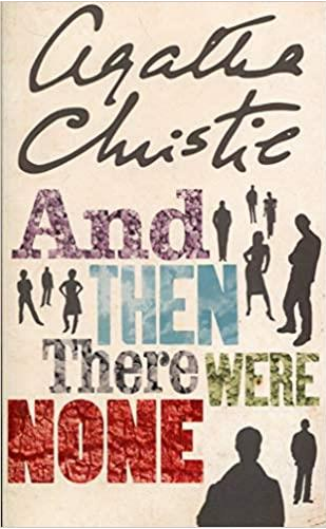
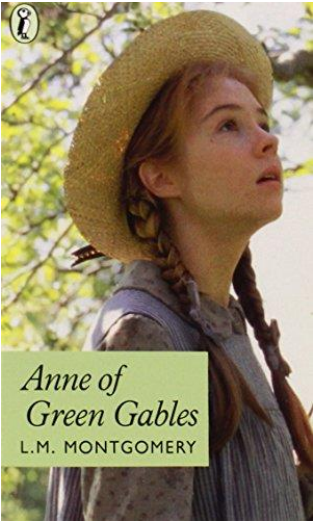
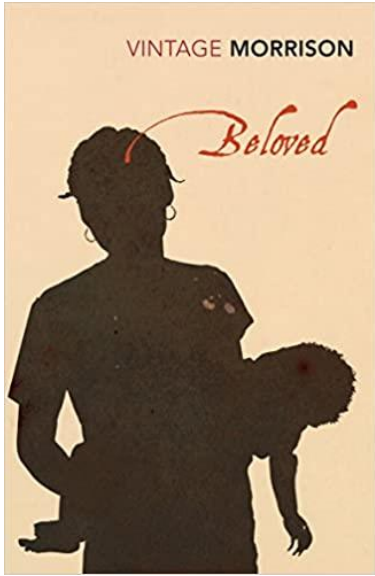
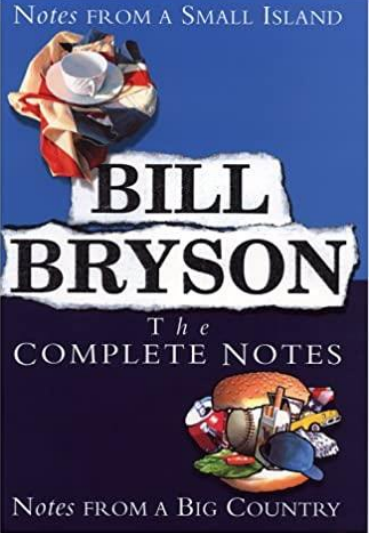


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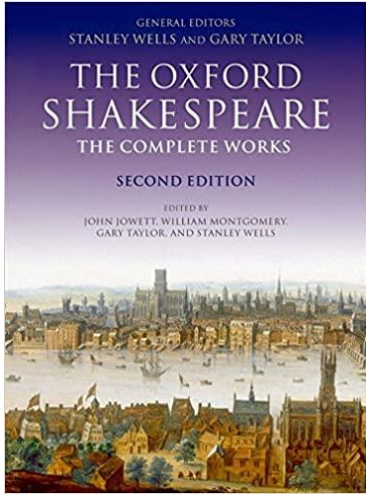
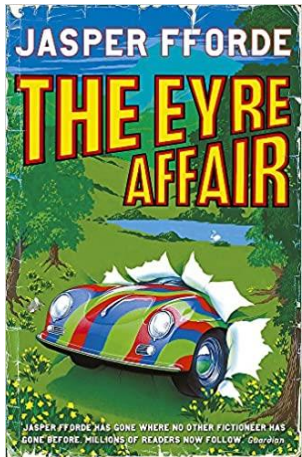
Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	And Then There Were None – Agatha Christie	First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a little private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder.	Agatha Christie was without doubt the Queen of Crime fiction. It doesn't matter how well you think you have a grip of the plot and the characters, Christie always manages to fool you and you never see the final twist coming. She wrote so many fantastic novels that it is really difficult to narrow my selection down to just one. I think 'And Then There Were None' is my favourite though as it is perfectly plotted and just so clever. Even when you know how it ends it is still fascinating to read again so you can work out how she pulled all of the threads together without you noticing the first time. A definite must-read!
	Anne of Green Gables (The Collection) – L.M. Montgomery	As soon as Anne Shirley arrives at the snug white farmhouse called Green Gables, she is sure she wants to stay forever . . . but will the Cuthberts send her back to the orphanage? Anne knows she's not what they expected—a skinny girl with fiery red hair and a temper to match. If only she can convince them to let her stay, she'll try very hard not to keep	I first read the Anne books when I was about 8 years old and I think Anne Shirley was (and still is) my role model. She seemed so like me - loved reading and writing, was always daydreaming, and frequently made mistakes, especially in terms of saying things that she really shouldn't. Gilbert Blythe also has to be one of my favourite characters in fiction. Once you've read the

