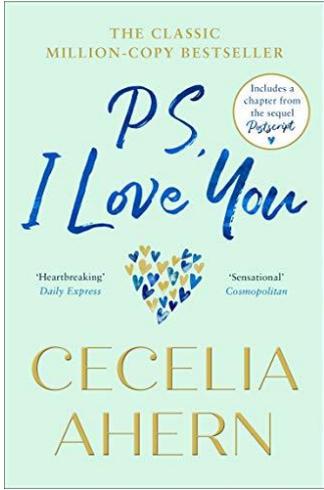
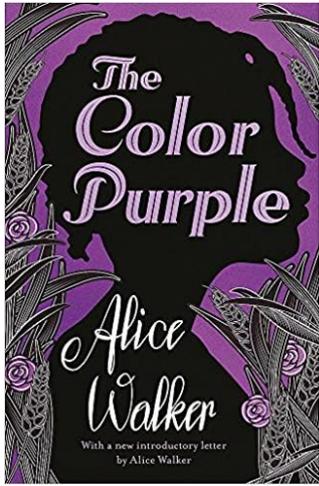
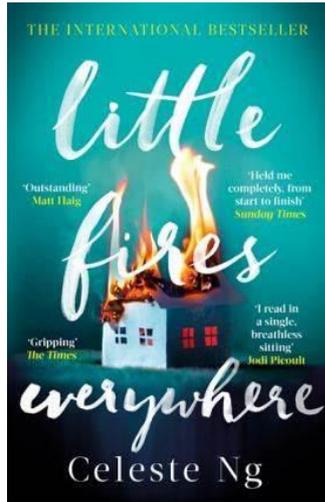


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	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p><i>P.S I love you</i> by Cecelia Ahern</p>	<p>A novel about holding on, letting go, and learning to love again. Holly couldn't live without her husband Gerry, until the day she had to. They were the kind of young couple who could finish each other's sentences. When Gerry succumbs to a terminal illness and dies, 30-year-old Holly is set adrift, unable to pick up the pieces. But with the help of a series of letters her husband left her before he died and a little nudging from an eccentric assortment of family and friends, she learns to laugh, overcome her fears, and discover a world she never knew existed.</p>	<p>This was the first book I ever read out of sheer choice and loved. I remember it being the week before the Summer holiday and whilst everyone was watching movies, I sat and read <i>P.S I love you</i>. It is captivating and most certainly pulls at the heart strings. What can I say? I'm a Romantic!</p>
	<p><i>The Colour Purple</i> by Alice Walker</p>	<p>Set in the deep American South between the wars, it is the tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Abused repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage. But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny. Gradually, Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves.</p>	<p>I read this for A Level during college and I could not put it down. The storyline is one that truly resonates with you. It is a classic and is truly inspirational – especially for young women. I particularly liked the colloquial language Walker uses as it gives a good insight on how illiterate people were back then. Most of all, I love the overwhelming strength of the female characters in this novel. Girl Power!</p>



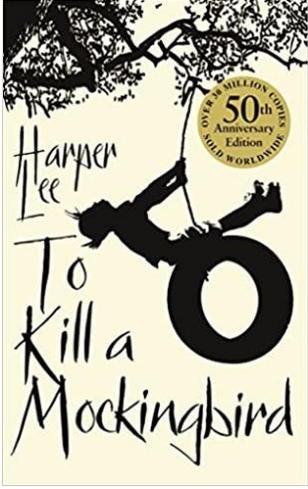
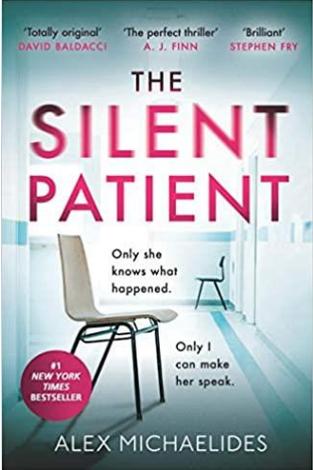
*Little Fires Everywhere*  
by Jodi Picoult

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned--from the layout of the winding roads, to the colours of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren--an enigmatic artist and single mother--who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

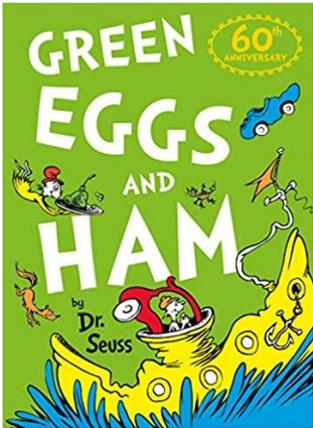
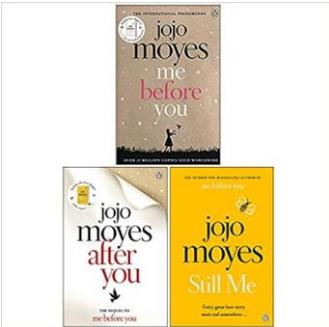
When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

This has been one of my most recent reads. It is an easy read that once started, is hard to put down. I loved that perfection is challenged in this book because, nobody is perfect. What works for one person/family, might not work for another – and that, is fine! I especially like the fact that this book has a cross-generational appeal seeing as though it delves into mother-daughter relationships, the intensity of teenage love and the danger of perfection. The author has also cleverly explored how white suburbia can be suffocating and push for conformity. As well as, portraying well-intentioned yet ignorant white and upper class people in comparison to less fortunate and privileged.

