

THE BBC BIG READ

THE NATION'S TOP 100 BEST-LOVED NOVELS

The nation has spoken! And what we have said is that we love our classics, we love the books that stay with us from childhood and we love a gripping saga too. We might buy crime novels by the million, but when it came to votes not a single one made the British public's list of best-loved books. Science fiction is represented though, with great writing from authors such as Frank Herbert and Raymond E Feist. The big Nineteenth Century names such as Austen, Dickens and the Brontes feature heavily, alongside modern classics from the last two decades such as Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* and Patrick Suskind's *Perfume*. The big winner in the BBC Big Read Top 100 has to be children's fiction, which has 30 books on the list. Classics like *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Winnie the Pooh* rub shoulders with the best in modern children's writing by authors including Jacqueline Wilson, J K Rowling and Philip Pullman.

The Big Read series was broadcast on BBC Two from 18 October to 13 December 2003.

Web, SMS, phone and interactive voting ended on 11 December and only the phone vote was opened briefly for the duration of the final programme on 13 December.

The original source material can be found on the BBC website at :

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread/top100.shtml>

The full list is given below, both in order of the nation's preference and alphabetically by author's surname.

The full list of the Top 100 best-loved novels is (alphabetically by author's surname):

	AUTHOR		TITLE
AB			
	Douglas	ADAMS	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
	Richard	ADAMS	Watership Down
	Louisa May	ALCOTT	Little Women
	Jeffrey	ARCHER	Kane and Abel
	Jane	AUSTEN	Emma
	Jane	AUSTEN	Persuasion
	Jane	AUSTEN	Pride and Prejudice
	Malorie	BLACKMAN	Noughts and Crosses
	Enid	BLYTON	The Magic Faraway Tree
	Charlotte	BRONTE	Jane Eyre
	Emily	BRONTE	Wuthering Heights
	Frances Hodgson	BURNETT	The Secret Garden
CD			
	Meg	CABOT	The Princess Diaries
	Lewis	CARROLL	Alice in Wonderland
	Paulo	COELHO	The Alchemist
	Eoin	COLFER	Artemis Fowl
	Wilkie	COLLINS	The Woman in White
	Roald	DAHL	The BFG
	Roald	DAHL	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
	Roald	DAHL	Mathilda
	Roald	DAHL	The Twits
	Louis	De BERNIERES	Captain Corelli's Mandolin
	Charles	DICKENS	Bleak House
	Charles	DICKENS	A Christmas Carol
	Charles	DICKENS	David Copperfield
	Charles	DICKENS	Great Expectations
	Charles	DICKENS	A Tale of Two Cities
	Fyodor	DOSTOYEVSKY	Crime and Punishment
	Daphne	Du MAURIER	Rebecca
	Alexandre	DUMAS	The Count of Monte Cristo
EF			
	George	ELIOT	Middlemarch
	Sebastian	FAULKS	Birdsong

	Raymond E	FEIST	Magician
	Helen	FIELDING	Bridget Jones's Diary
	F Scott	FITZGERALD	The Great Gatsby
	Ken	FOLLETT	The Pillars of the Earth
	John	FOWLES	The Magus
GHI			
	Stella	GIBBONS	Cold Comfort Farm
	Arthur	GOLDEN	Memoirs of a Geisha
	William	GOLDING	Lord of the Flies
	Kenneth	GRAHAME	The Wind in the Willows
	Thomas	HARDY	Far from the Madding Crowd
	Thomas	HARDY	Tess of the D'Urbervilles
	Joseph	HELLER	Catch 22
	Frank	HERBERT	Dune
	Aldous	HUXLEY	Brave New World
	John	IRVINE	A Prayer for Owen Meany
JKL			
	James	JOYCE	Ulysses
	Jack	KEROUAC	On the Road
	Stephen	KING	The Stand
	Harper	LEE	To Kill a Mockingbird
	C S	LEWIS	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
MNO			
	Michelle	MAGORIAN	Goodnight Mister Tom
	Gabriel Garcia	MARQUEZ	Love in the Time of Cholera
	Gabriel Garcia	MARQUEZ	One Hundred Years of Solitude
	Jean	MAUEL	The Clan of the Cave Bear
	Colleen	McCULLOUGH	The Thorn Birds
	A A	MILNE	Winnie the Pooh
	Margaret	MITCHELL	Gone with the Wind
	L M	MONTGOMERY	Anne of Green Gables
	George	ORWELL	Nineteen Eighty-Four
	George	ORWELL	Animal Farm
PQR			
	Mervyn	PEAKE	Gormenghast
	Rosamunde	PILCHER	The Shell Seekers
	Terry	PRATCHETT	The Colour of Magic
	Terry	PRATCHETT	Good Omens
	Terry	PRATCHETT	Guards! Guards!
	Terry	PRATCHETT	Mort
	Terry	PRATCHETT	Night Watch
	Philip	PULLMAN	His Dark Materials
	Mario	PUZO	The Godfather
	Arthur	RANSOME	Swallows and Amazons
	J K	ROWLING	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
	J K	ROWLING	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
	J K	ROWLING	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
	J K	ROWLING	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
	J K	ROWLING	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
	Arundhati	ROY	The God of Small Things
	Salman	RUSHDIE	Midnight's Children
ST			
	Louis	SACHAR	Holes
	J D	SALINGER	The Catcher in the Rye
	Vikram	SETH	A Suitable Boy
	Anya	SETON	Katharine
	Anna	SEWELL	Black Beauty
	Neville	SHUTE	A Town Like Alice
	Dodie	SMITH	I Capture the Castle
	John	STEINBECK	The Grapes of Wrath
	John	STEINBECK	Of Mice and Men
	Robert Louis	STEVENSON	Treasure Island

