



Conwy Libraries

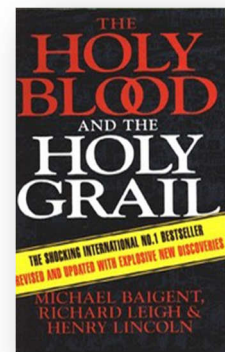
Reading Group Sets: Non-fiction

Baigent, Michael

e book – Available ✓

The Holy Blood And The Holy Grail

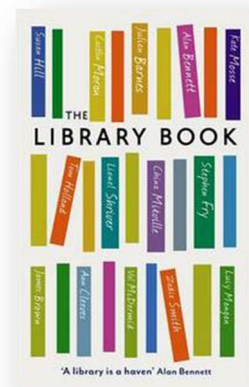
A nineteenth century French priest discovers something in his mountain village at the foot of the Pyrenees, which enabled him to amass and spend a fortune of millions of pounds. The tale seems to begin with buried treasure and then turns into an unprecedented historical detective story - a modern Grail quest leading back through cryptically coded parchments, secret societies, the Knights Templar, the Cathar heretics of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and a dynasty of obscure French kings deposed more than 1,300 years ago.

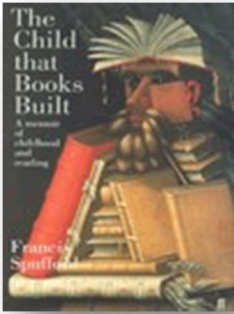
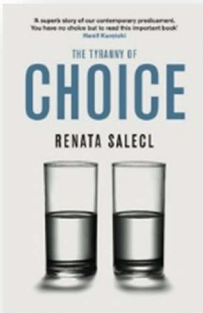
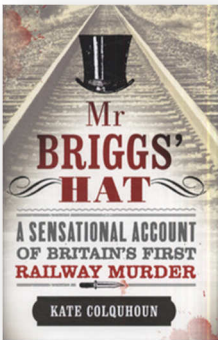


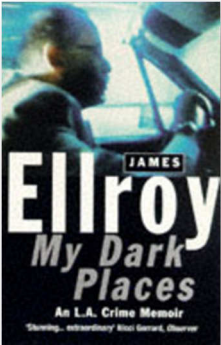
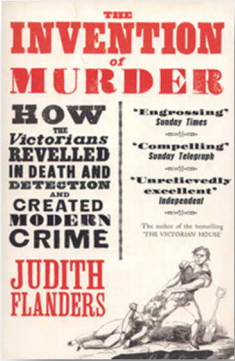
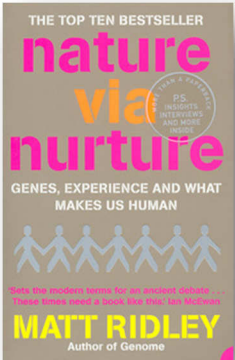
**Anand, Anita
Cleeves, Ann
Rai, Bali**

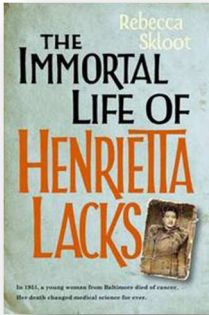
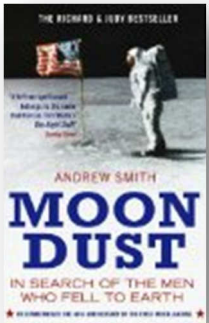
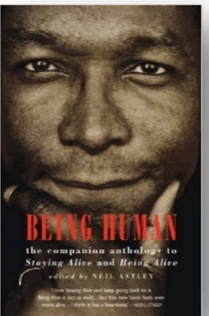
The Library Book

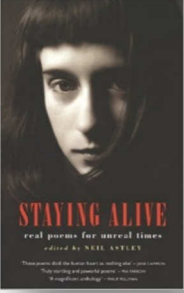
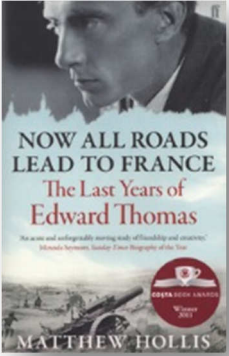

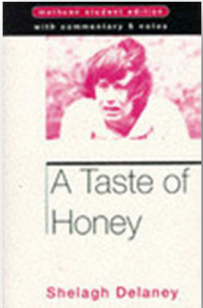
From Alan Bennett's 'Baffled at a Bookcase', to Lucy Mangan's 'Ten Library Rules', here famous writers tell us all about how libraries are used and why they're important.

