

# Food for Soul

A unique compilation of Movies and Books to keep you on the edge!

## Part 1- MOVIES

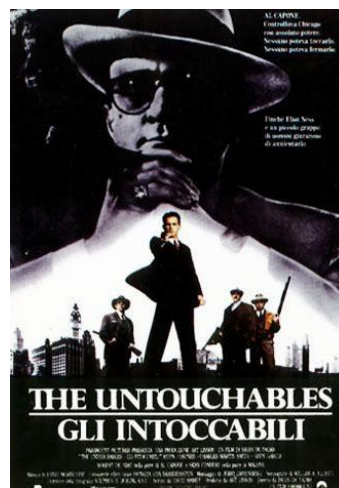
This is a beginner's list of movies that will stir your imagination. We recommend that you watch these carefully, over the next few months and try to understand the director's message. These are interesting, but difficult movies. They will force you to question some of your beliefs, and will help your thought patterns take on new dimensions. Happy viewing!

### 1. **THE UNTOUCHABLES**

"The Power of Character"

Kevin Costner, Sean Connery, Robert de Niro

Kevin Costner became a star as the legendary "G-Man" Eliot Ness in *THE UNTOUCHABLES*, a slam-bang gangster saga with bravura direction by Brian De Palma, a witty David Mamet script and superb acting, including Robert De Niro as Al Capone and Sean Connery's Oscar-winning turn as a wily veteran cop. It's a terrifically entertaining and exciting movie. The story is almost totally fictionalized (Ness never killed Frank Nitti and had nothing to do with Capone's income-tax rap), but this becomes completely irrelevant in light of the beautifully crafted film's accomplishments. De Palma, who has often been accused of emphasizing style over content, here has a strong and substantial script to work with, and his flashy direction meshes perfectly with the film's flamboyantly operatic design. The script may not be true to history, but it's true to human emotion and very moving, personalizing the battle between good and evil by concentrating on the impact that violence and corruption has on families. The concept of family and children as being representative of all that's good and pure becomes the film's central motif, as virtually every act of violence is followed by a tender scene between Ness and his wife and kids. Thus, it makes perfect sense that the film's most famous set-piece involves a mother and her child—the 10-minute long train-station sequence with a baby carriage bouncing down the steps in slow-motion as Ness and Capone's gang shoot it out. The film's other set-pieces are all technical tours de force, including a rooftop chase with Ness and Nitti, and a Canadian border ambush, which is shot like a Sergio Leone western, replete with Mounties on horseback and Ennio Morricone's jangling harmonica music.

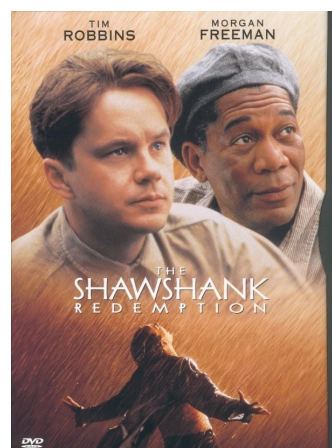


### 2. **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**

"The Power of Hope"

Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton

This is an impressive, engrossing piece of film-making from director/screenwriter Frank Darabont who adapted horror master Stephen King's 1982 novels *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* (first published in *Different Seasons*) for his first film. The inspirational, life-affirming and uplifting, old-fashioned style Hollywood product is a combination of prison/dramatic film and character study. The popular film is abetted by the golden cinematography of Roger Deakins, a touching score by Thomas Newman, and a third imposing character – Maine's oppressive Shawshank State Prison (actually the transformed, condemned Mansfield Ohio Correctional Institution). Posters for the film illustrate the liberating, redemptive power of hope and the religious themes of freedom and resurrection, with the words: "Fear can hold you prisoner, Hope can set you free." Darabont's film is a patiently-told, allegorical tale (unfolding like a long-played, sometimes painstaking, persistent chess game) of friendship, patience, hope, survival and ultimate redemption by the time of the film's finale. It was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Morgan Freeman), Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Original Score, and Best Sound – but it failed to win a single Oscar. And the film's director failed to receive a nomination for himself!