Patrick	SUSKIND	Perfume
Donna	TARTT	The Secret History
J R R	TOLKIEN	The Hobbit
J R R	TOLKIEN	The Lord of the Rings
Leo	TOLSTOY	Anna Karenina
Leo	TOLSTOY	War and Peace
Robert	TRESSELL	The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists
UVW		
Evelyn	WAUGH	Brideshead Revisited
Jacqueline	WILSON	Double Act
Jacqueline	WILSON	Girls in Love
Jacqueline	WILSON	The Story of Tracy Beaker
Jacqueline	WILSON	Vicky Angel
XYZ		

The full list of the Top 100 best-loved novels is (in order of preference):

1. **The Lord of the Rings**, JRR Tolkien
2. **Pride and Prejudice**, Jane Austen
3. **His Dark Materials**, Philip Pullman
4. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**, Douglas Adams
5. **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, JK Rowling
6. **To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee
7. **Winnie the Pooh**, AA Milne
8. **Nineteen Eighty-Four**, George Orwell
9. **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**, CS Lewis
10. **Jane Eyre**, Charlotte Brontë
11. **Catch-22**, Joseph Heller
12. **Wuthering Heights**, Emily Brontë
13. **Birdsong**, Sebastian Faulks
14. **Rebecca**, Daphne du Maurier
15. **The Catcher in the Rye**, JD Salinger
16. **The Wind in the Willows**, Kenneth Grahame
17. **Great Expectations**, Charles Dickens
18. **Little Women**, Louisa May Alcott
19. **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**, Louis de Bernieres
20. **War and Peace**, Leo Tolstoy
21. **Gone with the Wind**, Margaret Mitchell
22. **Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone**, JK Rowling
23. **Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets**, JK Rowling
24. **Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban**, JK Rowling
25. **The Hobbit**, JRR Tolkien
26. **Tess Of The D'Urbervilles**, Thomas Hardy
27. **Middlemarch**, George Eliot
28. **A Prayer For Owen Meany**, John Irving
29. **The Grapes Of Wrath**, John Steinbeck
30. **Alice's Adventures In Wonderland**, Lewis Carroll
31. **The Story Of Tracy Beaker**, Jacqueline Wilson
32. **One Hundred Years Of Solitude**, Gabriel García Márquez
33. **The Pillars Of The Earth**, Ken Follett
34. **David Copperfield**, Charles Dickens
35. **Charlie And The Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl
36. **Treasure Island**, Robert Louis Stevenson
37. **A Town Like Alice**, Nevil Shute
38. **Persuasion**, Jane Austen
39. **Dune**, Frank Herbert
40. **Emma**, Jane Austen
41. **Anne Of Green Gables**, LM Montgomery
42. **Watership Down**, Richard Adams
43. **The Great Gatsby**, F Scott Fitzgerald

44. **The Count Of Monte Cristo**, Alexandre Dumas
45. **Brideshead Revisited**, Evelyn Waugh
46. **Animal Farm**, George Orwell
47. **A Christmas Carol**, Charles Dickens
48. **Far From The Madding Crowd**, Thomas Hardy
49. **Goodnight Mister Tom**, Michelle Magorian
50. **The Shell Seekers**, Rosamunde Pilcher
51. **The Secret Garden**, Frances Hodgson Burnett
52. **Of Mice And Men**, John Steinbeck
53. **The Stand**, Stephen King
54. **Anna Karenina**, Leo Tolstoy
55. **A Suitable Boy**, Vikram Seth
56. **The BFG**, Roald Dahl
57. **Swallows And Amazons**, Arthur Ransome
58. **Black Beauty**, Anna Sewell
59. **Artemis Fowl**, Eoin Colfer
60. **Crime And Punishment**, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
61. **Noughts And Crosses**, Malorie Blackman
62. **Memoirs Of A Geisha**, Arthur Golden
63. **A Tale Of Two Cities**, Charles Dickens
64. **The Thorn Birds**, Colleen McCollough
65. **Mort**, Terry Pratchett
66. **The Magic Faraway Tree**, Enid Blyton
67. **The Magus**, John Fowles
68. **Good Omens**, Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman
69. **Guards! Guards!**, Terry Pratchett
70. **Lord Of The Flies**, William Golding
71. **Perfume**, Patrick Süskind
72. **The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists**, Robert Tressell
73. **Night Watch**, Terry Pratchett
74. **Matilda**, Roald Dahl
75. **Bridget Jones's Diary**, Helen Fielding
76. **The Secret History**, Donna Tartt
77. **The Woman In White**, Wilkie Collins
78. **Ulysses**, James Joyce
79. **Bleak House**, Charles Dickens
80. **Double Act**, Jacqueline Wilson
81. **The Twits**, Roald Dahl
82. **I Capture The Castle**, Dodie Smith
83. **Holes**, Louis Sachar
84. **Gormenghast**, Mervyn Peake
85. **The God Of Small Things**, Arundhati Roy
86. **Vicky Angel**, Jacqueline Wilson
87. **Brave New World**, Aldous Huxley
88. **Cold Comfort Farm**, Stella Gibbons
89. **Magician**, Raymond E Feist
90. **On The Road**, Jack Kerouac
91. **The Godfather**, Mario Puzo
92. **The Clan Of The Cave Bear**, Jean M Auel
93. **The Colour Of Magic**, Terry Pratchett
94. **The Alchemist**, Paulo Coelho
95. **Katherine**, Anya Seton
96. **Kane And Abel**, Jeffrey Archer
97. **Love In The Time Of Cholera**, Gabriel García Márquez
98. **Girls In Love**, Jacqueline Wilson
99. **The Princess Diaries**, Meg Cabot
100. **Midnight's Children**, Salman Rushdie