

F403 Aspects of the Novel 9.30 – 11am
OLLI Spring Session 2012 – Tallwood
Kay Menchel

A Partial and Random List of Books

The following list is both random, because I just scanned my bookshelves without thinking too much about how these books relate to one another, and partial, because for all the books I have included I am sure I have forgotten about an equal number that deserve to be on this list. There are some obvious omissions, by choice. For instance, I have listed only a few books by Dickens – these happen to be my favourites, but it does not mean that his other works are not worth reading. If you have never read Dickens – start with one of my recommendations and then explore the rest. There are other notables who do not appear – I have never enjoyed the works of D.H. Lawrence, for example, but there is no doubt that he is an important writer. Just because I don't like him, doesn't mean you won't, so take my suggestions with a grain of salt.

Also – not every book is created equal. *Anna Karenina* is a majestic work of fiction (one of my all time favourites), and very readable, but not exactly a beach book. However, there are books on this list that are quick and easy reads (the novels of Mary Wesley, for example). If in doubt – do some research online so you know what you're getting!

Fiction

Agee, James	<i>A Death in the Family</i>			
Ali, Monica	<i>Brick Lane</i>			
Austen, Jane	Everything she wrote!			
Barker, Pat	<i>The Regeneration Trilogy</i>			
Bellow, Saul	<i>Seize The Day</i>			
Bennett, Alan	<i>The Clothes They Stood Up In</i>	<i>The Uncommon Reader</i>		
Brontë, Ann	<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>			
Brontë, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>			
Brontë, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>			
Calvino, Italo	<i>If On A Winter's Night A Traveler</i>			
Cheever, John	Short Stories			
Chekhov, Anton	Short Stories			
Collins, Suzanne	<i>The Hunger Games Trilogy</i>			
Dickens, Charles	<i>Great Expectations</i>	<i>David Copperfield</i>	<i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>	<i>Hard Times</i>
	<i>A Tale Of Two Cities</i>			
Didion, Joan	<i>Play It As It Lays</i>			
Dos Passos, John	<i>Manhattan Transfer</i>			
Egan, Jennifer	<i>A Visit From The Goon Squad</i>			

Eliot, George	<i>Adam Bede</i>	<i>The Mill On The Floss</i>	<i>Middlemarch</i>
Erdrich, Louise	<i>The Last Report On The Miracles At little No Horse</i>		
Faulkner, William	<i>The Sound And The Fury</i>	<i>Light In August</i>	
Fielding, Henry	<i>A History of Tom Jones, A Foundling</i>		
Flaubert, Gustave	<i>Madame Bovary</i>		
Ford Maddox Ford	<i>The Good Soldier</i>		
Forster E.M.	<i>A Room With A View</i>	<i>A Passage To India</i>	
Fowles, John	<i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>		
Golding, William	<i>Lord Of The Flies</i>		
Goldman, William	<i>The Princess Bride</i>		
Greene, Graham	<i>Brighton Rock</i>	<i>The End Of The Affair</i>	
Hardy, Thomas	<i>The Mayor Of Casterbridge</i>	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>	<i>Jude The Obscure</i>
	<i>A Pair Of Blue Eyes</i>		
Hemingway, Ernest	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	<i>Farewell To Arms</i>	<i>For Whom The Bell Tolls</i>
	<i>In Our Time</i>		
Hugo, Victor	<i>Les Miserables</i>		
Irving, John	<i>The World According To Garp</i>	<i>A Prayer For Owen Meany</i>	
James, Henry	<i>Daisy Miller</i>	<i>The Europeans</i>	<i>Wings Of The Dove</i>
Joyce, James	<i>The Dubliners</i>		
Laclos, Choderlos de	<i>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i>		
Laurie, Hugh	<i>The Gun Seller</i>		
Lee, Harper	<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>		
Lermontov, Mikhail	<i>A Hero Of Our Time</i>		
Levi, Primo	<i>Survival in Auschwitz</i>		
Malamud, Bernard	<i>The Assistant</i>	<i>The Fixer</i>	Short Stories
Mann, Thomas	<i>Buddenbrooks</i>		
McCann, Colum	<i>Let The Great World Spin</i>		
O'Brien, Tim	<i>The Things They Carried</i>		
O'Connor, Flannery	Short Stories		
Orwell, George	<i>Burmese Days</i>	<i>Animal Farm</i>	1984
Remarque, Erich Maria	<i>All Quiet On The Western Front</i>		
Rowling, J.K.	The Harry Potter books		
Rushdie, Salman	<i>Midnight's Children</i>	<i>East, West</i>	
Sharpe, Tom	<i>Vintage Stuff</i>	<i>Porterhouse Blue</i>	
Steinbeck, John	<i>The Grapes Of Wrath</i>	<i>Of Mice And Men</i>	