3. **THE MATRIX**  
(and the **MATRIX RELOADED, MATRIX REVOLUTIONS**)

"Free your mind"

Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss

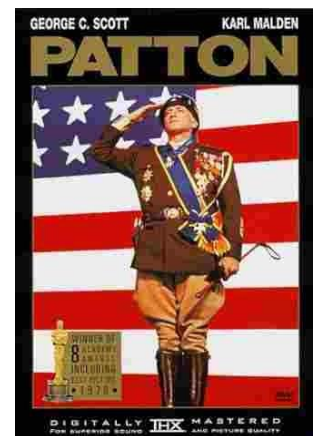


What is The Matrix? It is the year 2199, and the world is now being run by an artificial intelligence. It has constructed a computer-generated dreamworld, called the Matrix, in which human beings live their daily lives, without any knowledge of their false existence. Some rebel humans discover this horror, and recruit the help of computer hacker Neo (Keanu Reeves), hoping that he will be "the one" to rescue the world from this cyber-slavery. The last thirty minutes of this movie combines special effects, with crazy fights featuring freaky Hong Kong action and unbelievable strengths, and a non-stop pace to a chase that seemed inevitable from the start. The film starts off with a bang-a-gong that will set anyone's taillights ablaze. The Wachowski brothers (directors of this movie) obviously have an eye for style, and fully take advantage of their respected talent during much of this film's progression. The slick action shots, decent suspense, and awesome cinematography accentuate this flash, and feed us with plenty of excitement to let slide the less interesting, and more standard scenes within the "real world" outside the Matrix. The acting is solid, with Fishburne making a fine showing, and Reeves pulling off a decent performance as the hacker caught in and over his head. Whoa! One guy that did stand out was the head of the "bad guys", Australian actor Hugo Weaving, who fed us with a fine dish of confidence, terror and an awfully annoying chatter style. But the biggest selling point of this film, a detail not gone unnoticed by its own overzealous marketing team, is the visually stunning special effect action sequences which trounce your pre-existing notion of "a great fight sequence", and present all future filmmakers with a new benchmark for fun and excitement. Kung-fu, crazy special effects, a girl in a black rubber suit, John Woo-esque slo-mo action shots, and Keanu Reeves in a shaved head.

4. **PATTON**

"Leadership makes all the difference"

George C Scott, Karl Malden, Stephen Young



Without doubt the great actor George C Scott is best known for his role in Patton. In the movie, Patton was part historic warrior, part cowboy, and part hero. The film was a Hollywood style documentary of General Patton, an American Commander during WWII. The movie is in essence one memorable scene right after the other. At the film's start Patton stands before a large billboard like American flag and welcomes the new recruits that he will be commanding on their missions in Europe. To Patton "War is not about dying for your country. It's about getting the other bastard to die for his country." So poetic but true, for after all, casualties do not win wars for they only lose nations. Patton proclaims that "We are going to kill these Hun bastards by the bushell." The euphemistic words for the Germans such, as Huns and Krauts remind one of the classic Vietnam films where everyone had a colorful name for the enemy. In the movie Patton stands tall and proud as his jeep travels the encampments of his troops. In fact he stands up within the jeep, with Ivory gripped pistols strapped to his hip. In one scene Patton visits a hospital and notices that the doctors are not wearing helmets. He is told that they can not use their stethoscopes if they wear helmets. He tells them to drill holes in their helmets so they can. Cowardice was unacceptable to Patton. He threatens to shoot a soldier in the hospital for refusing to get to the front and fight. Ultimately he has to apologize for this feat before his men. He only wished to shame the man into a state of courage he proclaims. PATTON is a three-dimensional bronze bust of World War II Field General George S. Patton (George C. Scott) who wrote poetry, fired pistols at strafing fighter planes, and loved America with a lofty and historical zeal. Tracing his personal rivalries with such generals as Rommel and Montgomery, his problematic treatment of his own men, and his nearly runaway contempt for diplomacy, the film triumphs as an enduring portrait of a complex and larger-than-life figure. PATTON was recipient of 10 Academy Award Nominations and winner of eight, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor—Scott, Best (Adapted) Screenplay—Francis Ford Coppola/Edmund H. North. The scale of the film is very impressive, huge tank battles, aircraft, explosions and plenty of action are a running theme throughout which adds a lot to the movie and this action gives the film its exciting edge and stops the movie from becoming a dull character observation which is essentially what the movie is.