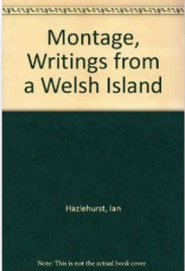
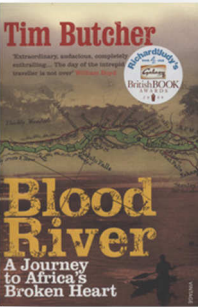
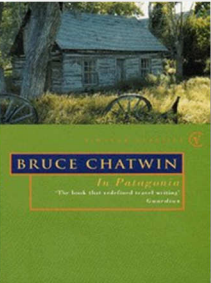
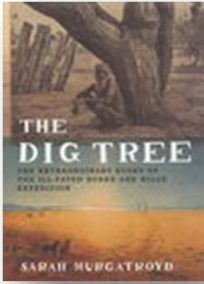


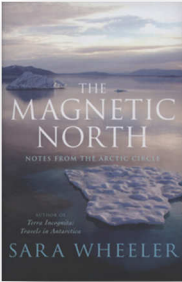
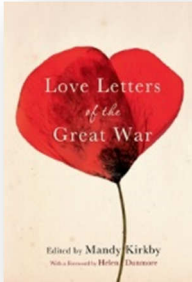
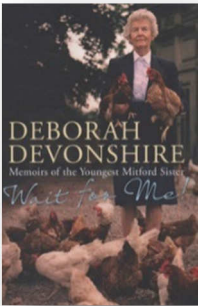
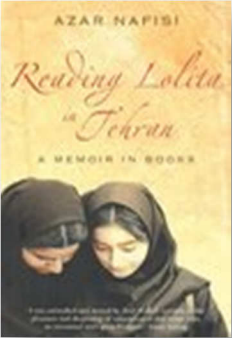
<p>Spufford, Francis</p>	<p>The Child That Books Built</p> <p>Fairy tales and <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and the Narnia books, <i>Little House on the Prairie</i> and The Earthsea Trilogy. What would you find if you went back and re-read your favourite books from childhood? Francis Spufford discovers both delight and sadness, in this widely celebrated memoir of a boy who retreats into books, faced with a tragedy in his family.</p>	
<p>Salecl, Renata</p>	<p>The Tyranny of Choice</p> <p>We are encouraged from all sides to view our lives as being full of choices. Like the products on a supermarket shelf, our careers, our relationships, our bodies, our very identities seem to be there for the choosing. But paradoxically this seeming freedom to choose can create extreme anxiety, and feelings of inadequacy and guilt. <i>The Tyranny of Choice</i> explores how late capitalism's shrill exhortations to 'be oneself' can be a tyranny which only leads to ever-greater disquiet and how insistence on choice being a purely individual matter prevents social change.</p>	
<p>Colquhoun, Kate</p> <p>Available on audio ✓</p>	<p>Mrs Brigg's Hat</p> <p>On the 9th of July 1864, Thomas Briggs walked through Fenchurch Station and entered carriage 69 on the 9.45 Hackney-bound train - little did he know that he was about to travel into history. In 'Mr Briggs' Hat', Kate Colquhoun unravels the mysteries of one of the most gripping murder investigations of the age.</p>	

