

Suggested books from the Penguin Random House catalogue

This booklet contains summaries of 24 titles recommended by one of Prison Reading Groups' most experienced volunteers.

Please choose one first choice and one second choice from this booklet, or from the wider Penguin Random House catalogue (which includes imprints such as Penguin Classics, Vintage and Windmill).

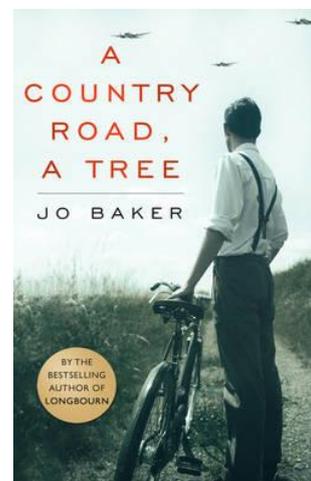
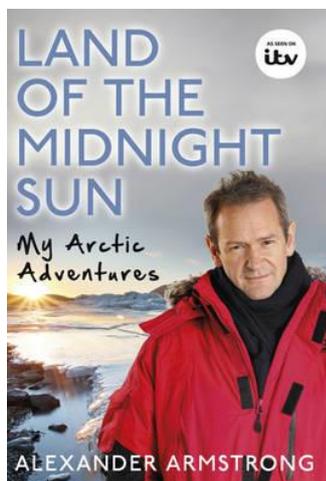
Choices should be sent to
prg@roehampton.ac.uk by
Wednesday 12th April.



Penguin
Random House
UK

Alexander Armstrong, *Land of the Midnight Sun*

In an adventure of a lifetime, Alexander Armstrong wraps up warm and heads ever north to explore the hostile Arctic winter - the glittering landscape of Scandinavia, the isolated islands of Iceland and Greenland, and the final frontier of Canada and Alaska. Along the way he learns from the Marines how to survive sub-zero temperatures by eating for England, takes a white-knuckle drive along a treacherous 800-mile road that's a river in summer and, with great reluctance, strips off for a dip in the freezing Arctic waters - and that's all before wrestling Viking-style with a sporting legend called Eva as part of an Icelandic winter festival.

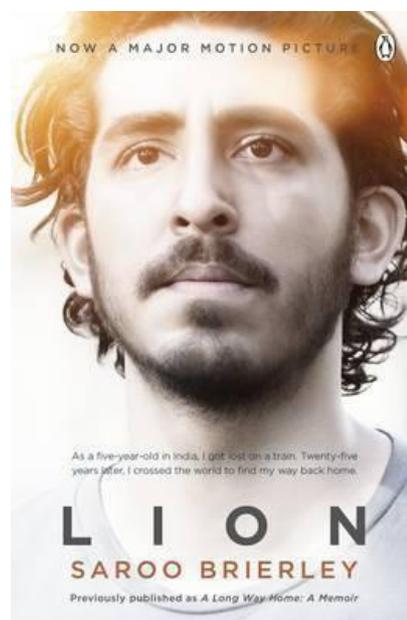
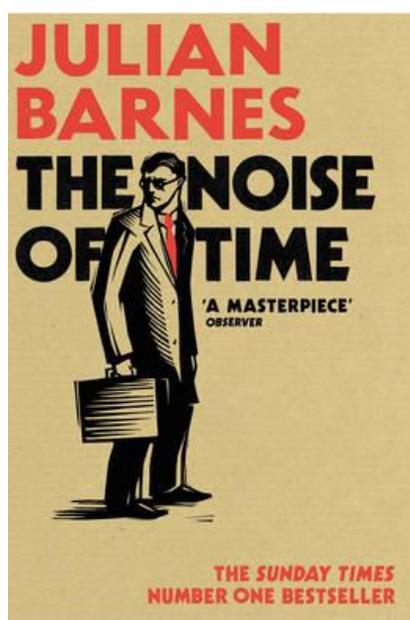


Jo Baker, *A Country Road, A Tree*

Paris, 1939: The pavement rumbles with the footfall of Nazi soldiers marching along the Champs Elysees. A young writer, recently arrived from Ireland to make his mark, smokes one last cigarette with his lover before the city they know is torn apart. Soon, he will put his own life and those of his loved ones in mortal danger by joining the Resistance...Spies, artists, deprivation, danger and passion: this is a story of life at the edges of human experience, and of how one man came to translate it all into art.

