



Reading for Pleasure

Books can be studied, analysed, interpreted – they can also be read for pleasure. This handout is for people who are looking for books in the university library just to read for pleasure.

- (1) How this list started
- (2) Book titles

(1) How this list started

For students of English Literature it can be wonderful to discover the great literary figures of the past such as Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, the Bronte sisters, Jane Austen. It can also be tiring, having to understand older forms of the English language, and having to analyse and interpret. (It can also be frustrating if they acquire these older forms of the language, use them in their writing, and are told they are now old-fashioned.)

Reading contemporary writing can be a pleasure and a boost to your learning at the same time, whether you are studying English Literature or Mathematics. For that reason, I have enjoyed, over the years, suggesting many contemporary book titles for the library to acquire.

Obviously, if you want the current bestseller you can go and buy it. But the university library has lots of wonderful books in English, shelves and shelves full, some to be read in an evening, some to be browsed in with pleasure over days or weeks. In this list of suggested titles you will find mainly fiction. There are thrillers, travel literature, detective stories, historical novels, love stories, adventure, social criticism, fantasy, science fiction etc., but no classics of the 19th century or earlier.

The books on this list are here because somebody told me they liked them, or I like them, or they were on the bestseller list, and so on. In other words, these are like old favourites. Most of the writers have written many books, not just the titles here. But you can discover that for yourselves. They are not all easy to read, but if you enjoy the book then the effort will be worth it.

A good tip: if you find you are not really interested in the book you have chosen, put it back on the shelf and choose another. This is not a list of books for study purposes, but for PLEASURE.

They can all be found on the **eng 959** shelves in the library, unless indicated otherwise. If the author is “Ackroyd” you just go to the English books, look for the shelves of “eng 959” books then “eng 959 a ...”

Please note: I have not grouped them according to genre as many of them would fit into several categories, and because it seems a pity for you, the reader, to open the book with fixed expectations. I have marked Scottish books with an asterisk *.

There are also separate lists of the following available from FindYourFeet:

- Contemporary Scottish Writing
- Fiction and Film (A list of books with the film adaptation, all available in the university library)

(2) List of books

ACKROYD, Peter: Hawksmoor

ADAMS, Richard: The Girl in a Swing

ANTHONY, Evelyn: The Poellenberg Inheritance

ARCHER, Jeffrey: Kane and Abel

*BARKER, Elspeth: O Caledonia

BARNES, Julian: Staring at the Sun

BENCHLEY, Peter: The Deep

BLIXEN, Karen: Out of Africa (skd 959)

BROOKNER, Anita: Hotel du Lac

BAINBRIDGE, Beryl: Sweet William

BOYD, William: Brazzaville Beach

*BROWN, George Mackay: Greenvoe

BROWN, Rita Mae: Southern Discomfort (ame 959)

*BUCHAN, John: The Thirty Nine Steps
CALLISON, Brian: A Ship is Dying
CAPOTE, Truman: Breakfast at Tiffany's (ame 959)
CAREY, Peter: Bliss
CAROTHERS, Annabel: Kilcaraig
DEIGHTON, Len: An Expensive Place to Die
DELDERFIELD, R: A Horseman Riding By
DESALVO, Louise: Casting Off (ame 959)
ERDMAN, Paul: The Last Days of America
*ELPHINSTONE, Margaret: An Apple from a Tree
FERMOR, Patrick Leigh: Between the Woods and the Water
FLEMING, Ian: The Spy who loved me
FORBES, Colin: Double Jeopardy
FORSTER, Margaret: Private Papers
FORSYTH, Frederick: The Odessa File
FOWLES, John: The French Lieutenant's Woman
FRANCIS, Dick: Trial Run
FRENCH, Marilyn: The Bleeding Heart (ame 959)
GHALEM, Ali: A Wife for my Son
*GIBBON, Lewis Grassic: A Scots Quair
GOUDGE, Elizabeth: Green Dolphin Country
*GREIG, Andrew: Electric Brae
*GUNN, Neil: Highland River
HAMMET, Dashiell: The Maltese Falcon (ame 959)
HARRIS: Native Stranger (ame 959)

HASTINGS, Miriam: The Minotaur-Hunt
HERRIOT, James: It shouldn't happen to a Vet
HIGHSMITH, Patricia: (Many titles) (ame 959)
HOFFMAN, Alice: At Risk
HULME, Keri: The Bone People
JAMES, P.D.: Unnatural Causes
KENEALLY, Thomas: Schindler`s Ark
LE CARRE, John: The Perfect Spy
LE GUIN, Ursula: The Dispossessed
LEE, Laurie: Cider with Rosie
LURIE, Alison: Foreign Affairs (ame 959)
MACINNES, Helen: Prelude to Terror
MACKAY, Sheena: A Bowl of Cherries
MACLEAN, Alistair: Ice Station Zebra
MARSH, Ngaio: Artists in Crime
MASSIE, Alan: The Sins of the Father
MATHABANE: Love in Black and White (soz611:st90/m19)
MCCULLOUGH, Colleen: The Thorn Birds
*McKINLAY, William: Karluk (erd 332.40)
*MCLEAN, Allan: The Hill of the Red Fox
*MILLER, Christian: A Childhood in Scotland
MITCHELL, Margaret: Gone with the Wind (ame 959)
MORGAN, Charles: Sparkenbroke
MORRISON, Tony: Beloved (ame959)
O'BRIEN, Edna: (Many titles)

O`DONNELL, Peter: The Silver Mistress

*O`FARRELL, Maggie: After you`d gone

OATES, Joyce: A Garden of Earthly Delights (ame 959)

PIZZEY, Erin: The Watershed

PUIG, Manuel: Kiss of the Spider Woman

PULLMAN, Philip: His Dark Materials. A Trilogy

RANKIN, Ian: The Naming of the Dead

RUSHDIE, Salman: Midnight`s Children

SCOTT, Paul: The Jewel in the Crown

SCOTT, Rachel: A Wedding Man is Nicer than Cats, Miss

*SMITH, Iain Crichton Smith: The Dream

SMITH, Martin: Stallion Gate

SMITH, Wilbur: When the Lion Feeds

*SPARK, Muriel: The Pride of Miss Jean Brodie

STEWART, Mary: The Crystal Cave

STYRON, William: Sophie`s Choice (ame 959)

SWIFT, Graham: Waterland

THEROUX, Paul: The Great Railway Bazaar (ame 959)

TRENCH, Richard: The Forbidden Sands (erd788.3z)

WYNDHAM, John: The Day of the Triffids

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