



Fiction and Film

This is a list of books and film adaptations in English available in the library of Konstanz University.

- (1) Some comments on how this list came into being and its purpose.
- (2) The list of book and film titles.

Part (1)

This list of books and film adaptations is actually a combination of lists originally made for my Fiction and Film Classes (open to students of all subjects, not just English) at Konstanz University.

Each of these classes had a slightly different focus. Sometimes the books were chosen more on the basis of their topic, sometimes on the basis of their themes, or on the period they were written in, but the main tasks were the same. We looked at the characters of the books we chose, at the story, the themes and possible filming difficulties. Then we watched the film or extracts from it, and made a comparison. (We did much more than that, but that belongs to the class and not here.) It is, quite simply, a fascinating experience to read a book, imagine it, then watch the film.

The setting of the stories, i.e. the where and the when, is very varied, from a farming community in the north-east of Scotland during the Second World War to a castle in Italy in the 1920s, from a coffee plantation in Africa to the backwoods of New Zealand in the 19th century. Although the settings of the books are so different, they not only have many topics in common but also share many recurrent themes.

Some of the books are short, others long. Some are action-packed, others slow moving, thought-provoking. Some have a story line which is easy to find and follow, others need puzzling out. Some are openly challenging, from the first page. But even the short and slim books have a lot to offer, provided you read carefully.

Please note:

This is not intended to be a complete list of all the English books in the university library which have been turned into films. Many of the classics,

Shakespeare, Dickens, the Bronte sisters, Jane Austen, for example, have been left out. They are easy to find in the library. Many of the books on this list we have actually read, with pleasure, in class. They are definitely worth reading, for themselves, not just as a forerunner to the film.

Although the books are catalogued in the library only as “eng“ or “ame“ the writers can be Scottish, English, Canadian, American, Indian, New Zealand, Australian, Irish, South African. The same goes for the film directors.

Over the last fifteen years or so I have helped to build up an interesting collection of books-and-film for the library. I also keep my own databank of the English language films, of all kinds, which are available in the library, with information on title, director, publication date, topic, main accent (Scottish, Canadian, Irish etc.).

(2) List of titles

I have written the list as follows:

Title of the book (which is usually the same as the title of the film)