		<p>rushing headlong into scrapes and blurting out the first thing that comes to her mind. Anne is not like anyone else, the Cuthberts agree; she is special—a girl with an enormous imagination. This orphan girl dreams of the day when she can call herself Anne of Green Gables.</p>	<p>books, you will no doubt agree that everyone needs to have their own version of Gilbert in their life... I've included the whole collection here because you really can't stop at just one. Through the course of the books we see Anne grow and learn so much, both as a child and as an adult, and she reminds us that we should always strive to fulfil our dreams.</p>
	<p>Beloved – Toni Morrison</p>	<p>Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling</p>	<p>Toni Morrison is one of my favourite authors of all time. Throughout Beloved we follow the life of Sethe, a black woman in post-Civil War Ohio, coming to terms with the death of her baby daughter. Morrison uses dialogue perfectly to show the grief and guilt of her characters and her descriptions of people and places are almost poetic in their beauty and honesty. Tackling complex issues of race, family ties and womanhood, this ghostly novel stays with you for a long time...</p>

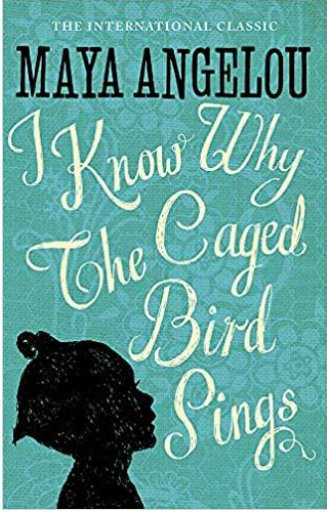
		<p>herself Beloved, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present.</p>	
	<p>The Complete Notes – Bill Bryson</p>	<p>After nearly two decades in Britain, Bill Bryson took the decision to move Mrs Bryson, little Jimmy et al. back to the States for a while. But before leaving his much-loved Yorkshire, Bryson insisted on taking one last trip around old Blighty, a sort of valedictory tour of the green and kindly island that had for so long been his home. The resulting book, Notes from a Small Island, is a eulogy to the country that produced Marmite, George Formby, by-elections, milky tea, and people who say, 'Mustn't grumble'. Once ensconced back home in New Hampshire, Bryson couldn't resist the invitation to write a weekly dispatch for the Mail on Sunday's Night & Day magazine. Notes from a Big Country is a collection of eighteen months' worth of his popular columns about that strangest of phenomena - the American way of life.</p>	<p>Bill Bryson has written non-fiction books on a huge range of fantastic topics – the human body; significant events in American History; the life of Shakespeare; the history of Science and the development of the English Language. His travel writings are my favourite however, as they blend interesting stories with wonderfully witty descriptions of people and places. The Complete Notes combines his Notes from a Small Island, which is all about his travels in the UK, with his Notes from a Big Country, which describes his reactions to returning to live in his native country, America. As well as making me chuckle, this book would also remind me of some of my favourite places at home and abroad.</p>

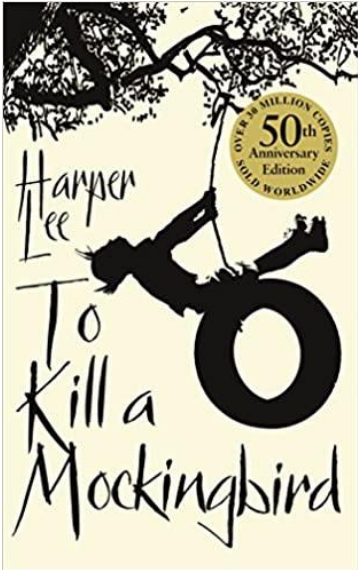
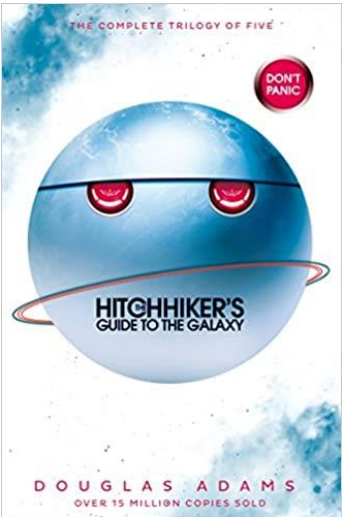
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	<p>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare</p>	<p>William Shakespeare (baptised 26 April 1564) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. His surviving works consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language, and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. The Oxford Shakespeare is the ultimate anthology of the Bard's work: the most authoritative edition of the plays and poems ever published.</p>	<p>Unfortunately Shakespeare seems to be very much like Marmite - you either love him or loathe him. I am firmly in the LOVE him camp! His plays still have so much to say about our lives as he covers so many themes that still exist in society today: love, murder, ambition, family issues, gender conflicts... The language (once you get used to it and realise that you probably won't understand every word) is beautifully crafted and his characters are just like us: full of flaws and in need of a bit of personal development if they're ever going to learn to appreciate what they have! Bearing that in mind, the Complete Works is also a very thick volume so it may come in handy as a potential pillow while I'm on the island.</p>
	<p>The Eyre Affair – Jasper Fforde</p>	<p>Great Britain circa 1985: time travel is routine, cloning is a reality (dodos are the resurrected pet of choice), and literature is taken very, very seriously. Amidst all this, Acheron Hades, Third Most Wanted Man In the World, steals the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit and kills a</p>	<p>I've decided that I really just want to be Thursday Next. She can jump into books and interact with the characters! How amazing would that be? She also lives in a world where everyone is obsessed with books and they have Shakespeare vending machines on street corners. She is living a</p>

