

MARCH 2010

POSSIBLE READING GROUP TITLES

(Recent titles available in multiple copies)

This listing includes recently published titles, which Peterborough Libraries have available in multiple copies. This list can also be downloaded from the Reading Groups page at www.peterborough.gov.uk/libraries

Reader comments are taken from Amazon as well as reading group web pages and magazines.

If you have any comments or queries, please contact Elaine Wilkinson at Reader Services, Central Library (tel 01733 864277, or email elaine.wilkinson@peterborough.gov.uk)

Key: NF=Non-Fiction; L=Large Print; A=Audio

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	Copies	LP & Audio
BOOKER 2009 WINNER			
Mantel, Hilary 653 pgs	Wolf Hall [Booker Winner] England, the 1520s. Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the pope refuses to grant. Into this atmosphere of distrust and need comes Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor.	15	A
CLASSIC CHOICE			
Huxley, Aldous 229 pgs	Brave New World "A thought-provoking look at the future of society, it was considered scandalous when it was published in the thirties." The World Controllers have created the ideal society. Genetic science has brought the human race to perfection. From the Alpha-Plus mandarin class to the Epsilon Semi-Morons, man is bred and educated to be content with his pre-destined role.	9	
James, Henry 204 pgs	Washington Square One of his shorter novels, this is recommended if you're new to this author. When timid and plain Catherine Sloper acquires a suitor, her father, convinced that the young man is nothing more than a fortune-hunter, decides to put a stop to their romance. Torn between her desire to win her father's love and approval and her passion for the first man who has ever declared his love for her, Catherine faces an agonising dilemma. James's masterly novel deftly interweaves the public and private faces of nineteenth-century New York society	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
FICTION			
Barry, Brunonia 390 pgs	The Lace Reader [<i>newbooks debut fiction recommendation</i>] "At times extremely creepy, others hauntingly sad, this is a true page-turner and will have the reader guessing until the very end." (Amazon reviewer). The Whitney women of Salem, Massachusetts are renowned for reading the future in the patterns of lace. But the future doesn't always bring good news - as Towner Whitney knows all too well. When she was 15, Towner Whitney got a glimpse into the future, a future without her twin Lyndley. Haunted by the tragedy, she ran from her family, her 'gift' and her past. Now the present might just destroy her.	14	L
Bates, H.E. 256 pgs	Fair Stood the Wind for France [<i>Penguin Reading Group Recommendation</i>] "...a heart-warming tale of humanity in uncertain times. It is a compelling read which rejuvenates faith in mankind ..." (Amazon reviewer) When John Franklin brings his plane down into occupied France at the height of the Second World War, there are two things on his mind - the safety of his crew and his own badly injured arm. It is a stroke of unbelievable luck when the family of a French farmer risk their lives to offer the airmen protection.	10	L
Bolton, S.J. 537 pgs	Sacrifice "A relatively new author who is gaining a reputation ... gripping, spine-chilling and original, with an evocative setting of the Shetland Islands." Moving to Shetland has been unsettling enough for consultant surgeon Tora Hamilton - even before the gruesome discovery she makes one rain-drenched Sunday afternoon. Deep in the peat soil of her field she is shocked to find the perfectly preserved body of a young woman, a hole in her chest where her heart has been brutally removed.	10	
Clark, Mary Higgins 322 pgs	Just Take My Heart "A great read which leaves you with that slightly apprehensive feeling which her books have a tendency to do." (nb reviewer) When Natalie Raines, famous Broadway star, is found in her home in New Jersey, dying from a gunshot wound, her former husband, Gregg Aldrich, whom she was in the process of divorcing, is the chief suspect. What no one knows is that, only days before she was murdered, Natalie came face to face with the man who killed her former roommate.	12	L
Cleave, Chris 378 pgs	The Other Hand [<i>LoveReading.co.uk recommendation</i>] "It's about an African immigrant who, fleeing the atrocities of her country, comes over here to find the family who tried to save her sister. What she finds is more pain and uncertainty... powerful stuff, beautifully delivered." This is the story of two women. Their lives collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice. Two years later, they meet again -- the story starts there...Once you have read it, you'll want to tell your friends about it. When you do, please don't tell them what happens either. The magic is in how it unfolds.	10	L