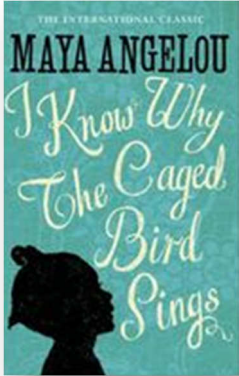
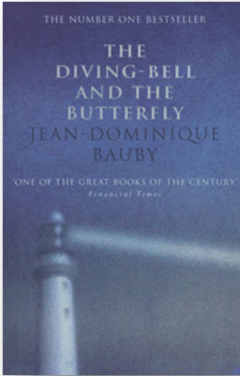
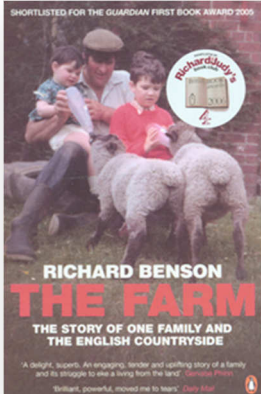
<p>Ellroy, James</p>	<p>My Dark Places</p> <p>America's greatest crime writer investigates his mother's murder. On 21 June 1958, Geneva Hilliker Ellroy left her home in California. She was found strangled the next day. Her ten year-old son James had been with her estranged husband all weekend and was informed of her death on his return. Her murderer was never found, but her death had an enduring effect on her son - he spent his teens and early adult years as a wino, petty burglar and derelict.</p>	
<p>Flanders, Judith</p>	<p>The Invention of Murder</p> <p>This text is about 19th-century Britain's fascination with good quality murder. Murder during this period was ubiquitous - not necessarily in quantity but in quality. This was the era of penny-bloods, early crime fiction and melodramas for the masses. It was a time when murder and entertainment were firmly entwined.</p>	
<p>Ridley, Matt</p>	<p>Nature via Nurture</p> <p>Acclaimed author Matt Ridley's thrilling follow-up to his bestseller Genome. Armed with the extraordinary new discoveries about our genes, Ridley turns his attention to the nature versus nurture debate to bring the first popular account of the roots of human behaviour.</p>	

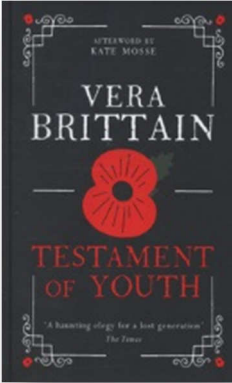
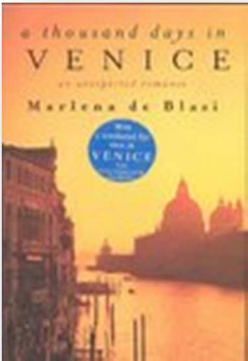
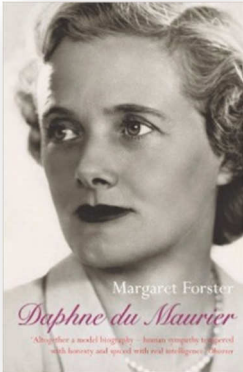
<p>Skloot, Rebecca</p>	<p>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</p> <p>Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cancer cells became one of the most important tools in medicine. Rebecca Skloot takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in search of Henrietta's story.</p>	
<p>Smith, Andrew</p>	<p>Moondust</p> <p>In 1999, Andrew Smith was interviewing Charlie Duke, astronaut and moon walker, for the Sunday Times. During the course of the interview, which took place at Duke's Texan home, the telephone rang and Charlie left the room to answer it. When he returned, some twenty minutes later, he seemed visibly upset. It seemed that he'd just heard that, the previous day, one of his fellow moon walkers, the astronaut Pete Conrad, had died. 'Now there's only nine of us,' he said. Only nine. Which meant that, one day not long from now, there would be none, and when that day came, no one on earth would have known the giddy thrill of gazing back at us from the surface of the moon.</p>	
<p>Astley, Neil (Ed)</p>	<p>Being Human</p> <p>The companion anthology to "Staying Alive" and "Being Alive". "Being Human" is the third book in the "Staying Alive" poetry trilogy. "Staying Alive" and its sequel "Being Alive" have introduced many thousands of new readers to contemporary poetry. "Being Human" is a companion volume to those two books - a world poetry anthology offering an even broader, international selection of "real poems for unreal times".</p>	

