<p>'May We Be Forgiven' by A.M. Homes</p>	<p>Harold Silver has spent a lifetime watching his younger brother, George, acquire a covetable wife, two kids, and a beautiful home. But when George loses control the result is an act of violence so shocking that both brothers are hurled into entirely new lives. Harry finds himself suddenly playing parent to his brother's two adolescent children. 'May We Be Forgiven' is a tale of how one deeply fractured family might begin to put itself back together.</p>
	<p>'The Mystery of a Hansom Cab' by Fergus Hume</p>	<p>First published in 1886 and set in Melbourne, 'The Mystery of a Hansom Cab' follows Detective Gorby as he investigates a homicide where the deceased was discovered in the evening inside of a hansom cab, implicating the influential and secretive Frettlby family. Recently made into a TV series for the ABC.</p>

	<p>'The Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins</p>	<p>Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. 'Jess and Jason', she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. If only Rachel could be that happy. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Now Rachel has a chance to become a part of the lives she's only watched from afar. Now they'll see; she's much more than just the girl on the train...</p>
	<p>'Daughters of Fortune' by Tara Hyland</p>	<p>Fifteen year old Caitlin is forced to live with the father she has never met after her mother dies. Her half-sisters react to her with hostility. Unable to fit into this world, Caitlin is sent away to boarding school. It is here that something happens which is so awful it will change Caitlin forever. Over the next fifteen years the sisters' lives will take them in very different directions, their paths will continue to cross in ways that shatter and surprise them.</p>
	<p>'Stardust' by Joseph Kanon</p>	<p>Hollywood, 1945. Ben Collier has just arrived from war torn Europe to find that his brother, Daniel, has died in mysterious circumstances. Why would a man with a beautiful wife, a successful career in the movies, and a heroic past choose to kill himself? Determined to uncover the truth, Ben enters the maze of the studio system and the uneasy world beneath the glossy shine of the movie business.</p>
	<p>'The Lacuna' by Barbara Kingsolver</p>	<p>As a young man, Harrison Shepherd befriends the Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. While living with and working for them, Shepherd becomes a novelist and also begins working as a secretary for Leon Trotsky, who has been exiled by Stalin. But later in life his youthful pursuits haunt him and, now living in the US, Shepherd is investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee.</p>

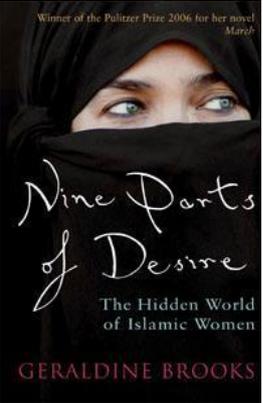
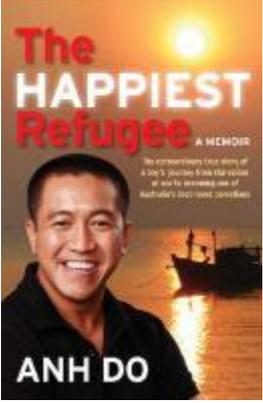
	<p>'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee</p>	<p>Scout, her brother Jem, and their lawyer father Atticus are plunged into a conflict that indelibly marks their lives—and gives Scout some basis for thinking she knows just about as much about the world as she needs to.</p>
	<p>'Moonlight Mile' by Dennis Lehane</p>	<p>Amanda McCready was four years old when she first vanished from a Boston neighbourhood twelve years ago. Now Amanda is sixteen and gone again. In their desperate fight to confront the past and find Amanda again, investigators Kenzie and Gennaro face an evil that goes beyond broken families.</p>
	<p>'The Giver' by Lois Lowry</p>	<p>In the “Community”, a perfectly ordered society in which pain and strife have been eliminated, children turning twelve are assigned the tasks they will perform in their adult lives. Jonas inherits the position of “Receiver of Memory” and becomes the repository of all past memories from the time before the current society, the period referred to “Sameness”, was established. His newly acquired knowledge confronts him the banal horror of the Sameness and he must make the choice of living a safe, if shallow, life in society or to run away and experience the love and danger of knowledge.</p>
	<p>'Life of Pi' by Yann Martel</p>	<p>This fantasy adventure follows Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, who survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Recently made into a film, this novel was winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize for Fiction.</p>

