

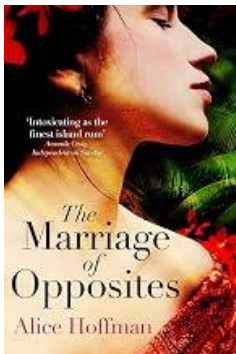
Book Lovers Reading Group

The Book Lovers Reading Group has met monthly for much of Newbury U3A's **35 years**. Our members have brought a wonderful diversity of backgrounds, opinions and reading tastes, leading to lively discussions not only about the books themselves but also about the wider themes and ideas they explore. Our last **35** titles have ranged from the incisive journalism of **Empire of Pain** by Patrick Radden Keefe to a gentle story of self discovery in **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** by Rachel Joyce.

Below is a selection of ten titles read between March 2023 and July 2026, together with some of our group's reflections.

The Marriage of Opposites

Alice Hoffman

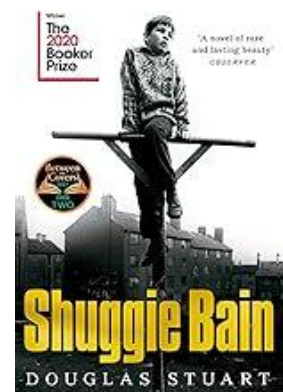


A fascinating story set on St Thomas in the Caribbean, following the family of the artist, Camille Pissarro. We particularly loved the vivid descriptions of the island.

Shuggie Bain

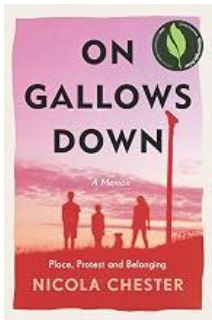
Douglas Stuart

A powerful and challenging novel that rewarded perseverance and gave a remarkable insight into a very different social world.



On Gallows Down

Nicola Chester



A beautifully written celebration of nature by local campaigner and author, Nicola Chester.

One member described her writing as 'lyrical prose'.

The Giver of Stars

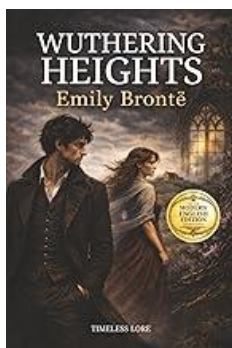
Jo Jo Moyes

An evocative story of the packhorse libraries in the Appalachian Mountains in 1930s America. We loved the sense of place and time, despite occasional sentimentality.



Wuthering Heights

Emily Brontë



A timeless classic whose violence, cruelty and emotional intensity prompted lively discussion.

The Clockmaker's Daughter

Kate Morton

An intriguing mystery in which the house itself becomes the central character. An enjoyable read.



Unsheltered

Barbara Kingsolver

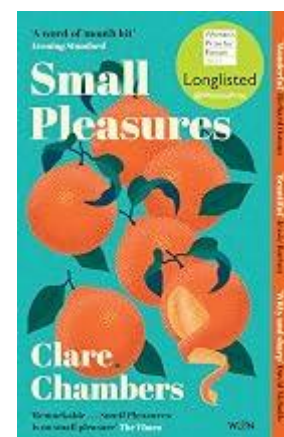


An engaging family saga spanning two centuries from one of America's leading contemporary novelists.

Small Pleasures

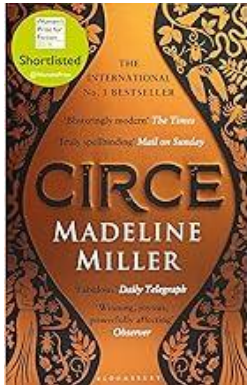
Clare Chambers

A favourite with many members for its sensitive portrayal of 1950s life. A strange story but with intriguing characters we could engage with.



Circe

Madeline Miller

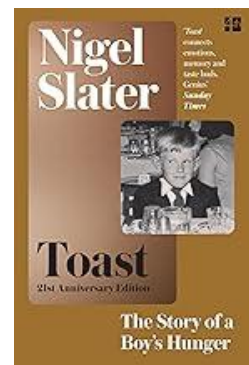


An imaginative retelling of Greek mythology that divided opinion but generated excellent discussion.

Toast

Nigel Slater

This food-centred memoir evoked many memories of 1950s childhood meals.



Thirty-five years, hundreds of books, countless conversations, and enduring friendships.