5. **NARROW MARGIN**

"Truth shall prevail!"

"Gene Hackman, Anne Archer, J T Walsh

NARROW MARGIN delivers solid entertainment with an old-fashioned feel for cliff-hanging adventure. Hackman stars as Los Angeles Deputy DA Robert Caulfield, who would like nothing more than to put white-collar gangster Leo Watts (Harris Yulin) away for a long, long time. But Caulfield is convinced that his past efforts have been sabotaged by his boss, Martin Lerner (J.A. Preston). Determined to have nothing go wrong this time, Caulfield himself takes charge of bringing in an eyewitness to a recent murder committed by Watts. The witness, Carol Hunnicut (Anne Archer), is hiding out in a cabin, deep in the Canadian wilderness, until things cool down. With the help of police Sgt. Dominick Benti, however, Caulfield tracks Hunnicut down; unfortunately, the bad guys also find her and shoot the cabin to bits, leaving Caulfield and Hunnicut unscathed but costing Benti his life. After a chase, Hunnicut and Caulfield manage to board a train, followed by hired killer Nelson (Sicking). A game of cat-and-mouse ensues aboard the train; the crackerjack finale takes place on top of the train with the principal actors trying hard not to look terrified. To his credit, writer-cinematographer-director Peter Hyams (RUNNING SCARED) doesn't pretend he's reinventing the wheel here – he just sees to it that all the pieces are in place and that there aren't too many opportunities for the premise to trip over its own implausibilities. With a relatively low body count, a shortage of gore, and not even a single acrobatic sex scene, NARROW MARGIN relies on old-fashioned movie virtues.

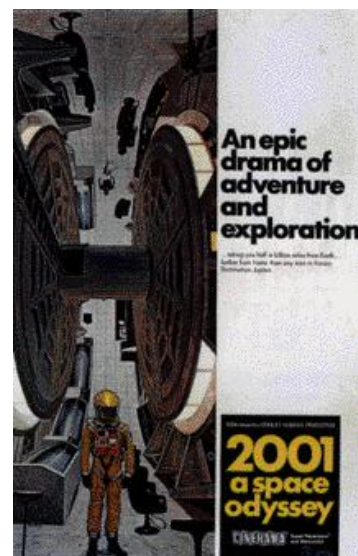


6. **2001 – A SPACE ODYSSEY**

"Speculations on the origin of man"

Mark Hamill, Ben Kingsley, F. Murray Abraham

A sci-fi spectacular that transcends its genre to examine the basis of human existence. Despite being cold and impersonal, 2001's exploration of space and humanity is gripping. Special effects are incredible for a 1968 film. Challenging, compelling and worth seeing. A beautiful, confounding picture that had half the audience cheering and the other half snoring. Kubrick clearly intends to say something about the dehumanizing effects of technology, but exactly what is hard to say. One of those works presumed to be profound by virtue of its incomprehensibility, 2001 is nevertheless, an astounding visual experience—one to be enjoyed, if possible, only on the big screen. The film opens with (as a title modestly announces) The Dawn of Man. Man dawns when a tribe of apelike hominids is visited by a huge black monolith, which instructs them in the use of tools and weapons. Cut to the year 2001, when a scientist (Sylvester) is investigating a baffling archaeological discovery on the moon—it is, of course, a huge black monolith, which later sends a signal in the direction of the planet Jupiter. Dissolve to a year later, as a spaceship makes its way to Jupiter. Dullea and Lockwood run the ship with the help of HAL 9000, the most sophisticated computer ever devised. HAL turns on its human masters, killing Lockwood, and Dullea ventures further into space, eventually confronting a huge black monolith. Later, after witnessing a spectacular light show, he encounters a relatively small black monolith. The screenplay – which is often quite witty, especially in the largely satirical Sylvester sequences – probably was meant sincerely, but has the feel of something that was never thought through. Kubrick seems to have understood that, with the emergence of drug culture and middle-class spiritual yearnings during the late 60s, anything really huge and really vague stood a good chance of being received as something really deep.