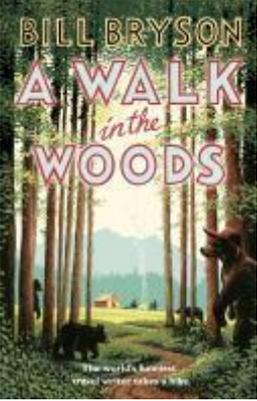
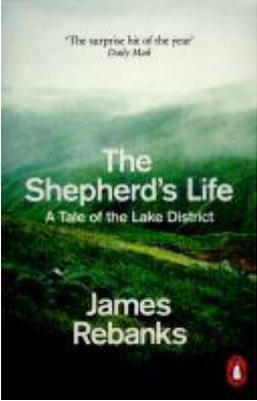
	<p>'A Conspiracy of Friends' by Alexander McCall Smith</p>	<p>The third novel in the 'Corduroy Mansions' series features a cast of charming eccentrics, including perhaps the world's most clever terrier, make their home in a handsome, though slightly dilapidated, apartment block.</p>
	<p>'Blood Meridian' by Cormac McCarthy</p>	<p>Before 'No Country for Old Men' and 'The Road', McCarthy created this Anti-Western based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s. It traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into a nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving. Following the increasingly depraved and violent acts of the gang we begin to see their demise until only the kid and the otherworldly Judge Holden remain to settle their differences. 'Blood Meridian' is an epic novel of the violence and depravity that attended America's westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the Wild West.</p>
	<p>'The Guns of Navarone' by Alistair Maclean</p>	<p>New Zealand mountaineer-turned-commando Keith Mallory leads an Allied commando team as they seek to destroy a German fortress that threatens Allied naval ships in the Aegean Sea. At risk is the lives of over 2,000 British soldiers. The story is based on the real events surrounding the Battle of Leros in World War II.</p>
	<p>'H.M.S. Ulysses' by Alistair Maclean</p>	<p>The story of men who rose to heroism, "H.M.S. Ulysses" takes its place alongside "The Caine Mutiny" and "The Cruel Sea" as one of the classic novels of the navy, its men and its ships, at war. It is vintage MacLean.</p>

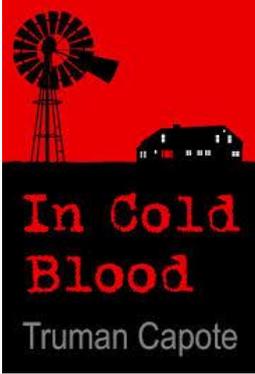
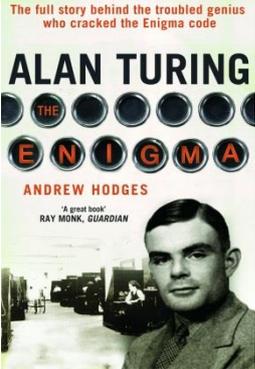
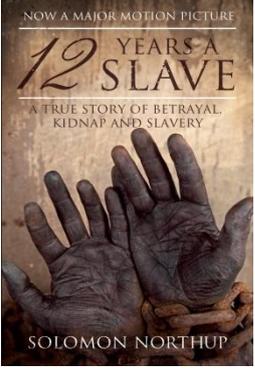
	<p>'Watchmen' by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons</p>	<p>In an alternate world where the mere presence of American superheroes changed history, the US won the Vietnam War, Nixon is still president, and the cold war is in full effect. Watchmen begins as a murder-mystery, but soon unfolds into a planet-altering conspiracy. As the resolution comes to a head, the unlikely group of reunited heroes—Rorschach, Nite Owl, Silk Spectre, Dr. Manhattan and Ozymandias—have to test the limits of their convictions and ask themselves where the true line is between good and evil. In the mid-eighties, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons created Watchmen, changing the course of comics' history and essentially remaking how popular culture perceived the genre. Popularly cited as the point where comics came of age, 'Watchmen's' sophisticated take on superheroes has been universally acclaimed for its psychological depth and realism.</p>
	<p>'Night Circus' by Erin Morgenstern</p>	<p>A duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.</p>
	<p>'Me Before You' by Jojo Moyes</p>	<p>Lou Clark knows lots of things. She knows how many footsteps there are between the bus stop and home. She knows she likes working in The Buttered Bun tea shop and she knows she might not love her boyfriend Patrick. What Lou doesn't know is she's about to lose her job or that knowing what's coming is what keeps her sane. Will Traynor knows his motorcycle accident took away his desire to live. He knows everything feels very small and rather joyless now and he knows exactly how he's going to put a stop to that. What Will doesn't know is that Lou is about to burst into his world in a riot of colour. And neither of them knows they're going to change the other for all time.</p>
	<p>'Serena' by Ron Nash</p>	<p>The year is 1929, and newlyweds George and Serena Pemberton arrive from Boston in the North Carolina mountains to build a timber empire. Serena is new to the mountains-but she soon proves herself the equal of any worker, overseeing crews, hunting rattlesnakes, even saving her husband's life in the wilderness. She soon learns that she will never bear a child. Serena's discovery will set in motion a course of events that will change the lives of everyone in this remote and unforgiving landscape. As the Pembertons' intense, passionate marriage starts to unravel, this riveting story of love, passion and revenge moves towards its shocking reckoning.</p>

