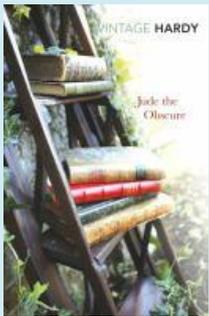


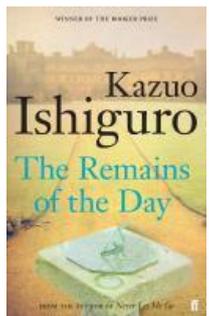
The go-between / L.P. Hartley

Magnetically powerful are the words with which Hartley opens his celebrated novel - 'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there' - that they've become part of the lexicon. But the story they encompass is a deeply personal one. An invitation for young Leo to join a school friend at Brandham Hall - a world of privilege far removed from his own - for the scorchingly hot summer of 1900 appears innocuous, but Leo soon finds himself drawn into a dangerous, deceitful world of adult intrigue when asked to act as a go-between for two illicit lovers. The tragedy that ensues will reverberate for decades to come.



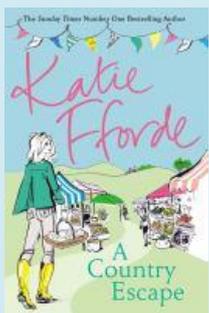
Jude the obscure / Thomas Hardy

Jude Fawley is a young man who longs to better himself and go to Christminster University. However, poverty forces him into a job as a stonemason and an unhappy marriage. When his wife leaves him Jude moves to Christminster determined to follow his dream. There he meets and falls for his free-spirited cousin, Sue Bridehead. The couple refuses to marry much to the disapproval of the society around them. In this heartbreaking story Hardy shows the devastating effects of social prejudice and oppression. The novel caused outrage when it was published in 1895 and, as a result, was the last novel Hardy ever wrote.



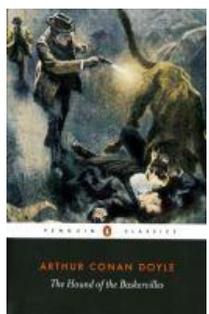
The remains of the day / Kazuo Ishiguro

From the Nobel Prize-winning author of Never Let Me Go Winner of the Booker Prize A contemporary classic, The Remains of the Day is Kazuo Ishiguro's beautiful and haunting evocation of life between the wars in a Great English House. In the summer of 1956, Stevens, the ageing butler of Darlington Hall, embarks on a leisurely holiday that will take him deep into the English countryside and into his past.



A country escape / Katie Fforde

Fran has always wanted to be a farmer. And now it looks as if her childhood dream is about to come true. She has just moved in to a beautiful but very run-down farm in the Cotswolds, currently owned by an old aunt who has told Fran that if she manages to turn the place around in a year, the farm will be hers. But Fran knows nothing about farming. She might even be afraid of cows. She's going to need a lot of help from her best friend Issi, and also from her wealthy and very eligible neighbour - who might just have his own reasons for being so supportive. Is it the farm he is interested in? Or Fran herself?



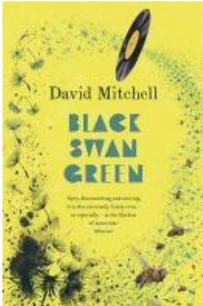
The hound of the Baskervilles Holmes / Arthur Conan Doyle

The most famous of the Sherlock Holmes stories, The Hound of the Baskervilles features the phantom dog of Dartmoor, which, according to an ancient legend, has haunted the Baskervilles for generations. When Sir Charles Baskerville dies suddenly of a heart attack on the grounds of the family's estate, the locals are convinced that the spectral hound is responsible, and Holmes is called in



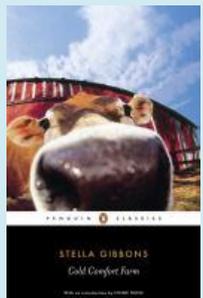
How green was my valley / Richard Llewellyn

A poignant coming-of-age novel set in a Welsh mining town, Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley* is a paean to a more innocent age, published in Penguin Modern Classics. Growing up in a mining community in rural South Wales, Huw Morgan is taught many harsh lessons - at the kitchen table, at Chapel and around the pit-head. Looking back on the hardships of his early life, where difficult days are faced with courage but the valleys swell with the sound of Welsh voices, it becomes clear that there is nowhere so green as the landscape of his own memory.



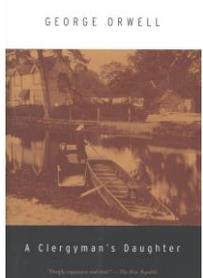
Black swan green / David Mitchell

It's a dank January in the Worcestershire village of Black Swan Green and thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor - covert stammerer and reluctant poet - anticipates a stultifying year in the deadest village on Earth. But Jason hasn't reckoned with a junta of bullies, simmering family discord, the Falklands War, an exotic Belgian emigre, a threatened gypsy invasion and the caprices of those mysterious entities known as girls.



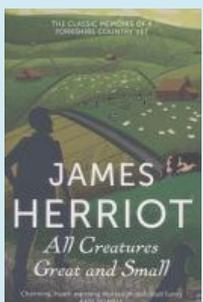
Cold Comfort Farm / Stella Gibbons

When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith, heaving with remorse for unspoken wickedness; Amos, preaching fire and damnation; their sons, lustful Seth and despairing Reuben; child of nature Elfine; and crazed old Aunt Ada Doom, who has kept to her bedroom for the last twenty years. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people. Armed with common sense and a strong will, she resolves to take each of the family in hand. A hilarious and merciless parody of rural melodramas, "*Cold Comfort Farm*" (1932) is one of the best-loved comic novels of all time.



A clergyman's daughter / George Orwell

Intimidated by her father, the rector of Knype Hill, Dorothy performs her submissive roles of dutiful daughter and bullied housekeeper. Her thoughts are taken up with the costumes she is making for the church school play, by the hopelessness of preaching to the poor and by debts she cannot pay in 1930s Depression England. Suddenly her routine shatters and Dorothy finds herself down and out in London. She is wearing silk stockings, has money in her pocket and cannot remember her name. Orwell leads us through a landscape of unemployment, poverty and hunger, where Dorothy's faith is challenged by a social reality that changes her life.



All creatures great and small / James Herriot

Since they were first published, James Herriot's memoirs have sold millions of copies and entranced generations of animal lovers. Charming, funny and touching, *All Creatures Great and Small* is a heart-warming story of determination, love and companionship from one of Britain's best-loved authors.