Julian Barnes, *The Noise of Time*

Described as Barnes' masterpiece, *The Noise of Time* is part fictionalised biography and displays again Barnes's seemingly effortless ability to make the personal universal and to do so with brevity, precision and conscience. Encountering the same man at three stages in his life, the power and impact of the individual takes on a larger significance, widened into a contemplation of personal responsibility and the limits of human endurance under the influence of power.



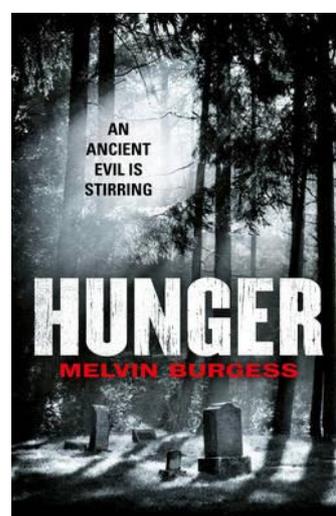
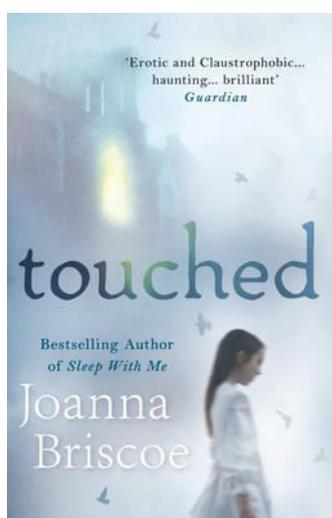
Saroo Brierley, *Lion: A Long Way Home*

Five-year-old Saroo lived in a poor village in India, in a one-room hut with his mother and three siblings...until the day he boarded a train alone and got lost. For twenty-five years.

This is the story of what happened to Saroo in those twenty-five years. How he ended up on the streets of Calcutta. And survived. How he then ended up in Tasmania, living the life of an upper-middle-class Aussie. And how, at thirty years old, with some dogged determination, a heap of good luck and the power of Google Earth, he found his way back home.

Joanna Briscoe, *Touched*

This is a chilling, deeply creepy Hammer novella by Joanna Briscoe, author of the acclaimed, bestselling novel, *Sleep With Me*. Rowena Crale and her family have moved from London. They now live in a small English village in a cottage which seems to be resisting all attempts at renovation. Walls ooze damp, stains come through layers of wallpaper, ceilings sag. And strange noises - voices - emanate from empty rooms. As Rowena struggles with the upheaval of builders while trying to be a dutiful wife and a good mother to her young children, her life starts to disintegrate. And then, one by one, her daughters go missing...

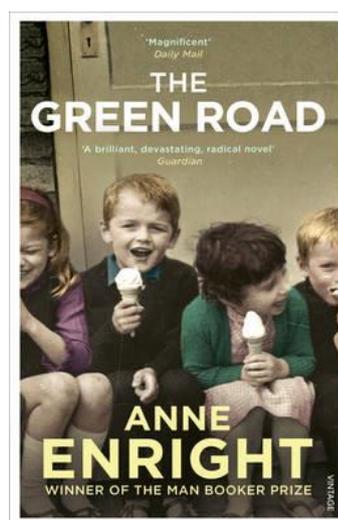
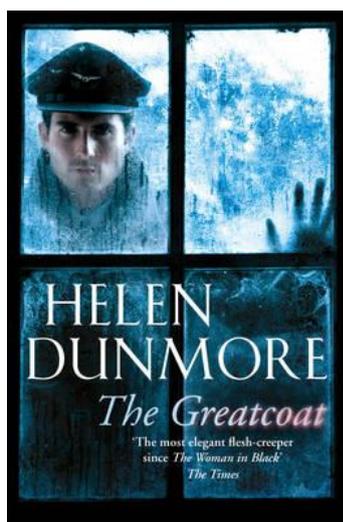


