






Reading Group Book List Additions Jan–April 2011



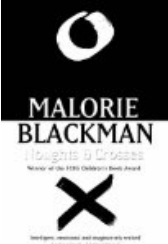





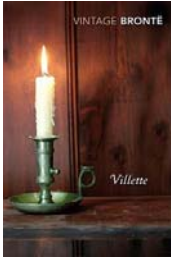
Turn a new page

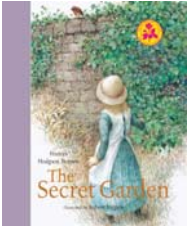




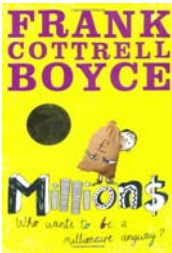

Newcastle Libraries



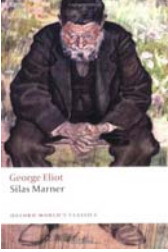
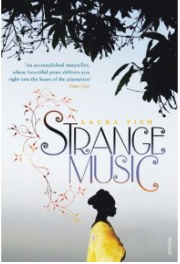
<p>Allan, Clare</p>	<p>Poppy Shakespeare</p> <p>This is the story of day patients at a mental health hospital. The central characters are Poppy Shakespeare, a new patient, and "N", a long term patient. Poppy arrives at the hospital strongly asserting that she is sane and demanding that she is released from the program. To gain legal aid she must first prove she is sick so that she can get "MAD money", a.k.a. state benefits. She is befriended by N, who helps her work the system.</p>	
<p>Angelou, Maya</p>	<p>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</p> <p>This book is the autobiography about the early years of African-American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a six-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma. The book begins when three-year-old Maya and her older brother are sent to Stamps, Arkansas, to live with their grandmother and ends when Maya becomes a mother at the age of 17.</p>	
<p>Austen, Jane</p>	<p>Emma</p> <p>Beautiful, clever, rich - and single - Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr. Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegee Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected.</p>	

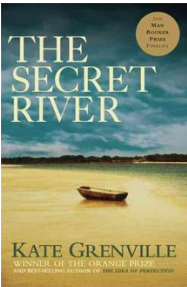
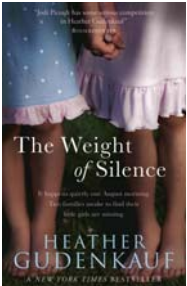
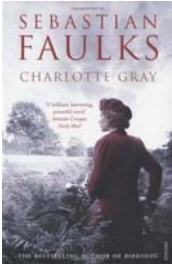
<p>Banks, Iain M.</p>	<p>Matter</p> <p>The Culture is a far-future society of seemingly limitless resources and infinite technological possibilities. Yet the Culture is far from perfect, and it is still subject to brutal wars, political upheaval and intrusions from beyond the edges of known space. With extraordinary imaginative scope and storytelling prowess, Iain M. Banks' new Culture novel is a thrilling read from start to finish.</p>	
<p>Bauer, Belinda</p>	<p>Black Lands</p> <p>Every day after school, Steven goes digging to lay to rest the ghost of the uncle he never knew, who disappeared aged eleven and is assumed to have fallen victim to the notorious serial killer Arnold Avery. Only Steven's nan is not convinced that her son is actually dead. So Steven carefully crafts a letter to Arnold Avery in prison, and begins a dangerous cat-and-mouse game between a desperate child and a bored serial killer.</p>	
<p>Blackman, Malorie</p>	<p>Noughts and Crosses</p> <p>Sephy is a Cross. A member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought. A "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood, but that's as far as it can go as Noughts and Crosses simply don't mix. However a romance blossoms between them - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. Can the two possibly find a way to be together?</p>	

<p>Borodale, Jane</p>	<p>The Book of Fires</p> <p>It is 1752 and 17 year-old Agnes Trussel arrives in London, pregnant with an unwanted child. Lost and frightened, she finds herself at the home of Mr. J. Blacklock, a brooding fireworks maker who hires Agnes as his apprentice.</p> <p>Deeply atmospheric and intimately told from Agnes's perspective, this debut novel of fireworks, fortune, and a young woman's redemption will captivate and delight.</p>	
<p>Bradbury, Malcolm</p>	<p>Modern British Short Stories</p> <p>A collection of stories by Amis, Ballard, Beckett, Bowen, Fowles, Golding, Lessing, Lowry, Pritchett, Rhys, Spark and Weldon.</p>	
<p>Brontë, Charlotte</p>	<p>Jane Eyre</p> <p>After enduring a childhood dominated by loneliness and cruelty. Jane finds a position as a governess at Thornfield Hall and falls in love with her sardonic employer, Mr Rochester, who hides a dark and shocking secret.</p>	
<p>Brontë, Charlotte</p>	<p>Villette</p> <p>Lucy Snowe flees from England to begin a new life as a teacher at a French boarding school in the great cosmopolitan capital of <i>Villette</i>. Soon Lucy's struggle for independence is overshadowed by both her friendship with a worldly English doctor and her feelings for an autocratic schoolmaster. Lucy must decide if there is any man in her society with whom she can live and still be free.</p>	