		<p>minor character, who then disappears from every volume of the novel ever printed! But that's just a prelude . . .</p> <p>Hades' real target is the beloved Jane Eyre, and it's not long before he plucks her from the pages of Bronte's novel. Enter Thursday Next. She's the Special Operative's renowned literary detective, and she drives a Porsche. With the help of her uncle Mycroft's Prose Portal, Thursday enters the novel to rescue Jane Eyre from this heinous act of literary homicide. Can Thursday save Jane Eyre and Bronte's masterpiece?</p>	<p>perfect life! I received this book as a present from one of my best friends when I was ill during my first year of teaching. It cheered me up perfectly then and I'm sure it would do the same thing on a desert island.</p>
	<p>Good Omens – Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman</p>	<p>People have been predicting the end of the world almost from its very beginning, so it's only natural to be sceptical when a new date is set for Judgement Day. But what if, for once, the predictions are right, and the apocalypse really is due to arrive next Saturday, just after tea?</p> <p>It's a predicament that Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a fast-living demon now finds themselves in. They've been living amongst Earth's mortals since The</p>	<p>If space on this list was unlimited, there would be several books by Terry Pratchett and by Neil Gaiman on here. As I am only allowed ten choices however, I have chosen the only book that they wrote together. The angel, Aziraphale, and the demon, Crowley, are superbly written characters and I love their joint efforts to avert the coming apocalypse. This book is full of laugh out loud moments and this has resulted in me being given many strange looks when reading this in public. At least</p>

		<p>Beginning and, truth be told, have grown rather fond of the lifestyle and, in all honesty, are not actually looking forward to the coming Apocalypse. And then there's the small matter that someone appears to have misplaced the Antichrist...</p>	<p>on the desert island, I could giggle away to myself in peace...</p>
	<p>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou</p>	<p>Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Poetic and powerful, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.</p>	<p>What a woman Maya Angelou was. She experienced some truly horrific events throughout her life but emerged from them all as a strong, truly inspirational figure. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is an autobiographical account of Angelou's childhood and explores racial tensions and family struggles in extreme and often emotionally raw detail. Another beautifully crafted book that teaches us that if we have faith in ourselves, we can overcome anything.</p>

	<p>To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee</p>	<p>The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, To Kill A Mockingbird became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, To Kill A Mockingbird takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.</p>	<p>Atticus Finch has to be the perfect literary father. He sets such a wonderful example of tolerance, justice and patience to his children and his community, that anyone who reads this book would find it truly difficult not to admire him! In telling the story from the perspective of his young daughter, Scott, we are able to view events through the eyes of an innocent and go on her journey with her, learning a lot about ourselves and society along the way. Every time I read this book I learn something new. It's amazing!</p>
	<p>The Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Complete Trilogy in Five Parts - Douglas Adams</p>	<p>Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from The Hitchhiker's Guide ("A towel is about the most massively useful</p>	<p>Arthur Dent's travels across the universe, as the last surviving man from Earth, allow him (and us) to encounter a huge assortment of weird and wonderful characters and to attempt to discover the answer to the ultimate question: What is the meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything? I first read this when I was 14 years old and it still makes me laugh out loud when I read it today (especially the bit with the whale). It also includes one of my favourite literary</p>

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		thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have") and a galaxy-full of fellow travellers.	characters ever - Marvin the Paranoid Android. No matter how bad things might get on the island, at least I'll be happier than Marvin!
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