Thackeray, W.M	<i>Vanity Fair</i>			
Tolstoy, Leo	<i>Anna Karenina</i>	Short Stories		
Trollope, Anthony	Chronicles of Barsetshire (five Novels start with <i>The Warden</i>)			
Warren, Robert Penn	<i>All The King's Men</i>			
Waugh, Evelyn	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i>	<i>A Handful Of Dust</i>	<i>Vile Bodies</i>	<i>Scoop</i>
Wesley, Mary	<i>The Chamomile Lawn</i>	<i>Jumping The Queue</i>		
West, Rebecca	<i>Return Of The Soldier</i>			
Wharton, Edith	<i>House Of Mirth</i>	<i>The Reef</i>		
Wodehouse, P.G	The Jeeves Novels			
Woolfe, Virginia	<i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	<i>To The Lighthouse</i>		
Zola, Émile	Thérèse Racquin			

Mystery Novels and Detective Fiction

In the case of a series of books, I have listed the author, my name for the series and the number of books (to date) in the series. I have also listed the first book in the series in parentheses. As has been stated, not all the books in a series are necessarily of the same quality – again, Google is your friend! However, these are series that I find mostly consistently good – I can forgive the odd clunker! I have also included some good stand-alone novels.

Christie, Agatha	The Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple Novels		<i>And Then There Were None</i>
Cleeves, Ann	The Shetland Island Quartet 4 books (<i>Raven Black</i>)		
Dexter, Colin	The Inspector Morse Novels 13 books (<i>Last Bus To Woodstock</i>)		
Forsyth, Frederick	<i>The Day Of The Jackal</i>	<i>The Devil's Alternative</i>	
George, Elizabeth	The Inspector Lynley Novels 17 books (<i>A Great Deliverance</i>)		
Grafton, Sue	The Alphabet Series 22 books (<i>A Is For Alibi</i>)		
Hiaasen, Carl	12 Novels with some recurring characters (<i>Tourist Season</i>)		
James, P.D	The Adam Dalgleish Novels 14 books (<i>Cover Her Face</i>)		
Larsson, Stieg	The Lisbeth Salander Novels 3 books (<i>The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo</i>)		
Lehane, Dennis	The Kenzie-Gennaro Novels 5 books (<i>A Drink Before The War</i>)		
Leon, Donna	The Guido Brunetti Novels 21 books (<i>Death At La Fenice</i>)		
Lovesey, Peter	The Peter Diamond Series 11 books (<i>The Last Detective</i>)		
Penny, Louise	The Chief Inspector Gamache Series 7 books (<i>Still Life</i>)		
Rankin, Ian	The Inspector Rebus Novels 17 books (<i>Knots and Crosses</i>)		

Rendell, Ruth	<i>A Judgment In Stone</i> The Inspector Wexford Novels 23 books (<i>From Doon With Death</i>)
Rimington, Stella	The Liz Carlyle Novels 6 books (<i>At Risk</i>)
Silva, Daniel	The Gabriel Allon Series 11 books (<i>The Kill Artist</i>)
Spencer-Fleming, Julia	The Reverend Clare Fergusson Series 7 books (<i>In The Bleak Midwinter</i>)
Walker, Martin	The Bruno Courreges Series 3 books (<i>Bruno: Chief Of Police</i>)
Winspear, Jacqueline	The Maisie Dobbs Series 9 books (<i>Maisie Dobbs</i>)

Non-Fiction

A few true stories that read like novels

Bascomb, Neal	<i>The Perfect Mile</i>
Blum, Howard	<i>Gangland</i> <i>The Brigade</i>
Brittain, Vera	<i>Testament Of Youth</i>
Cheng, Nien	<i>Life And Death In Shanghai</i>
Gaskin, Margaret	<i>Blitz</i>
Hanson, Neil	<i>The Great Fire Of London</i>
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Seabiscuit</i> <i>Unbroken</i>
Junger, Sebastian	<i>The Perfect Storm</i>
Karr, Mary	<i>The Liars' Club</i>
Kinder, Gary	<i>Ship Of Gold In The Deep Blue Sea</i>
Krakauer, Jon	<i>Into The Wild</i> <i>Into Thin Air</i>
Kurson, Robert	<i>Shadow Divers</i>
Lansing, Alfred	<i>Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Journey</i>
Mortimer, Gavin	<i>The Longest Night</i>
Olson, Lynne	<i>Citizens Of London</i>
Sides, Hampton	<i>Ghost Soldiers</i>
Simpson, Joe	<i>Touching The Void</i>
Stanton, Doug	<i>In Harm's Way</i>

And Finally...

Cameron's Top Ten

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| 1. <i>Great Expectations</i> | Charles Dickens |
| 2. <i>The Great Gatsby</i> | F. Scott Fitzgerald |
| 3. <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> | Harper Lee |
| 4. <i>The Amazing Adventures Of Kavalier & Clay</i> | Michael Chabon |
| 5. <i>The Corrections</i> | Jonathan Franzen |
| 6. <i>Dubliners</i> | James Joyce |
| 7. <i>The Things They Carried</i> | Tim O'Brien |
| 8. <i>The Ghost Writer</i> | Philip Roth |
| 9. <i>A Widow For One Year</i> | John Irving |
| 10. <i>Perfume: The Story Of A Murderer</i> | Patrick Suskind |