



PENGUIN DOMINATES THE BIG READ TOP 100

London, 17 May 2003 The nation's 100 best-loved novels will be unveiled in a television programme aired on BBC 2 tonight. Penguin publishes forty-five of the titles, reinforcing Penguin's position as the leading brand in consumer publishing, and the home of books people love to read.

Managing Director of Penguin, Helen Fraser is delighted with Penguin's strong representation on the list. "Penguin occupies a unique position in the book world. Since Allen Lane's 1935 commitment to publish good quality fiction at an attractive price, Penguin has continued to offer the broadest possible range of paperbacks to appeal to all tastes: from Homer to Hornby. The high number of Penguin titles on the BBC's list is a testament to the brand's enduring appeal."

Penguin relaunched its Black Classics list in February 2003 for the first time in almost twenty years. Penguin Classics were part of Allen Lane's mission to "democratise learning" and bring the greatest literature within reach of everyone. Nineteen of the top 100 books are available in the newly designed format. In many cases the editions contain new editorial material, expanded introductions, useful chronologies of authors' lives and works and a redesigned text.

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy (intro by Richard Pevear, preface - John Bayley)
Bleak House – Charles Dickens (intro by Nicola Bradbury, preface - Terry Eagleton)
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens (intro by Michael Slater)
The Count of Monte Cristo – Alexandra Dumas (intro by Robin Buss)
Crime and Punishment – Dostoyevksy (intro by David McDuff)
David Copperfield – Charles Dickens (intro by Jeremy Tambling)
Emma – Jane Austen (intro by Fiona Stafford)
Far from the Madding Crowd – Thomas Hardy (intro by Rosemarie Morgan)
Great Expectations – Charles Dickens (intro by David Trotter)
Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte (intro by Michael Mason)
Middlemarch – George Elliot (intro by Rosemary Ashton)
Persuasion – Jane Austen (intro by Gillian Beer)
Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen (intro by Vivien Jones)
A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens (intro by Richard Maxwell)
Tess of the D'Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy (intro by Margaret Higonnet)
Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson (intro by John Seelye)
War and Peace – Leo Tolstoy (intro by Rosemary Edmonds)
The Woman in White – Wilkie Collins (intro by Matthew Sweet)
Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte (intro by Pauline Nester, preface – Lucasta Miller)

Here are some contemporary fans of the classics that appear in the top 100 list:

"*Middlemarch* - Jane Austen with passion and amplitude" – **Martin Amis**

"*Anna Karenina* - all of humanity is in it, one way or the other." - **Simon Schama**

"*Middlemarch* by George Eliot" – **Cherie Booth**

"*War and Peace* by Tolstoy" – **Doris Lessing**

"*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen" – **Iain Duncan Smith**

"*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens - the first great and perhaps still the greatest novel



“*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens” - **Andrew Motion**

“My favourite classic novel is *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.” – **Julie Burchill**

“*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens and *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo, not only because they are great stories but because they were turned into wonderful musicals which were great success for me.” – **Sir Cameron Mackintosh**

“*Persuasion* by Jane Austen” – **Julian Barnes**

“*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy” – **Susan Greenfield**

Nigel Wilcockson, Publishing Director for Penguin Classics commented, “I’m delighted to find so many classics listed among the nation’s 100 best-loved novels – it’s a real testament to their enduring appeal and their power to speak afresh to each new generation. They remain best-sellers many decades after they were first published.”

The remaining adult authors are either Penguin Modern classics – such as Orwell, Steinbeck and Joyce, or are books that feature among Penguin’s perennial bestsellers:

1984 - George Orwell (intro by Ben Pimlott)

Animal Farm – George Orwell (intro by Malcolm Bradbury)

Brideshead Revisited – Evelyn Waugh

Catcher in the Rye – J D Salinger

Cold Comfort Farm – Stella Gibbons

Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck

The Great Gatsby – F Scott Fitzgerald (intro by Tony Tanner)

Love in the Time of Cholera – Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck

On the Road – Jack Kerouac

One Hundred Years of Solitude – Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Perfume – Patrick Suskind

The Secret History – Donna Tartt

Ulysses – James Joyce



PUFFIN AND THE BIG READ

30% of the top 100 are children’s titles, and Penguin’s children’s imprint, Puffin publishes eleven titles on the list (not including its editions of some of the adult titles mentioned above):

Anne of Green Gables – L M Montgomery

Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer

The BFG – Roald Dahl

Black Beauty – Anna Sewell

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – Roald Dahl

Goodnight Mister Tom – Michelle Magorian

Little Women – Louisa May Alcott

Matilda – Roald Dahl

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Twits – Roald Dahl



The list contains four titles by Roald Dahl. Puffin has published Roald Dahl's hugely popular stories since the early 1970s. In 2003 nearly thirteen years after his death he is still one of the most widely read and bestselling authors in the UK with approximately a million copies of his books sold every year.

Roald Dahl's widow, Felicity Dahl says "It is wonderful to see four of Roald's books on the list. Over the past forty or so years generations of children have fallen in love with Roald's stories. He would have been thrilled that children today are getting the same joy from these books as their parents did when they were young."

Francesca Dow, Managing Director of Puffin, commented, "It's wonderful to see such a range of old and new favourites on the list - and that so many of these are Puffin's. 'With newcomers such as *Artemis Fowl* and firm favourites such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* what better confirmation that Puffin, after more than 60 years, continues its great tradition of publishing the finest books that children really want to read."

Information about all forty-five Penguin titles on the Big Read top 100 list can be found on the penguin website at www.penguin.co.uk.

www.penguinclassics.com is also an excellent resource for discovering more about the classics titles on the list. Here you will find articles, extracts and experts to provide background on all the classics published by Penguin. Including essays by: Lisa Appignanesi on *Anna Karenina*; Kate Kellaway on Frances Hodgson Burnett; Sarah Waters on *Great Expectations*, as well as a lively discussion forum often focussing on people's favourite books.

Information about our children's titles can be found on www.puffin.co.uk and from there you can link through to Roald Dahl and Eoin Colfer sites.



Complete list of Penguin titles from the Big Read Top 100: (alphabetical by title):

1984	George Orwell
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	CS Lewis
Animal Farm	George Orwell
Anna Karenina	Leo Tolstoy
Anne of Green Gables	LM Montgomery
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer
The BFG	Roald Dahl
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell
Bleak House	Charles Dickens
Brideshead Revisited	Evelyn Waugh
The Catcher in the Rye	JD Salinger
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens
Cold Comfort Farm	Stella Gibbons
The Count of Monte Cristo	Alexander Dumas
Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoyevsky
David Copperfield	Charles Dickens
Emma	Jane Austen
Far From the Madding Crowd	Thomas Hardy
Goodnight Mr Tom	Michelle Magorian
The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens
The Great Gatsby	F Scott Fitzgerald
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
Love in the Time of Cholera	Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Matilda	Roald Dahl
Middlemarch	George Elliot
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck
On the road	Jack Kerouac
One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Perfume	Patrick Suskind
Persuasion	Jane Austen
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Secret History	Donna Tartt
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens
Tess of the D'Ubervilles	Thomas Hardy
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
The Twits	Roald Dahl
Ulysses	James Joyce
War and Peace	Leo Tolstoy
Watership Down	Richard Adams
The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame
The Woman in White	Wilkie Collins
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte