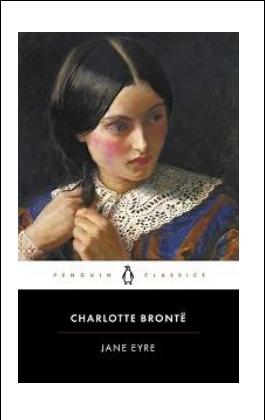
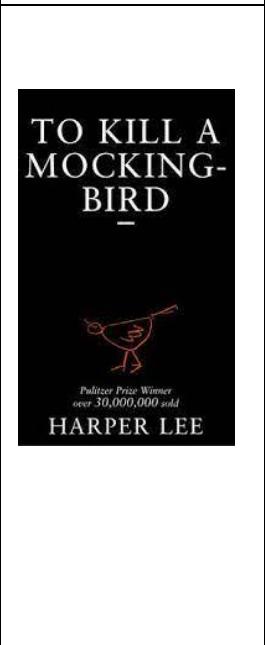
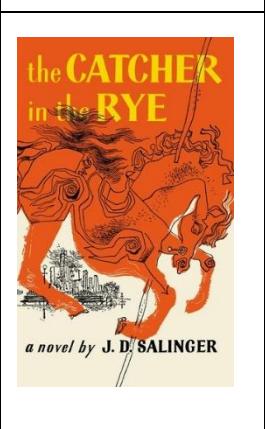
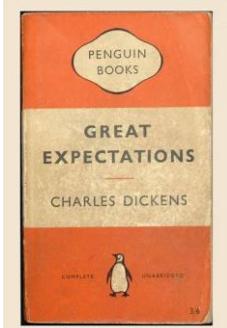
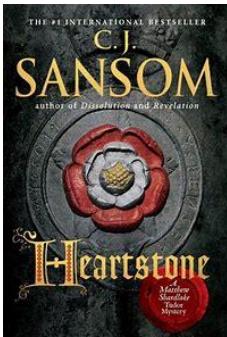
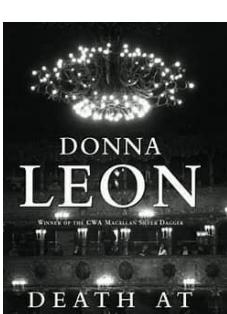
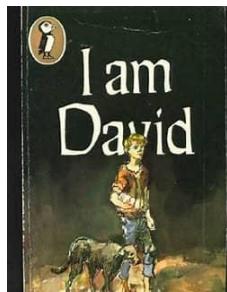
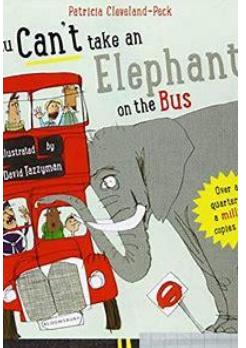
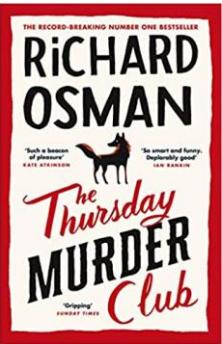
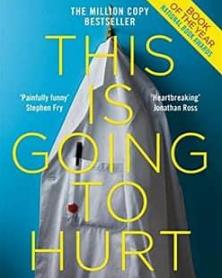


Anne Vernon's Desert Island Books

Book cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte	<p>Jane is forced to battle against a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order. All of which circumscribe her life and position when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr Rochester.</p>	<p>I go back to this book on a regular basis but especially in the winter months when it's cold and windy outside! I think I've always wanted to be Jane Eyre.</p>
	To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee	<p>The book is narrated by Scout Finch, a six-year-old tomboy who lives with her lawyer father Atticus and her ten-year-old brother Jem. During the novel Scout, Jem and their friend Dill try to make their reclusive neighbour Boo Radley leave his house. Boo has not been seen in Maycomb since he was a teenager. Many residents of Maycomb are racists and during the novel Atticus is asked to defend Tom Robinson, a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman.</p>	<p>I've read this book many times with classes and just for myself but it never fails to make me cry, smile and want to go out and do something good for others.</p>
	The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger	<p>In the novel, narrator Holden Caulfield leaves his prep school for an unsupervised weekend in New York City. Over the course of the story, Holden gradually reveals his feelings about his classmates, family, and a tragedy that has left him reeling.</p>	<p>I was introduced to this book in my teens by my middle sister – who is very good at knowing what I like to read. There are lots of parts that stick with me in this book. One particular part is the description of the snow falling in New York – I can immediately visualise it in my mind.</p>

	Great Expectations by Charles Dickens	<p>Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society. He thinks he knows where the money has come from but he turns out to be sadly mistaken. The story also follows Pip's dealings with Estella, a young woman he adores but who cannot return his love.</p>	<p>I'm a great Dickens fan and re-read certain ones across the year. It's about time to think about Christmas Carol again. But Great Expectations is probably my all-time favourite. I love the character of Pip and how he changes over the course of the book and comes to understand himself so much better. I equally like Magwitch the convict and Miss Havisham. My favourite quote is from Joe Gargery 'What larks Pip! What larks!'</p>
	Heartstone by C.J. Sansome	<p>In Heartstone, Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry VIII, is just managing to cling on to her crown. Through an old servant of hers, Shardlake (a lawyer) becomes embroiled in a strange story. A young ward may have been cheated of his rightful inheritance, as often happened.</p>	<p>It's fifth in the Shardlake series of books. I love history and a novel that combines it with a great storyline and also part of a series – what's not to like?</p>
	Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon	<p>A world-famous German opera conductor has died at La Fenice, and Commissario (Detective) Guido Brunetti pursues what appears to be a murder investigation without leads.</p>	<p>I like crime stories that aren't straightforward and make my brain work. This book is part of a series featuring Commissario Brunetti who is an Italian policeman based in Venice. You get lots of lovely descriptions of Venice and Italian food included.</p>
	I am David by Anne Holm	<p>It tells the story of a young boy who, with the help of a prison guard, escapes from a concentration camp in an unnamed Eastern European country (according to geographical clues, probably Bulgaria) and journeys to Denmark.</p>	<p>I read this in my very early teens and loved it. I managed to get an original copy recently which is exactly like the one that I first read. It might seem a sad story but it isn't, there is a lot to celebrate and be positive about.</p>

	<p>You can't take an elephant on the bus by Patricia Cleveland-Peck</p>	<p>Never put a camel in a sailing boat, or a tiger on a train, and don't even THINK about asking a whale to ride a bike ... This riotous picture book is filled with animals causing total disaster as they try to travel in the most unsuitable vehicles.</p>	<p>I love choosing picture books for my friends' children and grandchildren and this one is a favourite. It's funny and makes me laugh every time I read it with children. Lovely pictures help too.</p>
	<p>The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman</p>	<p>In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.</p>	<p>Again, a crime story but one that isn't full of blood and guts! I like the idea of the characters being from a retirement home which you wouldn't typically have as the main people investigating a murder. Also reminds me that at any age you can get up to all sorts of exciting things!</p>
	<p>This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay</p>	<p>This book is a revealing look at the daily reality of working as a doctor in the UK today, as experienced by one man who rose through the ranks of the country's National Healthcare System (NHS). At times painfully funny, and in others disturbingly grim, it is personal recollections and diary entries from author Adam Kay.</p>	<p>Especially because of the pandemic and the work of the NHS I found this book fascinating. It's a real 'warts and all' explanation about what it's like to be doctor from someone who ultimately left to become a writer and a comedienne.</p>