Author, library classification, date of publication

Director, date of publication, length of film

Accidental Tourist, The

Tyler, Ann, ame, 1985

Kasdan, Lawrence, 1989, 116 min

Age of Innocence, The

Wharton, Edith, ame, 1920

Scorsese, Martin, 1994, 138 min

Amadeus

Shaffer, Peter, (a play) eng, 1980

Forman, Milos, 1984, 152 min

Angel at my Table, An

Frame, Jane, eng, 1984

Campion, Jane, 1992, 120 min

Anita and Me

Syal, Meera, eng, 2006

Hooper, Tom, 2006, 107 min

Another Time, Another Place

Kesson, Jessie, eng, 1983

Radford, Michael, 1983, 110 min

Atonement

McEwan, Ian, eng, 2001
Wright, Joe, 2007, 118 min

Beautiful Mind, A

Nasar, Silvia, tff, 1998
Howard, Ron, 2002, 130 min

Beloved

Morrison, Toni, ame, 1987
Demme, Jonathan, 1991, 172 min

Birdy

Wharton, William, ame, 1979
Parker, Alan, 1984, 115 min

Blade Runner

Dick, Philip, n.a.
Scott, Ridley, 2006

Boy in the striped Pyjamas

Boyne, John, 2006, n.a.
Herman, Mark, 2008, 91 min

Brideshead revisited

Waugh, Evelyn, eng, 1945
(Various) Jarrold, Julian, 2009, 127 min

Brokeback Mountain

Proulx, Annie, short story 1997, n.a.
Lee, Ang, 2005

Caine Mutiny, The

Wouk, Herman, ame, 1951
Dmytryk, 1954, 119 min

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

De Bernières, Louis, eng, 1998
Madden, John, 2003, 124min

Cement Garden, The

McEwan, Ian, eng, 1978
Birkin, Andrew, 1992, 105 min

Charlotte Grey

Faulks, Sebastian, eng, 1998
Armstrong, Gillian, 2001, 116 min

Cider House Rules, The

Irving, John, ame, 1985
Hallstroem, 1999, 90 min

Clockwork Orange

Burgess, Anthony, eng, 1962
Kubrick, Stanley, 1971, 2004

Color Purple, The

Walker, Alice, ame 1982
Spielberg, Steven, 1985, 150 min

Comfort of Strangers, The

McEwen, Ian, eng, 1981
Schrader, Paul, 1995, 100 min

Constant Gardener, The

Le Carré, John, eng, 2001
Meirelles, Fernando, 2005, 120 min

Damage

Hart, Josephine, eng, 1991
Biziou, Peter, 1992, 104 min

Dead Man Walking

Prejean, Helen, ame, 1996
Robbins, Tim, 1995, 120 min

Ebony Tower, The

Fowles, John, eng, 1974
Knights, Robert, 1984, 78 min

Educating Rita

Russell, Willy, (a play), eng, 1980
Gilbert, Lewis, 1984, 108 min

Emma

Austen, Jane, eng, 1815
McGrath, Douglas, 1996, 116 min

Empire of the Sun

Ballard, James, eng, 1984, 2008
Spielberg, Steven, 1987, 2005

Enchanted April

Von Arnim, Elisabeth, eng, 1922
Newell, Mike, 1991, 89 m

English Patient, The

Ondaatje, Michael, eng, 1992
Minghella, Anthony, 1996, 155 min

Fall of the House of Usher, The

Poe, Edgar Allan, ame, 1839
Corman, Roger, 1960, 76 min

Far Pavilions, The

Kaye, Mary, eng, 1978
Duffell, Peter, 1983

French Lieutenant's Woman, The

Fowles, John, eng 1969
Reisz, Karel, 1982, 121 min

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café

Flagg, Fannie, ame, 1992
Avnet, Jon, 1993, 125 min

Girl in a Swing, The

Adams, Richard, eng, 1980
Hessler, Gordon, 105 min

Golden Bowl, The

James, Henry, ame, 1904
Ivory, James, 2000, 125 min

Gone to Earth

Webb, Mary, eng, 1917
Powell, Michael, 1950, 110 min

Grapes of Wrath

Steinbeck, John, ame, 1939
Ford, John, 1940, 120 min

Great Gatsby, The

Fitzgerald, F. Scott, ame, 1925
Clayton, Jack, 1985, 140 min

Hallam Foe

Jinks, Peter, eng, 2001
Mackenzie, David, 2006, 92 min

Handmaid's Tale, The

Atwood, Margaret, ame, 1986
Schloendorff, Volker, 1990, 104 min

Heat and Dust

Jhabvala, Ruth, eng, 1976
Ivory, James, 1989, 125 min

Hideous Kinky

Freud, Esther, eng, 1992
MacKinnon, Gillies, 1999, 95 min

Housekeeping

Robinson, Marilynne, ame, 1981
Forsyth, Bill, 1987, 117 min

House of Mirth, The

Wharton, Edith, ame, 1914
Davies, Terence, 2001, 134 min

Howard's End

Forster, E. M., eng, 1910
Ivory, James, 1993, 136 min

Jane Eyre

Bronte, Charlotte, eng, 1847
Zeffirelli, Franco, 1995, 110 min

Jewel in the Crown, The

Scott, Paul, eng, 1978
Morahan, Christopher, 1987

Jude (The Obscure)

Hardy, Thomas, eng, 1895
Winterbottom, Michael, 1996, 117 min

Last King of Scotland, The

Foden, Giles, eng, 1999
Macdonald, Kevin, 2006, 117min

Last Orders

Swift, Graham, eng, 1996
Schepisi, Fred, 2001, 106 min

Little Drummer Girl, The

Le Carré, John, eng, 1983
Hill George, 1984, 125 min

Lord of the flies

Golding, William, eng, 1954
Hook, Harry, 1990 and Brook, Peter, 1963

Lord of the Rings

Tolkien, J, eng, originals 1937-1949
Jackson, Peter, 2007

Mary Reilly

Stevenson, Robert Louis, eng, 1924 and Martin, Valerie, 1990
Frears, Stephen, 1995, 104 min