	<p>'The Storyteller' by Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage Singer's grief support group, begins stopping by her bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Everything changes on the day that Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret and asks Sage for an extraordinary favour.</p>
	<p>'Vanity Fair' by William Makepeace-Thackeray</p>	<p>In this epic tale of love and social adventure, no one is better equipped in the struggle for wealth and worldly success than the alluring and ruthless Becky Sharp, who defies her impoverished background to clamber up the social ladder. Her companion Amelia, however, longs for caddish soldier George. As the two heroines make their way through the tawdry glamour of English society in the early 1800s, battles are fought, and fortunes are made and lost.</p>
	<p>'The Lightkeeper's Wife' by Karen Viggers</p>	<p>Elderly and in poor health, Mary has lived in Hobart a long time. But when a letter is delivered to her house by someone she hoped never to see again, she knows she must return to Bruny Island to live out her last days with only her regrets and memories for company. Years before, her husband was the lighthouse keeper on Bruny and she raised her family on the windswept island, until terrible circumstances forced them back to civilisation. Now, the secret that has haunted her for decades threatens to break free and she is desperate to banish it before her time is up. But secrets have a life of their own and, as Mary relives the events of her life, she realises her power over the future may be limited. Back in Hobart, Mary's adult children are respectively outraged, non-committal and sympathetic about her escape from their care. But no amount of coaxing will shake her resolve. Her youngest son Tom loves Bruny, and can understand her connection to that wild island, a place of solitude, healing and redemption for them both. As Mary's secret threatens to tear her apart, both she and Tom must face their pasts in ways they couldn't even begin to imagine. Mary finds that the script she's written to the end of her life has taken a few twists of its own. The Lightkeeper's Wife is a moving story of love, loss and family, and what we have to do to live the best kind of life.</p>

Biography and Non-Fiction

	<p>'Lion' by Saroo Brierley with Larry Buttrose</p>	<p>A true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds. When Saroo Brierley used Google Earth to find his long-lost home town half a world away, he made global headlines. Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia. Despite being happy in his new family, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. When he was a young man the advent of Google Earth led him to pore over satellite images of the country for landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for. Then he set off on a journey to find his mother. This is a moving and inspirational true story that celebrates the importance of never letting go of what drives the human spirit.</p>
	<p>'Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women' by Geraldine Brooks</p>	<p>As a prizewinning foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, Geraldine Brooks spent six years covering the Middle East through wars, insurrections, and the volcanic upheaval of resurgent fundamentalism. Yet for her, headline events were only the backdrop to a less obvious but more enduring drama: the daily life of Muslim women. 'Nine Parts of Desire' is the story of Brooks' intrepid journey toward an understanding of the women behind the veils, and of the often contradictory political, religious, and cultural forces that shape their lives. Defying our stereotypes about the Muslim world, Brooks' acute analysis of the world's fastest growing religion deftly illustrates how Islam's holiest texts have been misused to justify repression of women, and how male pride and power have warped the original message of a once liberating faith.</p>
	<p>'The Happiest Refugee: A Memoir' by Anh Do</p>	<p>Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. This book tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination—a big life with big dreams. Anh's story will move and amuse all who read it.</p>