<p>Burnett, Frances Hodgson</p>	<p>The Secret Garden</p> <p>The horrid, selfish and spoiled Mary Lennox is sent to stay with her uncle in Yorkshire. She hated it. But when she finds the entrance to a secret garden a change comes over her. Along with a local boy and her cousin, the three children begin to work magic in themselves and those around them.</p>	
<p>Byatt, A. S.</p>	<p>The Oxford Book of English Short Stories</p> <p>This beautiful anthology contains 37 stories by classic authors including Ballard, Carter, Dickens, Hardy, McEwan and Trollope.</p>	
<p>Chevalier, Tracy</p>	<p>Falling Angels</p> <p>This novel chronicles the lives of two girls whose families own adjacent plots in a London cemetery—one decorated with a sentimental angel, the other with an elaborate urn. During a ceremonial stroll through the graveyard grounds, an act of mourning for the recently deceased Queen Victoria, Maude Coleman and Lavinia Waterhouse meet and forge a lasting friendship.</p>	
<p>Clanchy, Kate</p>	<p>Antigona and Me</p> <p>One morning, a privileged North London writer, Kate Clanchy, chances upon a Kosovan refugee called Antigona. On impulse, Kate offers Antigona a job as her cleaner and so begins a moving friendship that results in this journal of Antigona's escape from her war torn homeland.</p>	

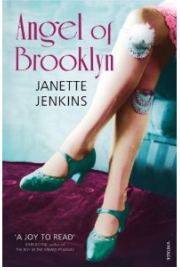
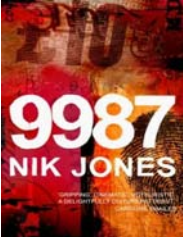
<p>Collins, Wilkie</p>	<p>The Woman in White</p> <p>Gentle art teacher Walter Hartright has fallen in love with his student, Laura. But she is due to marry the wicked Sir Percival, who wants to destroy her reputation and steal her fortune. In the face of his powerful friends, only Laura's resourceful sister Marian and faithful Walter can save her from his wicked machinations and the terrors of the insane asylum.</p>	
<p>Cottrell-Boyce, Frank</p>	<p>Millions</p> <p>Two bothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to join the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game.</p>	
<p>De Smith, Alice</p>	<p>Welcome to Life</p> <p>A blackly funny debut, sparkling with wit and sophistication, "Welcome to Life" is a provocative novel about family, friendship and becoming a grown-up. Adolescence is never easy but for fourteen-year-old Freya - brought up by parents who act like teenagers, and surrounded by teenagers all too desperate be grown-ups - it's bewildering. All she wants is a bit of attention but her parents are too wrapped up in their own dramas to care about Freya's.</p>	

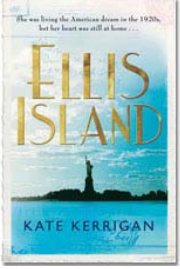
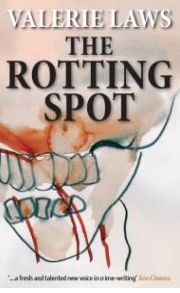
<p>Demick, Barbara</p>	<p>Nothing to Envy:</p> <p>What if the nightmare imagined by George Orwell in 1984 were real? What if you had to live in a country where you were required to keep a large portrait of the president on your living room wall and bow to it on national holidays? This is a real place – the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea or North Korea.</p>	
<p>Dunant, Sarah</p>	<p>Sacred Hearts</p> <p>The year is 1567. Santa Catarina, a convent near Venice, is home to over one hundred women. But with powerful forces for change raging outside the convent, and the world of the women within its walls threatened by a new arrival, passions, hysteria, and conflict come to threaten their very survival.</p>	
<p>Eliot, George</p>	<p>Silas Marner</p> <p>Silas Marner lives a friendless and isolated existence near the country village of Raveloe, hoarding his gold. One night his fortune is stolen and Silas loses everything he holds dear. But then the golden-haired child Eppie arrives and changes everything.</p>	
<p>Fish, Laura</p>	<p>Strange Music</p> <p>Richly complex, Strange Music recreates the lives of three women - the poet Elizabeth Barrett in England, and in Jamaica on the Barrett estate, there is Kaydia, a maidservant and Sheba, an indentured labourer. All three women struggle to escape a tragic but ever-present past.</p>	