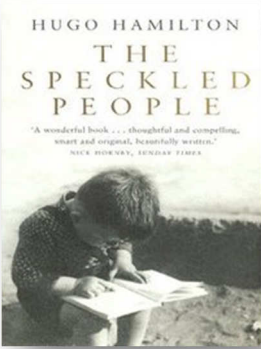

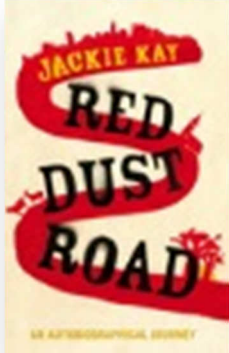
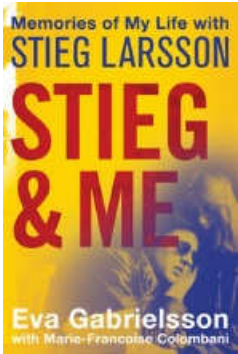
<p>Astley, Nick (Ed)</p>	<p>Staying Alive</p> <p>'Staying Alive' is an international anthology of 500 life-affirming poems fired by belief in the human and the spiritual at a time when much in the world feels unreal, inhuman and hollow. These are poems of great personal force connecting our aspirations with our humanity, helping us stay alive to the world and stay true to ourselves.</p>	
<p>Hollis, Matthew</p>	<p>Now All Roads Lead To France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas</p> <p>Edward Thomas was perhaps the most beguiling and influential of First World War poets. 'Now All Roads Lead to France' is an account of his final five years, centred on his extraordinary friendship with Robert Frost and Thomas's fatal decision to fight in the war.</p>	
<p>Eliot, T. S</p>	<p>The Cocktail Party</p> <p>'Obviously something more than a successful play, it is the practical demonstration of a patently conceived theory of dramatic form, and as such of high historical interest.' <i>Times Literary Supplement</i>.</p>	
<p>Delaney, Shelagh</p>	<p>A Taste of Honey</p> <p>'Miss Delaney brings real people on to her stage...she is busy recording the wonder of life as she lives it' Kenneth Tynan, Observer A Taste of Honey became a sensational theatrical success when first produced in London by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop in 1958. Now established as a modern classic, this comic and poignant play, by a then nineteen-year-old working-class Lancashire girl, was praised</p>	

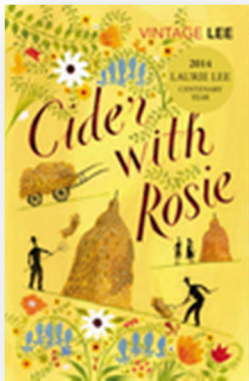
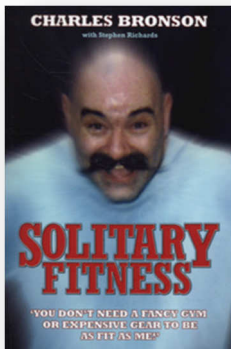
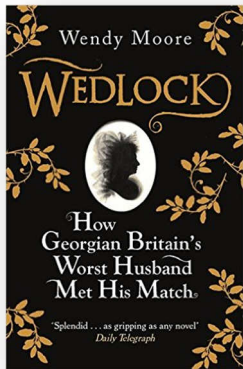
	<p>at its London premiere by Graham Greene as having 'all the freshness of Mr Osborne's Look Back in Anger and a greater maturity.</p>	
<p>Various</p>	<p>Montage: Writings from a Welsh Island</p> <p>This book is a 'unique collection of work by contemporary Anglesey writers, with illustrations by a local artist. It includes memoirs, ghost stories, history and poetry', and is a wonderful bilingual compilation containing some very creative writing by many local authors.</p>	
<p>Butcher, Tim</p>	<p>Blood River</p> <p>'Blood River' is a readable account of an African country now virtually inaccessible to the outside world and what perhaps one of the most daring and adventurous journeys a journalist has made.</p>	
<p>Chatwin, Bruce</p>	<p>In Patagonia</p> <p>Beautifully written and full of wonderful descriptions and intriguing tales, <i>In Patagonia</i> is an account of Bruce Chatwin's travels to a remote country in search of a strange beast and his encounters with the people whose fascinating stories delay him on the road.</p>	
<p>Murgatroyd, Sarah</p>	<p>The Dig Tree</p> <p>In 1860, Australia remained the truly dark continent. Although there were European settlements in its south, much of the north remained unknown and dangerous. But things were changing. On 20th August, 1860, The Victorian Exploring Expedition left Melbourne to make</p>	