	<p>To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee</p>	<p>Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, <b>To Kill a Mockingbird</b> follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man wrongly accused.</p>	<p>“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it”.</p> <p>Need I say anymore? Set during the Great Depression, this book is a coming of age story with an in-built charm. A resigning example of courage and standing up to injustice, no matter how frightening that may be. A lesson which is still very much relevant today.</p>
	<p><i>The Silent Patient</i> by Alex Michaelides</p>	<p>Alicia Berenson’s life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London’s most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word.</p> <p>Alicia’s refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London.</p>	<p>Who doesn’t love a weird psychological thriller? This was a Book Club must read and it didn’t disappoint!</p> <p>It is intriguing from beginning to end with some weird little twists along the way. This is a good one to really sink your teeth into.</p>

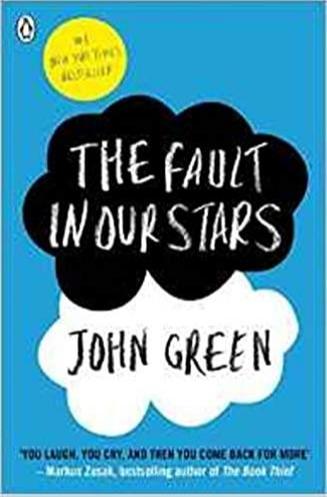
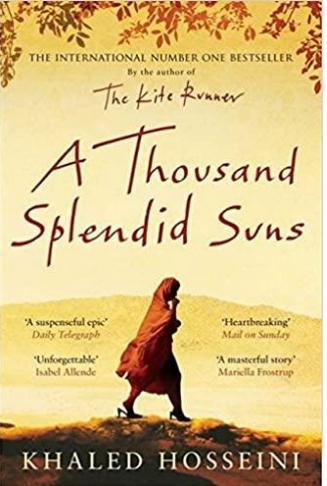
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		<p>Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him..</p>	
	<p><i>Green Eggs and Ham</i> by Dr. Seuss</p>	<p>“Do you like green eggs and ham?” asks Sam-I-am in this Beginner Book by Dr. Seuss. In a house or with a mouse? In a boat or with a goat? On a train or in a tree? Sam keeps asking persistently. With unmistakable characters and signature rhymes, Dr. Seuss’s beloved favourite has cemented its place as a children’s classic. In this most famous of cumulative tales, the list of places to enjoy green eggs and ham, and friends to enjoy them with, gets longer and longer. Follow Sam-I-am as he insists that this unusual treat is indeed a delectable snack to be savoured everywhere and in every way.</p>	<p>This is one of my son’s favourites therefore it is a must on any deserted island. We love the rhyme and the silliness of green eggs and ham. Not to mention the moral: you should try anything and everything before you decide that you don’t like it.</p>
	<p><i>Me Before You, After You &amp; Still Me</i> series by Jojo Moyes</p>	<p>They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose . . .</p> <p>Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he’s pretty sure he</p>	<p>This trilogy was the perfect holiday easy read and my absolute favourite guilty pleasure. It is a heartbreaking romantic novel of two people who fall in love who couldn’t have less in common. The characters although egocentric are very likable and you can’t help but put yourself in their shoes and try to see things from their perspective.</p>

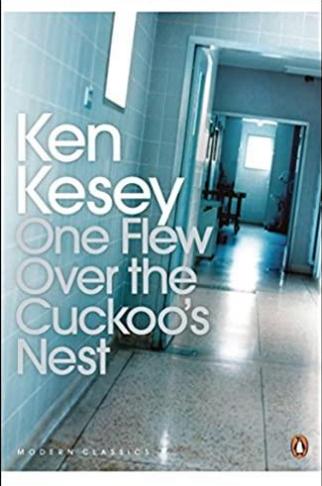
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		<p>cannot live the way he is.</p> <p>Will is acerbic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.</p>	
	<p><i>The Fault in our Stars</i> by John Green</p>	<p>Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p> <p>Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> is award-winning author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.</p>	<p>How the author manages to make the reader, smile, giggle, feel utter happiness when you expect to be met with tragedy is just genius!</p> <p>It is rich in words that leave you staring into space thinking.</p>
	<p><i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini</p>	<p><i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are</p>	<p>When this was chosen for our Book Club read, I can remember thinking, 'This couldn't be further away from what I would have chosen to read'. I guess, that's why I enjoyed it so much! I would never go to a library and choose this book – but, I'm so glad I read it.</p> <p>This novel is deeply moving which</p>

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		<p>inextricable from the history playing out around them.</p> <p>Propelled by the same storytelling instinct that made <i>The Kite Runner</i> a beloved classic, <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> is at once a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship. It is a striking, heart-wrenching novel of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love—a stunning accomplishment.</p>	<p>explores realistic events during an unforgiving time in Afghan history. The author explores and unlikely friendship and indestructible love for your family – whether they are blood related, or not.</p>
	<p><i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> by Ken Kesey</p>	<p>Tyrannical Nurse Ratched rules her ward in an Oregon State mental hospital with a strict and unbending routine, unopposed by her patients, who remain cowed by mind-numbing medication and the threat of electric shock therapy. But her regime is disrupted by the arrival of McMurphy – the swaggering, fun-loving trickster with a devilish grin who resolves to oppose her rules on behalf of his fellow inmates. His struggle is seen through the eyes of Chief Bromden, a seemingly mute half-Indian patient who understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the powers that keep them imprisoned. Ken Kesey's extraordinary first novel is an exuberant, ribald and devastatingly honest portrayal of the boundaries between sanity and madness.</p>	<p>This novel is shockingly powerful. Although it does have some very funny moments, it deals with some very serious dark undertones. It is a more challenging read due to the authorial voice but this is necessary to fully appreciate the intense characters who are bound within the walls of the psychiatric hospital. The book is compelling as it gives an insight of the horrors that abound on a psychiatrist ward and the norms that were accepted during this time period. Not to mention that this book was made into a fantastic movie starring one of my favourite actors: Jack Nicholson.</p>