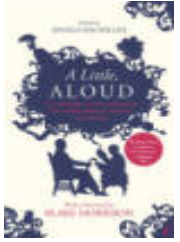

<p>Fisher, Dorothy Canfield</p>	<p>The Home Maker</p> <p>Evangeline, an obsessively house-proud mother and home-maker renders each of her children miserable in different ways, through her perfectionism and her need to control. Without realizing it, she is frustrated and bored - yet she thinks she is a good and devoted mother.</p>	
<p>Grenville, Kate</p>	<p>The Secret River</p> <p>London, 1806 – The happily married William Thornhill is a waterman on the River Thames. Life is tough but bearable until William makes a very bad mistake which he and his family are made to pay dearly. His sentence is to be transported to New South Wales for the rest of his life. Soon Thornhill, a man no better or worse than most, has to make the most difficult decision of his life.</p>	
<p>Gudenkauf, Heather</p>	<p>The Weight of Silence</p> <p>One August morning, as dawn's shimmering light drenches the humid air, two families awaken to find their little girls have gone missing in the night. Now Calli and Petra's families are bound by the question of what has happened to their children. As support turns to suspicion, it seems the answers lie trapped in the silence of unspoken secrets.</p>	
<p>Faulks, Sebastian</p>	<p>Charlotte Gray</p> <p>In 1942, Charlotte Gray, a young Scottish woman, heads for Occupied France on a dual mission - officially, to run an apparently simple errand for a British special operations group and unofficially to search for her lover, an English airman missing in action. As the people in the small town of Lavaurette prepare to meet their terrible destiny, the harrowing truth of what took place in 'the dark years' is finally revealed.</p>	

<p>Frank, Anne</p>	<p>The Diary of a Young Girl</p> <p>An intimate record of tension and struggle, adolescence and confinement, anger and heartbreak, Anne Frank's diary is one of those unique documents, famed throughout the world that portrays innocence and humanity, suffering and survival in the starkest and most moving terms.</p>	
<p>Freud, Anne</p>	<p><u>The Mirabelles</u></p> <p>This collection is full of the world stuff – the clothes and food, the art and social intrigues – with which we dress and conceal our deeper emotions and appetites. In the end, this is a book about reality and its representations, and the truth and lies we tell about ourselves.</p>	
<p>Hall, Sarah</p>	<p>Haweswater</p> <p>Sarah Hall's first novel is set in 1936 in a remote dale in the old county of Westmoreland, and tells of the flooding of the dale to make way for a reservoir, against the wishes of many of the local hill farmers. It is a story of love, obsession and the destruction of a community.</p>	
<p>Harris, Joanne</p>	<p>Blackberry Wine</p> <p>Jay Mackintosh's memories are revived by the delivery of a bottle of home-brewed wine from a long-vanished friend. Jay, disillusioned by adulthood, escapes to a derelict farmhouse in France. There he faces old demons and the beautiful Marise, a woman who hides a terrible secret.</p>	

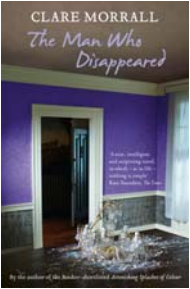
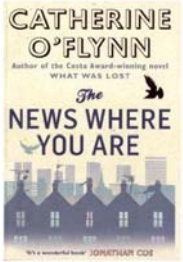
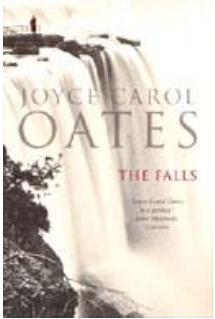
<p>Hill, Susan</p>	<p>The Woman in Black</p> <p>This is the chilling tale of young solicitor, Arther Kipps, who is summoned to attend the funeral of a Mrs Alice Drablow in the North of England. He records in haunting detail the nightmarish events of his stay in her house on the marsh and the terrible events that alter his life forever.</p>	
<p>Hornby, Nick</p>	<p>Juliet, Naked</p> <p>Annie loves Duncan, or at least she thinks she does. Duncan loves Annie, but then, all of a sudden, he doesn't anymore. So Annie stops loving Duncan, and starts getting her own life back. <i>Juliet, Naked</i> is a powerfully engrossing, humorous novel about music, love, loneliness, and the struggle to live up to one's promise.</p>	
<p>Ishiguro, Kazuo</p>	<p>Never Let Me Go</p> <p>Kathy, Ruth and Tommy were pupils at Hailsham - an idyllic establishment situated deep in the English countryside. The children there were tenderly sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe they were special, and that their personal welfare was crucial. But for what reason were they really there? <i>Never Let Me Go</i> is a uniquely moving novel, charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of our lives.</p>	
<p>Jansson, Tove</p>	<p>The Summer Book</p> <p>On an island in the Gulf of Finland, a small girl and her grandmother, with seventy years between them, argue, dream, and explore together their island and others of memory and anticipation.</p>	