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
Craig, Amanda 422 pgs	Hearts and minds <i>[newbooks recommendation - magazine for reading groups]</i> "...depicts such a true picture of life in London. ... a must read for people wishing to come to London for a better life. A real eye opener." The great opportunistic metropolis that is 21st-century London draws in thousands of immigrants. This population fills the spaces unwanted by the majority - invisible, untraceable and powerless. So when a murdered girl is fished from Hampstead Ponds one morning, she could be anyone.	14	L
Fallada, Hans 576 pgs	Alone in Berlin Berlin, 1940, and the city is filled with fear. At the house on 55 Jablonski Strasse, its various occupants try to live under Nazi rule in their different ways: the nervous Frau Rosenthal, the bullying Hitler loyalists the Persickes, the retired judge Fromm, and the unassuming working-class couple Otto and Anna Quangel.	12	
Franklin, Ariana 389 pgs	Mistress of the Art of Death "First in a new series of historical crime featuring Adelia - a medieval forensic pathologist for the 12 th century." In Cambridge, a child has been murdered and other children have disappeared. The Jews, made scapegoats by the all-powerful Christian clergy, have retreated into the castle to avoid slaughter. A renowned investigator, Simon of Naples, is recruited. He is accompanied by Adelia Aguilar - a mistress of the art of death.	10	A
Gerrard, Nicci 372 pgs	Winter House "Moving story of three friends and lovers reunited under tragic circumstances." When Marnie Still receives a phone call that summons her to the side of a once-beloved friend, she is wrenched from her orderly London life and sent back into a past from which she has fled but never escaped.	11	L
Grenville, Kate 307 pgs	The Lieutenant "Follows the life of one young man in the Navy, his difficulties, his relationship with the Aboriginal people of Australia and contrasts that with the racist attitudes of other characters ..." In 1788, Lieutenant Daniel Rooke is an astronomer with the First Fleet as it lands on the unknown shores of New South Wales. As the newcomers struggle to establish a settlement for themselves & their cargo of convicts, & attempts are made to communicate with those who already inhabit this land, Rooke sets up his observatory to chart the stars.	12	L & A
Hall, Catherine 294 pgs	Days of Grace <i>[newbooks recommendation - magazine for reading groups]</i> "...tautly-plotted and suspenseful debut about an intense war-time friendship, a suppressed passion, a jealous crime, and a corrosive secret kept for decades..." When WWII breaks out, Nora is evacuated to the safety of rural Kent and quickly comes to love her new life with the Rivers family - in particular with their daughter Grace. But soon the brittle surface of the Rivers' marriage begins to crack and the girls' close friendship suddenly becomes a lot more intense.	10	L & A
Huth, Angela 288 pgs	Once a Land Girl <i>[newbooks recommendation - magazine for reading groups]</i> The war is over, but life goes on for land girls Prue, Stella and Ag. While two of the girls are married, Prue, the incorrigible flirt, has no-one and is engaged in a quest for a man to provide her with security and gold taps.	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
Lee, Maureen 376 pgs	Nothing Lasts Forever <i>[Orion Reading Group recommendation]</i> Four women try to escape their troubled pasts when they stay at an enchanting house in Liverpool. As they while away the brilliant summer under the trees in the lovely garden of the big house, friendships form that will last a lifetime. But it isn't all a bed of roses - after all, nothing lasts forever.	10	L
McCarthy, Cormac 307 pgs	The Road "..compelling, almost mesmerising, this book has superb ambience.. bleak but powerful." A father and his young son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road.	12	L & A
Toibin, Colm 251 pgs	Brooklyn <i>[Sunday Times Novel of the Year 2009; winner of the Costa Novel Award 2009]</i> "A fascinating insight of what it must have been like for a naive girl leaving Ireland in the 1950s.." In a small town in the south-east of Ireland in the 1950s, Eilis Lacey is among many of her generation who cannot find work at home. So when she is offered a job in America, she leaves her family to start a new life in Brooklyn, New York.	10	L & A
NON-FICTION			
Buergenthal, Thomas 231 pgs	A Lucky Child "Despite the subject, a positive and uplifting read..." (nb reviewer) Thomas Buergenthal is unique. He is a judge at the International Court in The Hague who was rescued from the death camps of Auschwitz at the age of 11. In his funny and heartfelt memoirs, he tells the story of his extraordinary journey - from the horrors of Nazism to an investigation of modern day genocide.	10	
Clanchy, Kate 273 pgs	Antigona and Me The true story of a friendship between a writer in England and a refugee from Kosovo. "Kate Clanchy brings a journalist's instinct for a story and a poet's sensibility to her telling of Antigona's life. It is a shocking one: not only the incredibly harsh Albanian life; the violent drunken husband; the atrocities of war; but the treatment of her family as refugees in this country. But what shines out from this potentially gloomy tale is Antigona – clever, beautiful, resilient, courageous and resourceful – and the relationship of the two women, which is at once challenging, supportive, warm and funny." (Bookgroup.info)	10	
Isaacson, Rupert 352 pgs	The Horse Boy Award winning film in 2009. "The historical background of the Mongolians is fascinating... an experience which will stay with me for a very long time.. everyone comes out a stronger person." (nb reviewer). Parents of an autistic boy discover he has an affinity with horses that he does not have with his parents. They embark on a journey to Mongolia to find a shaman who might be able to make a difference to this bewildered little boy.	10	L & A