	<p>'A Walk in the Woods' by Bill Bryson</p>	<p>Bryson gets the idea to hike the Appalachian Trail shortly after moving to Hanover, New Hampshire, when he stumbles onto part of the trail on a short hike near his home. He has no real wilderness experience, so he asks around and reads up on the trail, discovering that the perils awaiting him include snakebites, bear attacks, poison ivy, flooding rivers, and a long list of injuries and diseases he might fall victim to. To prepare, Bryson heads to his town's sporting goods store and spends an afternoon with Dave Mengle, who he has been told is a local expert on the Trail. Mengle presents him with a barrage of choices of packs, sleeping bags, cook sets, boots, tents, and thermal clothing. Bryson spends a small fortune and is left wondering what he's gotten himself into.</p>
	<p>'The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District' by James Rebanks</p>	<p>A story of the Lake District and its people which could redefine the literature of rural life. Some people's lives are entirely their own creations. James Rebanks' isn't. The first son of a shepherd, who was the first son of a shepherd himself, he and his family have lived and worked in and around the Lake District for generations. Their way of life is ordered by the seasons and the work they demand, and has been for hundreds of years. A Viking would understand the work they do: sending the sheep to the fells in the summer and making the hay; the autumn fairs where the flocks are replenished; the gruelling toil of winter when the sheep must be kept alive, and the light-headedness that comes with spring, as the lambs are born and the sheep get ready to return to the fells. These modern dispatches from an ancient landscape tell the story of a deep-rooted attachment to place, describing a way of life that is little noticed and yet has profoundly shaped this landscape. In evocative and lucid prose, James Rebanks takes us through a shepherd's year, offering a unique account of rural life and a fundamental connection with the land that most of us have lost. It is a story of working lives, the people around him, his childhood, his parents and grandparents, a people who exist and endure even as the world changes around them. Many stories are of people working desperately hard to leave a place. This is the story of someone trying desperately hard to stay. James Rebanks is the Herdwick Shepherd. His family has farmed in the same area for more than six hundred years.</p>

	<p>'In Cold Blood' by Truman Capote</p>	<p>Truman Capote's <i>In Cold Blood</i> is both a masterpiece of journalism and a powerful crime thriller. Inspired by a 300-word article in <i>The New York Times</i>, Capote spent six years exploring and writing the story of Kansas farmer Herb Clutter, his family and the two young killers who brutally murdered them. <i>In Cold Blood</i> created a genre of novelistic non-fiction and made Capote's name with its unflinching portrayal of a comprehensible and thoroughly human evil.</p>
	<p>'Alan Turing: The Enigma' by Andrew Hodges</p>	<p>National hero or depraved corruptor? Alan Turing, a pure mathematician, was recruited into the British cryptography unit during World War Two and not only aided the war effort but saved countless Allied soldiers lives by breaking the Enigma code. Not only that, he almost singlehandedly paved the way of the computer age. He was also homosexual, and Cold War Britain, despite his efforts during WW2, did not allow for such deviation in the social norm, with devastating results for Turing. Andrew Hodges not only reveals the personal turmoil, but places that within the context of Turing's mathematical and cryptographic work to create a</p>
	<p>'Twelve Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup</p>	<p>'For sheer drama, few accounts of slavery match Solomon Northup's tale of abduction from freedom and forcible enslavement.' Ira Berlin Perhaps the best written of all the slave narratives, '12 Years a Slave' is a harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history. It recounts how Solomon Northup, born a free man in New York, was lured to Washington, D.C., in 1841 with the promise of fast money, then drugged and beaten and sold into slavery. He spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity on a Louisiana cotton plantation. After his rescue, Northup published this exceptionally vivid and detailed account of slave life. It became an immediate bestseller and today is recognized for its unusual insight and eloquence as one of the very few portraits of American slavery produced by someone as educated as Solomon Northup, or by someone with the dual perspective of having been both a free man and a slave.</p>