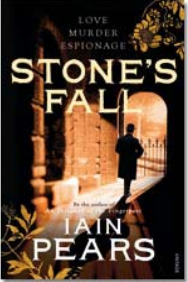
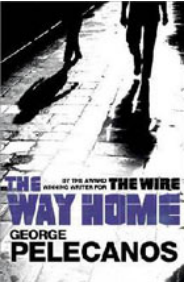


<p>Jenkins, Janette</p>	<p>The Angel of Brooklyn</p> <p>American bride, Beatrice, finds it hard to adapt to life in the north of England. She shares stories of her past with other wives, all except for how she became the Angel of Brooklyn. The years pass, the men are still at war and Beatrice finds her old life catches up with her. This is a great novel of love, war and what its like to be on the outside looking in.</p>	
<p>Jenkins, Laura</p>	<p>The Duke's Agent</p> <p>Raif Jarrett has returned from battle, and is seeking a quiet life as agent to the Duke of Penrith. So when he is sent to the Durham town of Woolbridge to settle the affairs of one of the Duke's tenants following his sudden death, the dangers of the Yorkshire countryside could not be more unexpected. The Duke's Agent is full of richly evocative descriptions, audacious plot twists and a cast of unforgettable characters.</p>	
<p>Jensen, Liz</p>	<p>The Rapture</p> <p>Gabrielle Fox's main concern is a personal one: to rebuild her career as a psychologist after a shattering car accident. But when she is assigned Bethany Krall, one of the most dangerous teenagers in the country, she begins to fear she has made a terrible mistake. An electrifying psychological thriller that explores the dark extremes of mankind's self-destruction in a world on the brink.</p>	
<p>Jones, Nik</p>	<p>9987 by Nik Jones</p> <p>Murky and disturbing, "9987" is a tragic crime story set in a disturbing, uncaring world where only three things are constant: fantasy, loneliness and love.</p>	

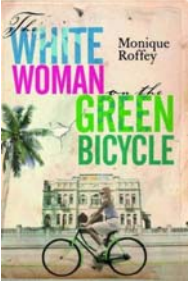
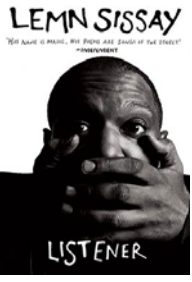
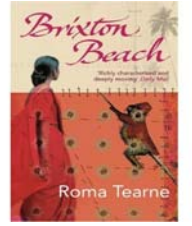
<p>Kerrigan, Kate</p>	<p>Ellis Island</p> <p>Rural Irish girl Ellie loves living in New York and also her job as a lady's maid for a wealthy socialite. She tries to persuade her husband, John, to join her but he is embroiled in his affairs in Ireland, and caught up in the civil war. When her father dies she returns home, intending to return to her beloved America but once home she makes the painful decision to stay and look after her mother and resume her marriage.</p>	
<p>Kidd, Sue Monk</p>	<p>The Secret Life of Bees</p> <p>Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. She not only has her own memory of holding the gun, but also her father's account of the tragic event. Set in the racially divided deep south of the sixties, this book is both haunting, moving and a joy to read from start to finish.</p>	
<p>Laws, Valerie</p>	<p>The Rotting Spot</p> <p>When student Lucy Seaton goes missing, her friend Erica Bruce is convinced there's a link to the disappearance of Lucy's cousin several years before. At first, Inspector Will Bennett is sceptical of Erica, so she begins her own investigation. On the sea-lashed Northumbrian headland of Stony Point, the skull hunter's rotting spot hides a secret, while the families who live there hide several more.</p>	
<p>Litten, Russ</p>	<p>Scream if you Want to go Faster</p> <p>A bittersweet and abrasive novel following the intersecting lives of ten characters during the course of flood-soaked carnival weekend in Kingston-upon-Hull.</p>	