Melvin Burgess, *Hunger*

When Beth wakes up one morning covered in dirt, she puts it down to an extreme case of sleep-walking. But when reports of a desecrated grave start to circulate, her night-time wanderings take on a sinister air. Soon the city is being plagued by strange sightings and sudden disappearances. Beth knows that something is changing within her. Something that's filling her with an urgent, desperate hunger that demands to be satisfied - at any cost.

Helen Dunmore, *The Greatcoat*

In the winter of 1952, Isabel Carey moves to the East Riding of Yorkshire with her husband Philip, a GP. With Philip spending long hours on call, Isabel finds herself isolated and lonely as she strives to adjust to the realities of married life. Woken by intense cold one night, she discovers an old RAF greatcoat hidden in the back of a cupboard. Sleeping under it for warmth, she starts to dream. And not long afterwards, while her husband is out, she is startled by a knock at her window. Outside is a young RAF pilot, waiting to come in. His name is Alec, and his powerful presence both disturbs and excites her. Her initial alarm soon fades, and they begin an intense affair. But nothing has prepared her for the truth about Alec's life, nor the impact it will have on hers.



Anne Enright, *The Green Road*

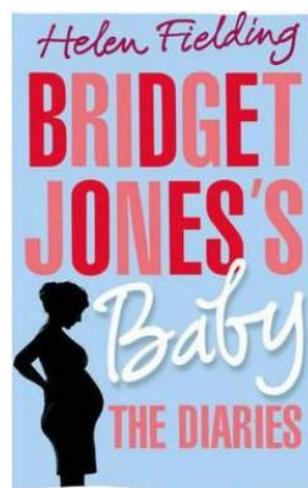
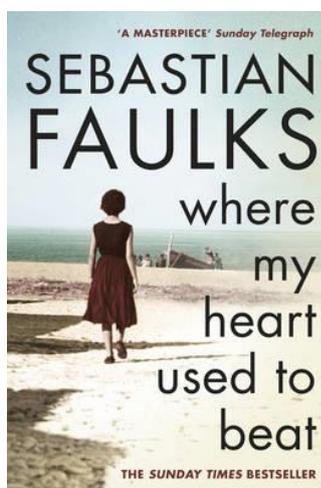
Winner of the Irish Novel of the Year, 2015

Hanna, Dan, Constance and Emmet return to the west coast of Ireland for a final family Christmas in the home their mother is about to sell. As the feast turns to near painful comedy, a last, desperate act from Rosaleen - a woman who doesn't quite know how to love her children - forces them to confront the weight of family ties and the road that brought them home.

Sebastian Faulks, *Where My Heart Used to Beat*

This moving novel casts a long, baleful light over the century we have left behind but may never fully understand. Daring, ambitious and in the end profoundly moving, this is Faulks' most remarkable book yet; a haunting tale of war, love and loss.

'This is a terrific novel, humming with ideas, knowing asides, shafts of sunlight, shouts of laughter and moments of almost unbearable tragedy.' – *The Telegraph*