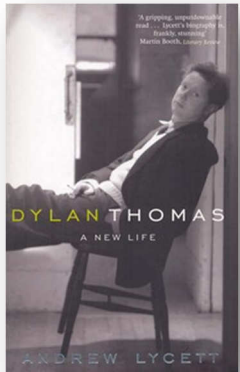
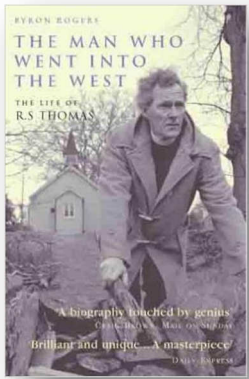
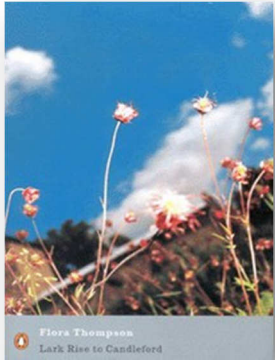
	the journey into the Gulf of Carpentaria in the northern coast.	
Wheeler, Sarah	<p>The Magnetic North</p> <p>Smashing through the Arctic Ocean with the crew of a Russian icebreaker, herding reindeer across the tundra with Lapps and shadowing the Trans-Alaskan pipeline with truckers, Sara Wheeler uncovers the beautiful, brutal reality of the Arctic. This book is a spicy confection of history, science and reflection.</p>	
Kirkby, Mandy (Ed)	<p>Love Letters of the Great War</p> <p>A powerful collection of love letters shared between soldiers and their sweethearts during World War I.</p>	
Devonshire, Deborah	<p>Wait For Me!</p> <p>Deborah Devonshire is a natural writer with a knack for the telling phrase and for hitting the nail on the head. She tells the story of her upbringing, lovingly and wittily describing her parents, she talks candidly about her brother and sisters, finally setting the record straight.</p>	
Nafisi, Azar	<p>Reading Lolita in Tehran</p> <p>We all have dreams—things we fantasize about doing and generally never get around to. This is the story of Azar Nafisi's dream and of the nightmare that made it come true. For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafisi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature.</p>	

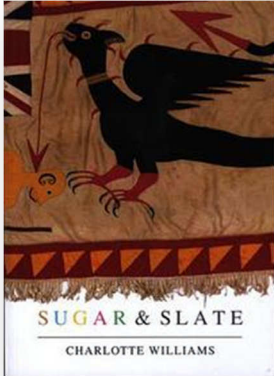
<p>Angelou, Maya</p>	<p>I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings</p> <p>Maya Angelou's seven volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration. In this first volume of her six books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s.</p>	
<p>Bauby, Jean-Dominique</p>	<p>The Diving - Bell And The Butterfly</p> <p>'Locked-in syndrome: paralysed from head to toe, the patient, his mind intact, is imprisoned inside his own body, unable to speak or move. In my case, blinking my left eyelid is my only means of communication.' In December 1995, Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor-in-chief of French 'Elle' and the father of two young children, suffered a massive stroke and found himself paralysed and speechless, but entirely conscious, trapped by what doctors call 'locked-in syndrome'.</p>	
<p>Benson, Richard</p>	<p>The Farm</p> <p>When Richard Benson was growing up he felt like 'the village idiot with O'levels' - glowing school reports aren't much help when you're trying to help a sow give birth, or drive a power harrow in a straight line without getting half the hedgerow stuck in the tines. He left Yorkshire to work as a journalist in London, but returned when his dad called with the news that they were going to have to sell the family farm, and, in so doing, leave the home and livelihood that the Bensons had worked for generations.</p>	

<p>Brittain, Vera</p>	<p>Testament of Youth</p> <p>This title tells one woman's unforgettable record of the First World War, 'Testament of Youth' is in spirit and impact as powerful a classic as 'All Quiet on the Western Front' and 'Goodbye to All That' - a haunting elegy for a lost generation.</p>	
<p>De Blasi, Marlene</p>	<p>A Thousand Days in Venice</p> <p>When Fernando spots her in a Venice cafe and knows immediately that she is The One, Marlena de Blasi is caught off guard. A divorced American woman travelling through Italy, she thought she was satisfied with her life. Yet within a few months, she quits her job as a chef, sells her house, kisses her two grown-up kids goodbye, and moves to Venice. Once there, she finds herself sitting in sugar-scented pasticceria, strolling through sixteenth-century palazzi, renovating an apartment overlooking the seductive Adriatic Sea, and preparing to wed a virtual stranger in an ancient stone church.</p>	
<p>Forster, Margaret</p>	<p>Daphne Du Maurier</p> <p><i>Rebecca</i>, published in 1938, brought its author instant international acclaim, capturing the popular imagination with its haunting atmosphere of suspense and mystery. du Maurier was immediately established as the queen of the psychological thriller. But the more fame this and her other books encouraged, the more reclusive Daphne du Maurier became.</p>	