<p>McCarthy, Cormac</p>	<p>The Crossing</p> <p>Set on the south-western ranches in the years before the Second World War, "The Crossing" follows the fortunes of sixteen-year-old Billy and his younger brother Boyd. Fascinated by an elusive wolf that has been marauding his family's property, Billy captures the animal - but rather than kill it, sets out impulsively for the mountains of Mexico to return it to where it came from.</p>	
<p>McGregor, Jon</p>	<p>If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things</p> <p>On a street in a town in the North of England, ordinary people are going through the motions of their everyday existence but then a terrible event shatters the quiet of the early summer evening. This remarkable and horrific event does not even merit a mention on the local news and is only poignant to those who saw it, changing their lives forever.</p>	
<p>Macmillan, Angela</p>	<p>A Little Aloud</p> <p>A unique anthology of prose and poetry especially selected for reading aloud - with a foreword by Blake Morrison.</p>	
<p>Meyer, Stephenie</p>	<p>New Moon</p> <p>The "star-crossed" lovers theme continues as Bella and Edward find themselves facing new obstacles, including a devastating separation, the mysterious appearance of dangerous wolves roaming the forest in Forks, a terrifying threat of revenge from a female vampire and a deliciously sinister encounter with Italy's reigning royal family of vampires, the Volturi.</p>	


<p>Milward, Richard</p>	<p>Ten Storey Love Song</p> <p>This follows Bobby the Artist's rise to stardom and horrific drug psychosis, Johnnie's attempts to stop thieving and start pleasing Ellen in bed and Alan Blunt, a forty-year-old truck driver who spends a worrying amount of time patrolling the grounds of the local primary school. A beautiful piece of prose told with beauty and glorious abandon.</p>	
<p>Moore, Lorrie</p>	<p>A Gate at the Stairs</p> <p>Set just after the events of September 2001, a twenty-year-old woman from a small midwestern farm is coming of age. Under the novel's languid, easygoing surface, Moore's deft, lyrical writing brings us up against the heart of racism, the shock of war, and the carelessness perpetrated against others in the name of love.</p>	
<p>Moore, Wendy</p>	<p>Wedlock</p> <p>This is the remarkable true story of Mary Eleanor Bowes, Countess of Strathmore. After an unhappy first marriage to John Lyon, the 9th Earl of Strathmore, who left her a widow, she was lured into marrying an Irish fortune-hunter named Andrew Robinson Stoney, who reduced Mary to a terrible wreck. A tale of survival and triumph against overwhelming odds.</p>	
<p>Morgan, C.E</p>	<p>All the Living</p> <p>Aloma is a young woman who has put her dreams of becoming a pianist to one side in order to move in with her lover, Orren, who is grief stricken at the recent loss of his family. This novel is about every single relationship between a man and a woman - past, present and future - and about the distance between the lives we lead and the lives we imagine for ourselves.</p>	

<p>Morrall, Clare</p>	<p>The man who disappeared</p> <p>What would you do if, out of the blue, your husband disappeared and you found out he was a suspected criminal? When reliable, respectable Felix Kendall vanishes, his wife Kate is left reeling. As she and their children cope with the shocking impact on their comfortable lives, Kate realises that, if Felix is guilty, she never truly knew the man she loved and also discovers strengths she never knew she had.</p>	
<p>O'Flynn, Catherine</p>	<p>The news where you Are</p> <p>Set in Birmingham, this is the touching story of Frank, a local TV news presenter. Beneath his awkwardly corny screen persona, Frank is haunted by disappearances. He struggles to make sense of these absences while having to report local news stories of holes opening up in people's gardens and also coping with his resolutely miserable mother. A page-turning novel which asks the big questions in an accessible way, and is laugh-out-loud funny, genuinely moving and ultimately uplifting.</p>	
<p>Oates, Joyce Carol</p>	<p>The Falls</p> <p>A man climbs over the railings and plunges into Niagara Falls. He's a newly-wed, and his bride has been left behind in the honeymoon suite the morning after their wedding. For two weeks, Aria, the deserted bride, waits by the side of the roaring waterfall for news of her husband's recovered body. From this cataclysmic event unfurls a drama of parents and their children; of secrets and sins; of lawsuits, murder and, eventually redemption.</p>	