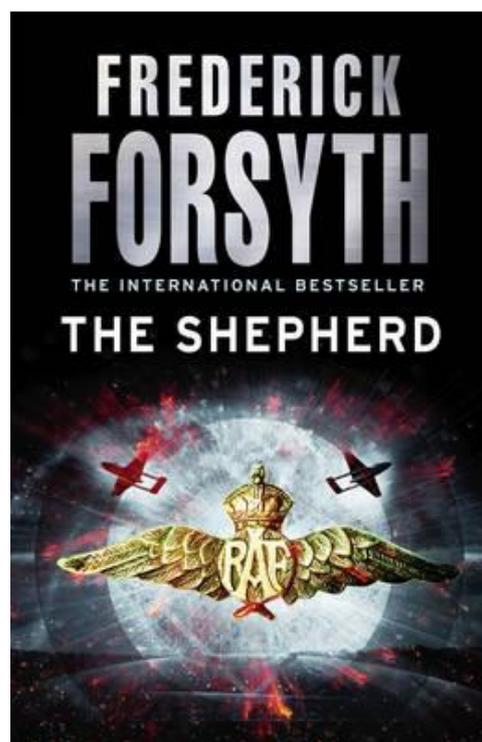
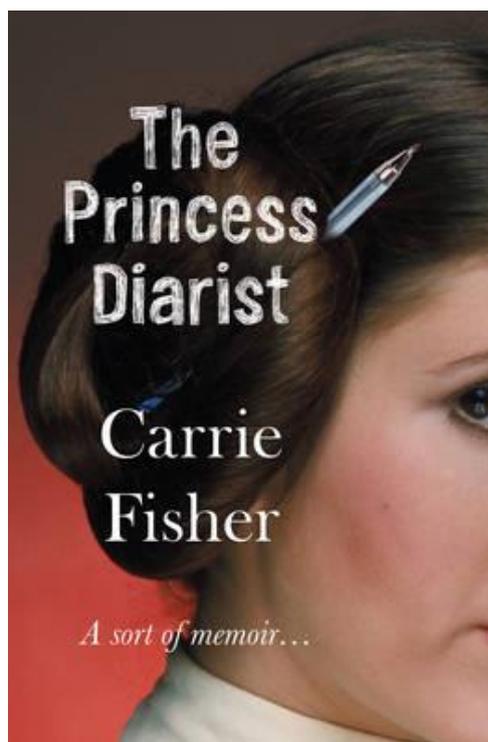
Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones's Baby*

8.45 P.M. Realise there have been so many times in my life when have fantasised about going to a scan with Mark or Daniel: just not both at the same time.

Before motherhood, before marriage, Bridget, with biological clock ticking very, very loudly, finds herself unexpectedly pregnant at the eleventh hour: a joyful pregnancy which is dominated, however, by a crucial but terribly awkward question – who is the father? Mark Darcy: honourable, decent, notable human rights lawyer? Or Daniel Cleaver: charming, witty, notable fuckwit?

Carrie Fisher, *The Princess Diarist*

A thoroughly original and intimate memoir, *The Princess Diarist* is Carrie Fisher's intimate, hilarious and revealing recollection of what happened behind the scenes on one of the most famous film sets of all time, the first *Star Wars* movie.



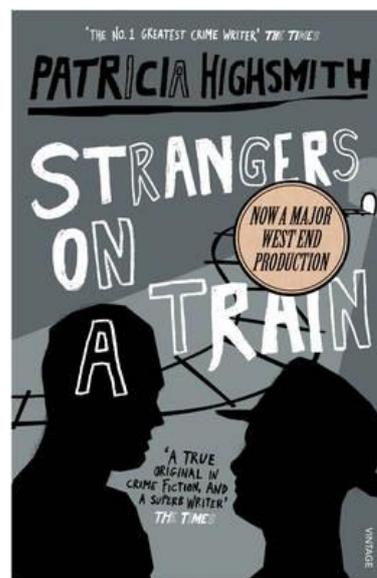
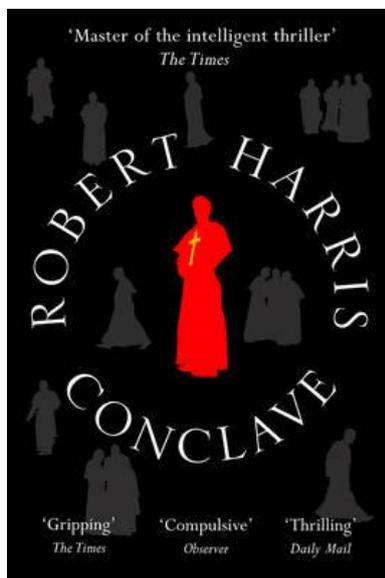
Frederick Forsyth, *The Shepherd*

It is Christmas Eve, 1957. Flying home, on leave from Germany, he is alone in the cockpit of the Vampire. Sixty-six minutes of flying time, with the descent and landing - destination Lakenheath. No problem, all routine procedures. Then, out over the North sea, the fog begins to close in. Radio contact ceases and the compass goes haywire. Suddenly, out of the mist appears a World War II bomber. It is flying just below the Vampire, as of trying to make contact...