## 7. **DEAD MAN WALKING**

“The eternal questions of ethics and morality”

Sean Penn, Susan Sarandon, Robert Prosky

Dead Man Walking is (“inspired by” rather than based on) a book by the same title written by Sister Helen Prejean, a progressive nun in Louisiana. The movie concerns Sister Helen and her attempts to stop the execution of Matthew Poncelet, a particularly vicious punk who along with an accomplice, killed and raped a teenage girl along with her boyfriend. Most critics have only laudatory things to say about Dead Man Walking. Common to the reviews is the marvel that the well-known ‘Hollywood Liberal’ Tim Robbins was willing to simply be honest in telling this anti-capital punishment story. It is no small accomplishment, the movie is full of integrity “that way.” There is no romanticizing of the killer or dismissing the crime, (in frequent flashbacks the vicious act is shown without blinking). The anguished parents of the killer’s victims are not monstrous or even unreasonable when they cry out for vengeance. Even the sanctimonious prison chaplain is human. And, making this film really unique is it’s departure from the conventions of current film making in that people of faith and their beliefs are respected throughout. In fact there are no easy stereotypes — humans and our ambiguous situations all around. Therein lies the film’s power. But what is especially worthy of comment is the path of redemption the movie shows us. When Sister Helen (Susan Sarandon) agrees to serve as the condemned’s (Sean Penn) spiritual counselor during his last days, the chaplain of the prison tries to dissuade her from a task for which he judges her too soft. He reminds her that sympathy and her compassionate nature have no place among the condemned. What is needed to usher him into paradise is having the sacrament administered in his last hour. Sister Helen sees redemption made of more sturdy stuff: confession and forgiveness. As the clock moves relentlessly towards the midnight hour, the condemned, prompted by her stubborn love, finally owns up to what he has done. His shell of victim-hood cracks and we believe her when she calls him a child of God. Most powerful scene: Sister Helen’s anguished prayer in the bathroom just before he dies. Desperate for strength so that she can be strong for him, she storms heaven and receives strength. The film clearly has its anti-capital punishment bias, “Kill’n ’s wrong, no matter who’s do’n it.” We do shudder at the cool procedure with which the state processes the condemned. Integral to the Biblical view of shalom or peace is balance. When injustice is perpetrated, a corrective must be applied (most often in kind).



## 8. **E.T.**

“Is there anyone out there?”

