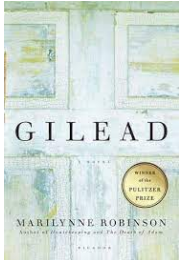
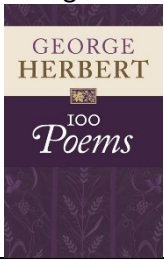





Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
<p>Gilead by Marilynne Robinson</p> 	<p><i>In 1956 towards the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son.</i></p>	<p>2005 Pulitzer Prize winner this is a glorious novel about small town life in the USA – yet it is about all of life. It is a book to read slowly and savour the craft of writing and ponder the thoughts that emerge. Then go on to enjoy the further 3 books in the quartet – Home, Lila and Jack. The greatest living US novelist</p>
<p>King Lear by William Shakespeare</p> 	<p><i>One of Shakespeare's great tragedies. It is immensely powerful and moving though not a joyous story</i></p>	<p>Shakespeare has contributed so much to our national life. The themes he explores still resonate today – power, love, family, loyalty, betrayal, loneliness ...</p>
<p>The Poems of George Herbert</p> 	<p><i>One of England's greatest ever poets</i></p>	<p>I love the way Herbert writes. It is worth reading 'The Church' from beginning to end as themes unfold. But for the finest look at The Collar, Redemption, Easter, Easter Wings, Prayer, The Pearl, The Quip. Praise II and Love III</p>
<p>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by CS Lewis</p> 	<p><i>The best known and loved of the Narnia Tales</i></p>	<p>I love the whole Narnia Series and encourage reading all 7 in order – it makes sense then of The Last Battle. But as a tale this is the best of them all</p>
<p>The Day I Fell Down the Toilet and Other Poems by Steve Turner</p> 	<p><i>Over 70 humorous and quirky poems for children</i></p>	<p>On a desert island I would need at least one book that made me laugh, smile, and think of children playing. So, this is the light-hearted counter to the seriousness of most of the rest.</p>



<p>Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy by John Le Carre</p> 	<p><i>A great spy story</i></p>	<p>I love the twists and turns of spy stories. Le Carre is one of the greatest spy story writers and this is probably my favourite of his George Smiley books</p>
<p>Devices and Desires by PD James</p> 	<p><i>A murder thriller with James' great detective Adam Dalgleish</i></p>	<p>To relax I am most likely to delve into a detective novel – I love books by Ian Rankin, Peter Robinson, Patricia Cornwell, John Grisham, Ruth Rendell, Kate Atkinson but PD James is probably the best of them all</p>
<p>Silas Marner by George Eliot</p> 	<p><i>A beautiful microcosm of Victorian village life through a range of characters</i></p>	<p>There are many great Victorian novelists like Dickens, Hardy, the Bronte sisters but there is something special about George Eliot's beautiful storytelling</p>
<p>Dark Fire by CJ Sansom</p> 	<p><i>A Shardlake novel set in the reign of Henry VIII – a detective novel though!</i></p>	<p>My love of history, detective novels and good writing all come together in CJ Sansom's wonderful series of novels about the Tudor detective Shardlake</p>
<p>Collected Poems and Plays of TS Eliot</p> 	<p><i>The finest poet and playwright of the 20th century</i></p>	<p>TS Eliot goes on an amazing personal journey through his writings; from the despair of 'The Waste Land' through the silliness of 'Old Possums Cats' to the wonder and hope of 'The Four Quartets', 'Choruses on The Rock' and his brilliant play 'Murder in the Cathedral'</p>