Robert Harris, *Conclave*

Oh Lord, he still has so much to do, whereas all my useful work in Your service is completed. He is beloved, while I am forgotten. Spare him, lord. Spare him. Take me instead.

The Pope is dead. Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, one hundred and eighteen cardinals from all over the globe will cast their votes in the world's most secretive election. They are holy men. But they have ambition. And they have rivals. Over the next seventy-two hours one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth.

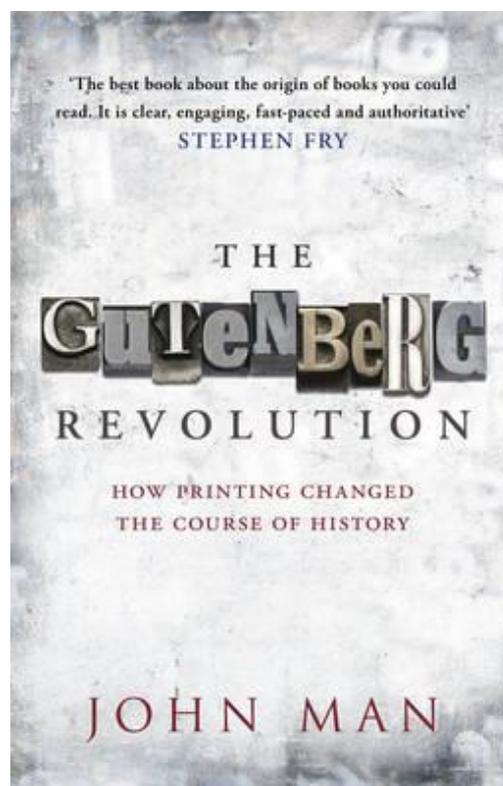
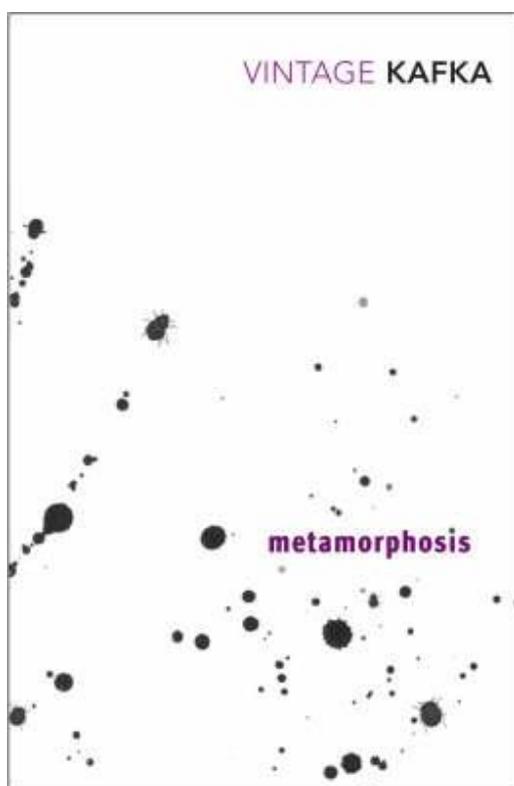


Patricia Highsmith, *Strangers on a Train*

The psychologists would call it folie a deux...'Bruno slammed his palms together.' 'Hey! Cheeses, what an idea! I kill your wife and you kill my father! We meet on a train, see, and nobody knows we know each other! Perfect alibis! Catch?' From this moment, almost against his conscious will, Guy Haines is trapped in a nightmare of shared guilt and an insidious merging of personalities.

Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*

Franz Kafka's 1915 novella of unexplained horror and nightmarish transformation became a worldwide classic and remains a century later one of the most widely read works of fiction in the world. It is the story of traveling salesman Gregor Samsa, who wakes one morning to find himself transformed into a monstrous insect. This hugely influential work inspired George Orwell, Albert Camus, Jorge Louis Borges, and Ray Bradbury, while continuing to unsettle millions of readers.

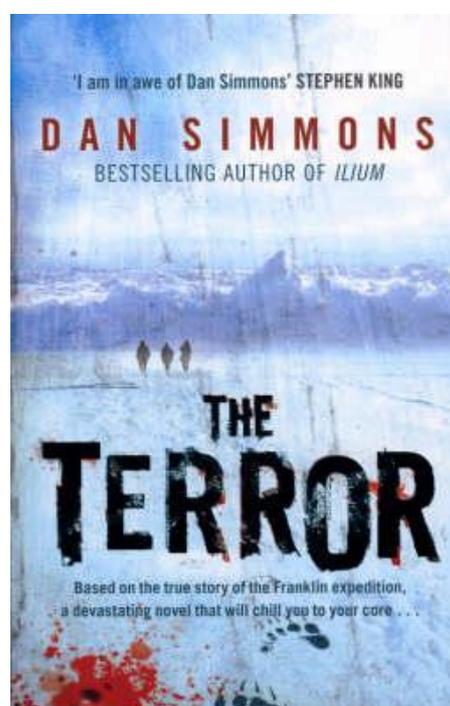
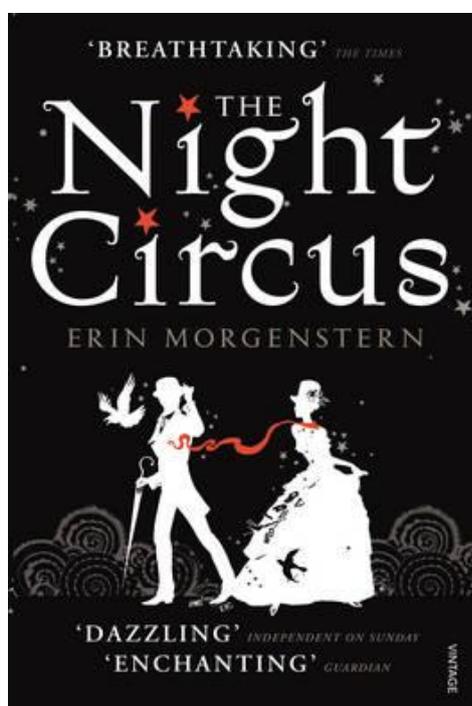


John Man, *The Gutenberg Revolution*

PRG's founder Sarah Turvey says: 'It's a fascinating subject – the printing press really did change the world at least as much as computers. And Stephen Fry describes it as “the best book about the origin of books you could read”. Sounds like a winner.'

Erin Morgenstern, *The Night Circus*

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. The black sign, painted in white letters that hangs upon the gates, reads: Opens at Nightfall Closes at Dawn. As the sun disappears beyond the horizon, all over the tents small lights begin to flicker, as though the entirety of the circus is covered in particularly bright fireflies. When the tents are all aglow, sparkling against the night sky, the sign appears. Le Cirque des Reves The Circus of Dreams. Now the circus is open. Now you may enter.



