

Carlow County Library

Titles Discussed at Book Club Meetings

***Pompeii* by Robert Harris**

Harris recreates in spellbinding detail one of the most famous natural disasters of all time. And by focusing on the characters of an engineer and a scientist, he offers an entirely original perspective on the Roman world.

***The Outsider* by Albert Camus**

Set in Camus' native Algeria, this story centres around Meursault. The young French-Algerian leads an apparently unremarkable bachelor life until his involvement in a violent incident calls into question the fundamental values of society.

***That they may face the rising sun* by John Mc Gahern**

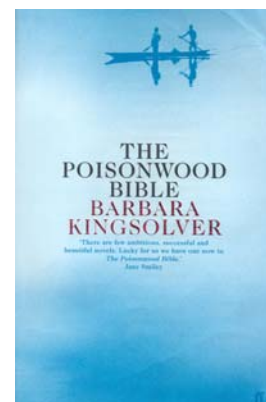
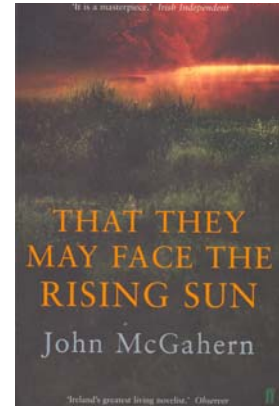
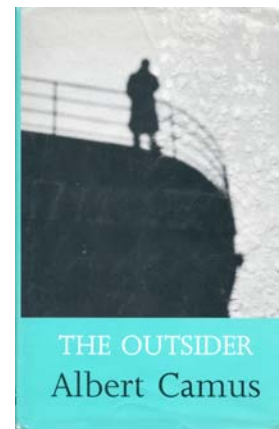
Joe and Kate Rutledge have come to rural Ireland from London in search of a different life. In passages of beauty and truth, the drama of a year in their lives and those of the memorable characters that move about them unfolds through action, the rituals of work, religious observances and play.

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

This is an adventure story about a young shepherd boy who learns how to live his dreams. This is a story which has been compared to the works of Richard Bach, and is aimed at the young and old alike.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

A fiery evangelist takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959, carrying all they need from home, but find it is



calamitously transformed on African soil. The tale recounts the family's tragic undoing and reconstruction.

Zola's *Germinal* by Emile Zola

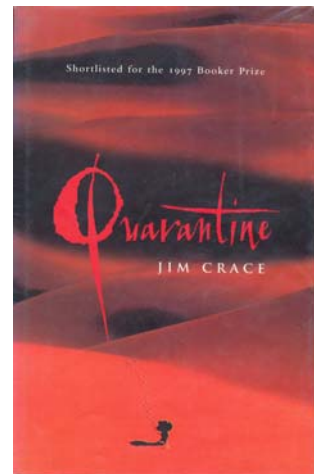
'Germinal' is the compelling portrait of life in a mining community. Zola examines the problems of industrial strife and traces the growing influence of socialism and anarchism.

The Rescue by Nicholas Sparks

Taylor McAden is a volunteer fireman who has never allowed a relationship with a woman to mature. At a road traffic accident he forms a relationship with a victim, a young single mother, that might just lead to a deeper commitment if he can allow it.

Quarantine by Jim Crace

From the author of *Continent*, *Arcadia* and *The Gift of Stones*, *Quarantine* is the story of Christ and his five companions fasting in the wilderness. Jim Crace's novel provides a modern account of the birth - and death - of faith itself.



Reading Lolita in Tehran by Nafisi Azar

When a radical Islamist in Nafisi's English class at Tehran University questions her decision to teach 'The Great Gatsby', she decides to let him put Gatsby on trial. When she is fired for refusing to wear a veil, she resumes her classes at home with a small group of female students.

Tender is the night by F Scott Fitzgerald

Tender is the Night is based upon the author's unhappy marriage, and was written as he was experiencing the tragedies of his wife's nervous breakdown and his own decline.

Small Island by Andrea Levy

Returning to England after the war Gilbert Joseph is treated very differently now that he is no longer in an RAF uniform. Joined by his wife Hortense, he rekindles a friendship with Queenie who takes in Jamaican lodgers. Can their dreams of a better life in England overcome the prejudice they face?

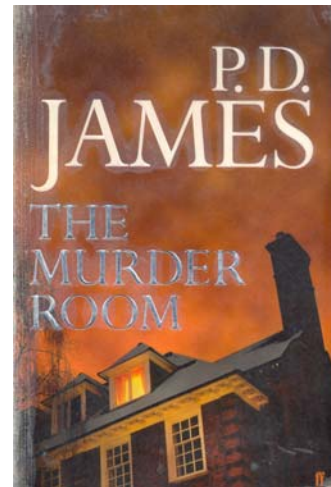


Plain Truth by Judi Piccoult

An Amish farmer finds the body of a baby hidden in his barn. When the police are summoned, they discover that the mother is an unmarried 18-year-old, and believe that the baby did not die of natural causes. Can Ellie Hathaway defend the girl?

Murder Room by P D James

A private museum near Hampstead Heath has been inherited by three siblings, all of whom are required by a trust to sign any new lease. Without the lease the museum will have to close. One brother, Neville Dupayne, is adamant he won't sign. Then his body is discovered in his still blazing car.



District & Circle by Seamus Heaney

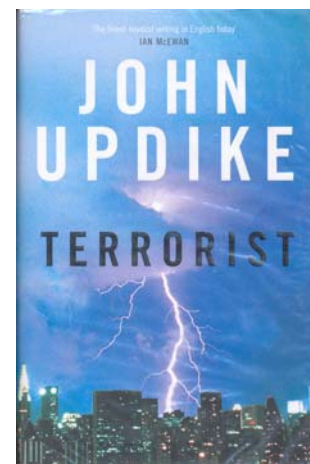
'District and Circle' is a new collection of prose poems and translations from Seamus Heaney. It offers resistance as the poet gathers his staying powers and stands his ground in the hiding places of love and excited language.

Jigs & Reels by Johanne Harris

In these 22 short stories by Joanne Harris, the miraculous goes hand-in-hand with the mundane, the sour with the sweet, and the beautiful, the grotesque, the seductive and the disturbing are never more than a step away.

Terrorist by John Updike

In this extraordinary and highly charged novel, John Updike, one of America's greatest living writers, tackles one of America's most burning issues - the threat of Islamist terror from within.

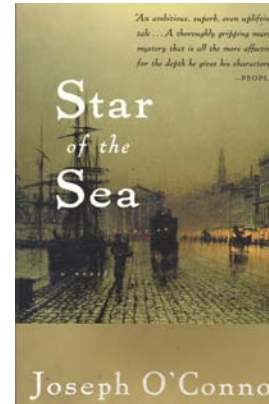


To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee

'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird'. This is a lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of the story - a black man charged with raping a white girl in the 30s.

Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor

During winter 1847, the Star of the Sea sets sail from Ireland for New York. Among the refugees are a maidservant, bankrupt Lord Merridith, an aspiring novelist and a maker of revolutionary ballads. Each is connected more deeply than they know. But a killer is stalking the decks, hungry for vengeance.



A Fine Balance by R Mistry

In the tiny flat of the widowed Dina Dalal, Ishvar and Omprakesh Darji, tailors who have been forced from the country into the city, and young student Maneck Kohlah are painfully putting together a new life, and making a family of sorts amidst crisis.

Hours of the Night by Sue Gee

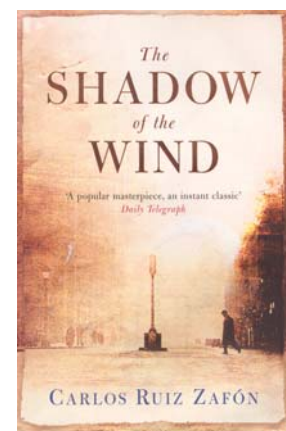
In the remote and tranquil Welsh borders the paths of 6 people cross and their lives are changed forever. Exploring the deepening relationships between these complex individuals, this is a tender and passionate novel about healing and salvation.

Voss by Patrick White

Set in 19th-century Australia, this is the story of the secret passion between an explorer and a young orphan. Although they have met only a few times, Voss and Laura are joined by overwhelming, obsessive feelings for each other.

Shadow of the wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Hidden in the heart of the old city of Barcelona is a labyrinthine library of obscure & forgotten titles that have long gone out of print. A man brings his 10-year-old son to the library & allows him to choose one book to keep. But as he grows up, several people seem inordinately interested in his find.



Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver

When Barbara Kingsolver and her family move from suburban Arizona to rural Appalachia, they take on a new challenge: to spend a year on a locally-produced diet, playing close attention to the provenance they consume. 'Animal, Vegetable, Miracle' makes a passionate case for putting the kitchen at the centre of family life.

The Gathering by Anne Enright

'The Gathering' is a family epic, condensed and clarified through Anne Enright's unblinking eye. It is also a sexual history: tracing the line of hurt and redemption through three generations - starting with the grandmother, Ada Merriman - showing how memories warp and family secrets fester.

The Bog of Cats by Marina Carr (play)

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

Set in the 50 years after the Civil War, this novel tells the story of the Trasks and the Hamiltons. Adam Trask marries Kate. When she abandons him and their twin sons to run an infamous brothel, the family is consumed in a bitter struggle.