<p>Pears, Iain</p>	<p>Stone's Fall</p> <p>Iain Pears tells the story of John Stone, financier and armaments manufacturer, a man so wealthy that in the years before World War One he was able to manipulate markets, industries and indeed whole countries and continents. A panoramic novel with a riveting mystery at its heart.</p>	
<p>Pelecanos, George</p>	<p>The Way Home</p> <p>Christopher Flynn is trying to get it right. After years of trouble and rebellion that enraged his father and nearly cost him his life, he has a steady job in his father's company, he's seriously dating a woman he respects, and his mistakes are firmly in the past. One day on the job, Chris and his partner come across a temptation almost too big to resist.</p>	
<p>Plampin, Matthew</p>	<p>The Devils Acre (also known as The Gun-Makers Daughter)</p> <p>The legendary American entrepreneur and inventor Colonel Samuel Colt expands his gun-making business into England with the intention of mass producing his patented revolvers on an unprecedented scale. He employs Edward Lowry to act as his London secretary who eventually comes to suspect Colt. A tense story of intrigue, betrayal and murder.</p>	
<p>Quick, Matthew</p>	<p>The Silver Linings Play Book</p> <p>A riotous and poignant story of how one man regains his memory and comes to terms with the magnitude of his wife's betrayal. During the years he spends in a neural health facility, Pat formulates a theory about silver linings but his new therapist seems to be recommending adultery as a form of therapy.</p>	

<p>Roffey, Monique</p>	<p>The White Woman on the Green Bicycle</p> <p>When George and Sabine Harwood arrive in Trinidad from England, George instantly takes to their new life, but Sabine feels isolated and ill at ease with the racial segregation and tension. Sabina has a fixation with Eric Williams, the charismatic leader of Trinidad's new national party, to whom she pours out all her hopes and fears in letters that she never brings herself to send. Years later George discovers Sabine's letters. He is seized by an urgent, desperate need to prove his love for her, with tragic consequences.</p>	
<p>Sissay, Lemn</p>	<p>Listener</p> <p>Listener is a book of key commissions from The City of London Commission Gilt of Cain to The World Service Commission Listener. Listener begins with the words Let There Be Peace and ends on an extraordinary article about the year 1968 and in particular its summer of Love, often hailed as a golden era of pop culture in British History.</p>	
<p>Stockett, Kathryn</p>	<p>The Help</p> <p>Jackson, Mississippi, 1962. Where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver... No one would believe Skeeter, Aibileen and Minny were friends; fewer still would tolerate it. But as each woman finds the courage to cross boundaries, they come to depend and rely upon one another.</p>	
<p>Tearne, Roma</p>	<p>Brixton Beach</p> <p>Opening dramatically with the horrors of the 2005 London bombings, this is the profoundly moving story of a country on the brink of civil war and a child's struggle to come to terms with loss.</p>	

<p>Vergheese, Abraham</p>	<p>Cutting for Stone</p> <p>The story is a riveting saga of twin brothers, Marion and Shiva Stone, born of a tragic union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon in Addis Ababa. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.</p>	
<p>Waters, Sarah</p>	<p>The Little Stranger</p> <p>In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to see a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds and its owners struggling to keep up the pace. But are they haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life?</p>	
<p>Webb, Katherine</p>	<p>The Legacy</p> <p>Following the death of their grandmother, Erica Calcott and her sister Beth return to Storton Manor, where they spent their summer holidays as children. When Erica begins to sort through her grandmother's belongings, a secret family history emerges and they must come to terms with two terrible acts of betrayal - and the heart-breaking legacy left behind.</p>	

<p>Whitehouse, Lucie</p>	<p><u>The Bed I Made</u></p> <p>When Kate meets a dark, enigmatic man in a Soho bar, she doesn't hesitate long before going home with him. There is something undeniably attractive about Richard - and irresistibly dangerous, too. Now, after eighteen exhilarating but fraught months, Kate knows she has to finish their relationship and hopes that will be the end of it. But it is only just the beginning.</p>	
<p>Yap, Chan Ling</p>	<p>Sweet Offerings</p> <p>Set between the late 1930s and 1960s, <i>Sweet Offerings</i> is the tale of Mei Yin, a young Chinese girl from an impoverished rural family. Her destiny is shaped when she is sent to Kuala Lumpur to become the ward and companion of the tyrannical and bitter Su Hei who is looking for a suitable wife for her son Ming Kong...and ultimately a grandson and heir to the family dynasty.</p>	



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