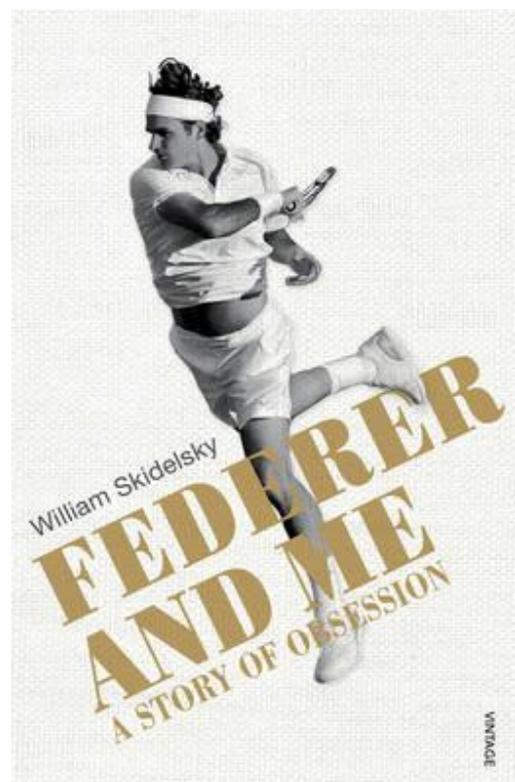
Dan Simmons, *The Terror*

When Franklin meets a terrible death, it falls to Captain Francis Crozier of HMS Terror to take command and lead the remaining crew on a last, desperate attempt to flee south across the ice. With them travels an Eskimo woman who cannot speak. She may be the key to survival - or the harbinger of their deaths.

Mark Singer, *Trump and Me*

New Yorker reporter Mark Singer's blisteringly funny, close-up profile of President Donald Trump - mogul, showman, braggart, unrestrained id and now leader of the free world - is the ultimate portrait of the man who has everything, except an inner life.

'Offers clearer insight than any of the detailed biographies written over the years ...very funny ...excellent at describing the disturbing strangeness of Trump's existence' - *Daily Telegraph*

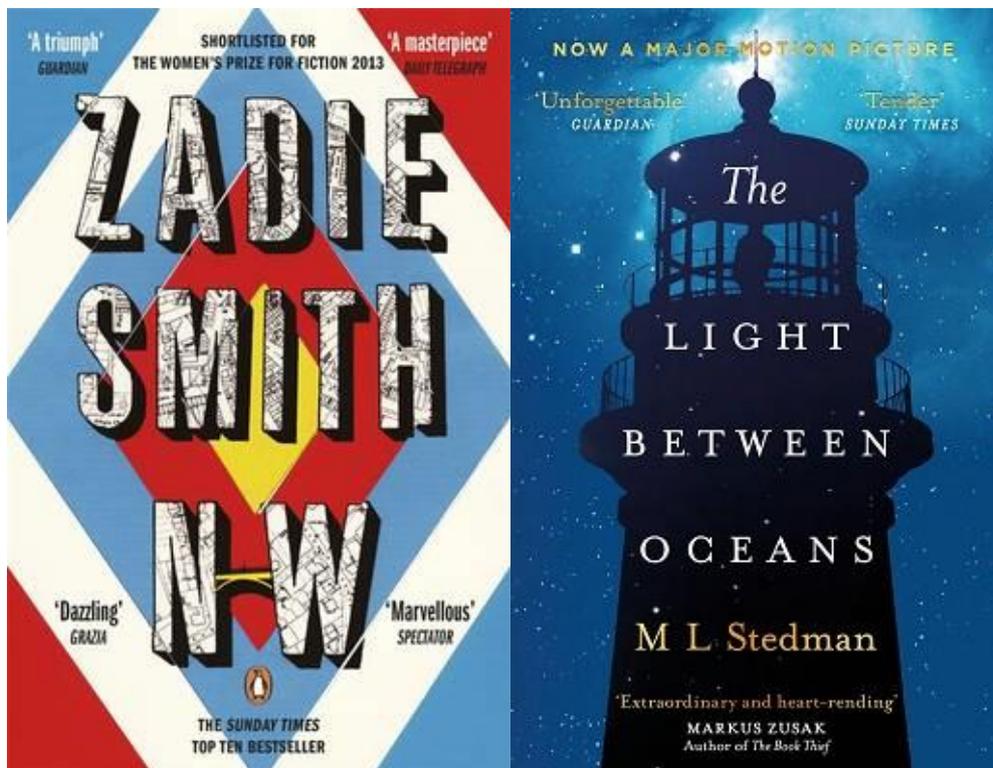


William Skidelsky, *Federer and Me*

For much of the past decade, William Skidelsky has not been able to stop thinking about Roger Federer, the greatest and most graceful tennis player of all time. It's a devotion that has been all-consuming. In *Federer and Me*, Skidelsky asks what it is about the Swiss star that transfixes him, and countless others.