<p>Hamilton, Hugo</p>	<p>The Speckled People</p> <p>The childhood world of Hugo Hamilton, born and brought up in Dublin, is a confused place. His father, a sometimes brutal Irish nationalist, demands his children speak Gaelic, while his mother, a softly spoken German emigrant who has been marked by the Nazi past, speaks to them in German.</p>	
<p>Jones, Kath</p>	<p>Accident</p> <p>On 3 July 1992 two cars collided on a country road between Crosshands and Llandeilo. The victim, Professor Gareth Elwyn Jones, who was at the time, the Head of the Education Department at Aberystwyth University was left paralysed. He faced months in hospital, together with the prospect of loss of career and lifestyle. In Accident the story of the family's heartache is retold by his wife, Kath Jones.</p>	
<p>Kay, Jackie</p>	<p>Red Dust Road</p> <p>In this revelatory and redemptive book Jackie Kay tells the story of her own life. It is a book about belonging and beliefs, strangers and family, biology and destiny and what makes us who we are.</p>	
<p>Gabrielsson, Eva</p>	<p>Stieg and Me</p> <p>There is only one person who can tell Stieg Larsson's story other than himself, his lifelong companion and muse, Eva Gabrielsson. Here she tells the story of their 30-year romance, of Stieg's upbringing and early years and how this shaped his morals and personality.</p>	

<p>Lee, Laurie</p>	<p>Cider with Rosie</p> <p>This is a vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belonging to a now distant past.</p>	
<p>Sheppard, Robin</p>	<p>A Solitary Confinement</p> <p>Charlie Bronson has spent three decades in solitary confinement, and yet has stayed fit as a fiddle, gaining several world strength and fitness records in the process. In this guide to getting fit and staying fit, he reveals just how he's done it.</p>	
<p>Moore, Wendy</p>	<p>Wedlock: How Georgian Britain's Worst</p> <p>WEDLOCK is the remarkable story of the Countess of Strathmore and her marriage to Andrew Robinson Stoney. Mary Eleanor Bowes was one of Britain's richest young heiresses. She married the Count of Strathmore who died young, and pregnant with her lover's child, Mary became engaged to George Gray. Then in swooped Andrew Robinson Stoney. Mary was bowled over and married him within the week.</p>	

<p>Lycett, Andrew</p>	<p>Dylan Thomas: A new life</p> <p>Dylan Thomas was a romantic and controversial figure; a poet who lived to excess and died young. An inventive genius with a gift for both lyrical phrases and impish humour, he also wrote for films and radio, and was renowned for his stage performances. He became the first literary star in the age of popular culture - a favourite of both T.S. Eliot and John Lennon.</p>	
<p>Rogers, Byron</p>	<p>The Man Who Went Into The West; The Life Of R. S Thomas</p> <p>Byron Rogers' biography of Wales's national poet and vicar, R.S. Thomas has been hailed as a 'masterpiece', even as a work of 'genius', by reviewers from Craig Brown to the Archbishop of Canterbury.</p> <p>Within someone considered a wintry, austere and unsociable curmudgeon, Rogers has unearthed an extremely funny story – 'riotously' so, in Rowan Williams' words.</p>	
<p>Thompson, Flora</p>	<p>Lark Rise To Candleford</p> <p>This trilogy, based on Flora Thompson's own experiences during childhood and youth, tells the story of three closely related Oxfordshire communities. It chronicles May Day celebrations and the daily lives of craftsmen, friends and relations.</p>	

<p>Williams, Charlotte</p>	<p>Sugar and Slate</p> <p>As the daughter of a white Welsh-speaking mother and black father from Guyana, Charlotte Williams's childhood world was one of mixed messages dominated by the feeling that "somehow to be half-Welsh and half Afro-Caribbean was to be half of something but never quite anything whole at all." Sugar and Slate tells the fascinating story of her journey of self-discovery, from the small north Wales town of her birth to Africa, the Caribbean and back to Wales. What begins as a journey becomes a remarkable confrontation with herself and with the idea of Wales and Welshness.</p>	
<p>Winterson, Jeanette</p> <p>Available on audio ✓</p>	<p>Why be Happy when you can be Normal?</p> <p>This book is the story of a life's work to find happiness. It is the story of how the painful past Jeanette Winterson thought she had written over and repainted returned to haunt her later life, and sent her on a journey into madness and out again, in search of her real mother.</p>	