Memoirs of a Survivor, The

Lessing, Doris, eng, 1974
Gladwell, 1981, 111 min

Morvern Callar

Warner, Alan, eng, 1995
Ramsey, Lynne, 2002, 93 min

Mrs Dalloway

Woolf, Virginia, eng, 1925
Gorris, Marleen, 1997, 97 min

My Left Foot

Brown, Christy, eng, 1954
Sheridan, Jim, 1989, 98 min

My Son the Fanatic

Kureishi, Hanif, n.a.
Prasad, Udayan, 1999, 83 min

Needle, The

Follett, Ken, n.a.
Marquand, Richard, 1981, 108 min

Nineteen Eighty Four

Orwell, George, eng, 1949
Radford, Michael, 1985, 122 min

Not without my Daughter

Mahmoody, Betty, ame, 1988
Gilbert, Brian, 1992, 111 min

One flew over the cuckoo's nest

Kasey, Ken, n.a.
Forman, Milos, 1975, 129 min

Orlando

Woolf, Virginia, eng, 1928
Potter, Sally, 1992, 90 min

Out of Africa

Blixen, Karen, skd, 1937
Pollack, Sydney, 1985, 155 min

Passage to India

Forster, E. M., eng, 1924
Lean, David, 1984, 157 min

Piano, The

Campion, Jane, tff, 1994
Campion, Jane, 1992, 120 min

Portrait of a Lady, The

James, Henry, ame, 1881
Campion, Jane, 1997, 144 min

Pride and Prejudice

Austen, Jane, eng, 1813
Langton, Simon, 1995, 301 m and Coke, Cyril, 1985, 109 min

Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, The

Spark, Muriel, eng, 1961
Neame, Ronald, 1969, 110 min

Quiet American, The

Greene, Graham, eng, 1955
Noyce, Philip, 2002, 90 min

Rabbit Proof Fence

Pilkington, Doris, eng, 2002
Noyce, Philip, 2002, 94 min

Red Dust

Slovo, Gillian, eng, 2000
Hooper, Tom, 2004, 107 min

Regeneration

Barker, Pat, eng, 1993
MacKinnon, Gillies, 1997, 109 min

Remains of the Day, The

Ishiguro, Kazuo, eng, 1989
Ivory, James, 1993, 129 min

Return of the Soldier, The

West Rebecca, eng, 1918
Bridges, Alan, 1989, 102 min

Room with a View

Forster, E. M., eng, 1908
Ivory, James, 1985, 112 min

Scarlet Letter, The

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, ame, 1850
Joffe, Roland, 1997, 129 min

Schindler's Ark

Keneally, Thomas, eng, 1982
Spielberg, Steven, 1993, 187 min

Sense and Sensibility

Austen, Jane, eng, 1811
Lee, Ang, 1995, 131 min

Shadowlands

Nicholson, William, (a play) eng, 1989
Attenborough, Richard, 1993, 126 min

Skellig

Almond, David, eng, 2009
Jankel, Annabel, 2009

Snow Falling on Cedars

Guterson, David, ame, 1995
Hicks, Scott, 1998, 122 min

Sophie's Choice

Styron, William, ame, 1979
Pakula, Alan, 1982, 140 min

Starter for 10

Nicholls, David, eng, 2004
Vaughan, Tom, 2006

Taking Sides

Harwood, Ronald, (a play) eng, 1995
Szabo, Istvan, 2002, 105 min

Talented Mr Ripley, The

Highsmith, Patricia, ame, 2002
Minghella, Anthony, 1999

To the Lighthouse

Woolf, Virginia, eng, 1927
Gregg, Colin, 1985, 116 min

Trainspotting

Welsh, Irvine, eng, 1994
Boyle, Danny, 1996, 89 min

Tunes of Glory

Kennaway, James, eng, 1956
Neame, Ronald, 1994, 138 min

Waterland

Swift, Graham, eng, 1983
Gyllenhaal, Stephen, 1992, 95 min

White Mischief

Fox, James, ame, 1982
Radford, Michael, 1989, 104 min

Wings of the Dove, The

James, Henry, ame, 1902
Softley, Iain, 1997, 98 min

Women in Love

Lawrence, D. H., eng, 1920
Russell, Ken, 1969, 127 min

Young Adam

Trocchi, Alexander, eng 1954
Mackenzie, David, 2002, 94 min

One or two books and films not yet in the library, but worth looking out for:

As you can see, several of John le Carré's books have been made into films. The latest film is an adaptation of his 2008 novel "A most wanted man", and is directed by Anton Corbijn.

The 2011 film "We need to talk about Kevin", directed by Lynne Ramsey, is based on the novel by Lionel Shriver, 2003.

"How I live now" by Meg Rosoff was turned into a film by Kevin Macdonald in 2013.

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