Zadie Smith, *NW*

Zadie Smith's brilliant tragi-comic *NW* follows four Londoners - Leah, Natalie, Felix and Nathan - after they've left their childhood council estate, grown up and moved on to different lives. From private houses to public parks, at work and at play, their city is brutal, beautiful and complicated. Yet after a chance encounter they each find that the choices they've made, the people they once were and are now, can suddenly, rapidly unravel.

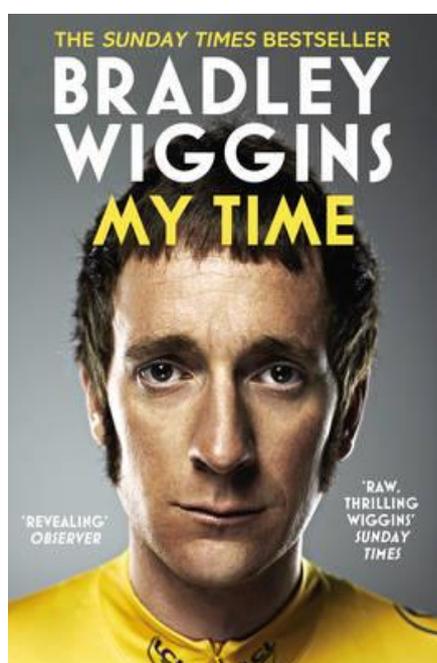


M L Stedman, *The Light Between Oceans*

Shattered by his experiences in the World War I trenches, veteran Tom Sherbourne returns to his home in Australia to his wife Isabel. Looking for restoration and peace the couple move to an isolated lighthouse where they try to rebuild their lives and long for a child that never comes. Then, one day, a boat washes ashore with a baby inside – a gift that offers the hope of a future they've longed for but the consequences of their actions may be more far-reaching than they could have ever imagined.

Bradley Wiggins, *My Time*

On 22 July 2012 Bradley Wiggins made history as the first British cyclist to win the Tour de France. Ten days later at the London Olympic Games he won gold in the time trial to become his country's most decorated Olympian. In an instant 'Wiggo', the kid from Kilburn, was a national hero. Outspoken, honest, intelligent and fearless, Wiggins has been hailed as the people's champion. From his lowest ebb following a catastrophic attempt to conquer the 2012 Tour and the loss of his granddad who had raised him as a boy, *My Time* tells the story of his remarkable journey to win the world's toughest race.



Susan Williams, *Colour Bar*

The true story of a love which defied family, Apartheid, and empire - the inspiration for the major new feature film A United Kingdom, starring David Oyelowo and Rosamund Pike London, 1947. He was the heir to an African kingdom. She was a white English insurance clerk. When they met and fell in love, it would change the world.

Quick list of all suggested titles

Alexander Armstrong, *Land of the Midnight Sun*

Jo Baker, *A Country Road, A Tree*

Julian Barnes, *The Noise of Time*

Saroo Brierley, *Lion: A Long Way Home*

Joanna Briscoe, *Touched*

Melvin Burgess, *Hunger*

Helen Dunmore, *The Greatcoat*

Anne Enright, *The Green Road*

Sebastian Faulks, *Where My Heart Used to Beat*

Helen Fielding, *Bridget Jones's Baby*

Carrie Fisher, *The Princess Diarist*

Frederick Forsyth, *The Shepherd*

Robert Harris, *Conclave*

Patricia Highsmith, *Strangers on a Train*

Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*

John Man, *The Gutenberg Revolution*

Erin Morgenstern, *The Night Circus*

Dan Simmons, *The Terror*

Mark Singer, *Trump and Me*

William Skidelsky, *Federer and Me*

Zadie Smith, *NW*

M L Stedman, *The Light Between Oceans*

Bradley Wiggins, *My Time*

Susan Williams, *Colour Bar*

With thanks to our partners



Penguin
Random House
UK



Prison Reading Groups