Dee Wallace Stone, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote

He is afraid. He is alone. He is three million light years from home. In Steven Spielberg’s heartwarming classic, two lost souls find each other across the vastness of space and time. One is an Earthling boy who comes from a split and troubled family—the other is an extraterrestrial botanist from the far reaches of the galaxy. After being stranded on Earth by his people, E.T. befriends a boy named Elliot. Unfortunately, the same government agents who chased E.T.’s giant spacecraft back into the heavens are aware that one of its crew was left behind. They begin to track down the alien visitor. In the short time that Elliot and E.T. spend together they live the adventure of a lifetime. Elliot teaches E.T. about the joys and sorrows of living on Earth. In return, E.T. teaches Elliot about the true meaning of friendship and love. The two friends become inseparable. Elliott (Henry Thomas) finds E.T., a visitor from another planet left stranded on Earth, hiding in his backyard and, like any kid who finds a stray, decides to keep him. Hiding the alien from his mother (Dee Wallace), Thomas and the neighborhood kids befriend the creature. One scene clearly shows his resemblance to Jesus. When they are trying to get E.T. to his spaceship the doors open to their van and E.T. in a robe-like garment stands with his arms spread out and his heart glowing red. As if to show to the world the peace he brings (much like Klaatu in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*). Unification of family is the most obvious and personal symbolism to the film. The family has separated and left with only the mother to raise the three children. E.T. shows up and fills a gap in Elliot’s life, a sorely needed gap, the father figure. The two relate so well to each other because even though E.T. fills the gap for Elliot, he is missing his own family and is comforted by Elliot. It also endures feelings of childhood innocence (both Elliot and E.T.) and hurt over parental breakup. One of the films best moments exemplifies this meaning of a hurtful childhood during divorce. We hear the mother (Dee Wallace) reading Gertie a bedtime story as the camera cuts between the boys reliving old memories of their father and E.T. watching the mother/daughter bond, pining for what he has lost and so desperately wants back. No other scene in the movie so clearly portrays the sorrow of a parental split and the need for a close family relationship. The creature eventually brings them closer than ever to each other. Though he becomes attached to Thomas and his friends, E.T. wants to get back to his own planet, and the children must save him from the government types who have been trying to capture and study



him, not knowing that prolonged exposure to our air will kill him (as it will most people in Southern California's foul atmosphere). E.T. is captured by the authorities and is on his way to death when he is saved by a bunch of the kids. When an alien can heal with the touch of a finger and point to your heart and say, "I'll be right here," there are some obvious Christian inferences to be drawn. The film's undercurrent is that a boy who has lost his father due to a parental separation gains an empathetic relationship with this extraterrestrial. When the authorities kill the alien, it is clear that the boy is dying too. So the story manages to incorporate the giving up of one's life for another, resurrection, ascension and the imparting of a loving spirit. Next, a hair-raising bike chase takes them out to where the creature has planned to meet his compatriots for the trip back; E.T. leaves, and the movie ends.

9. **THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS**

"It's all in the mind"

Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn

One of the most talked-about movies of 1991, multiple Academy Award winner – THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS has the FBI trainee Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster) recruited by the Bureau's behavioral sciences unit to help track down one serial killer by getting inside the head of another who's already behind bars – the notorious Hannibal "the Cannibal" Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), a brilliant but psychopathic psychiatrist. In a series of riveting interviews, Starling reveals personal details about her past to Lecter, in exchange for information that may snare "Buffalo Bill," the murderer who flays his female victims. Tensions escalate when Bill kidnaps the daughter of a U.S. senator and Lecter plots an escape. While the suspenseful pursuit of the killer is handled well by Demme, the film's principle attraction stems not from the thrill of the hunt, but from the spellbinding skull sessions between Jodie Foster's heroine and Anthony Hopkins's brilliant, menacing villain. Hopkins plays the cannibalistic doctor with a quiet, controlled erudition, lacing his performance with moments of black humor. His Lecter is a sort of satanic Sherlock Holmes whose spasms of violence are all the more terrifying because they erupt from beneath such an intelligent and refined mask. Although not as overwhelming, Foster's performance is equally impressive. Her strong-yet-vulnerable interpretation of the rookie FBI agent projects a quietly convincing feminism. Although she remains the pupil of the benign patriarch Crawford, Starling rises above the pettiness of her male colleagues.



10. **DUMB AND DUMBER**

"Laugh your heart out!"

Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels

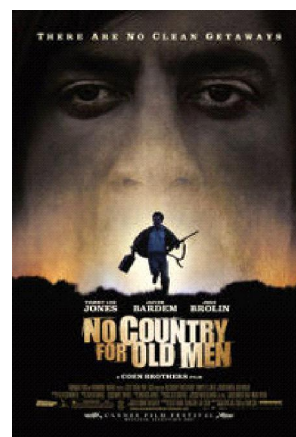
The thin plot thread upon which Dumb and Dumber hangs has limo driver Lloyd Christmas (Jim Carrey) retrieving a briefcase left behind in an airport by a beautiful client (Lauren Holly). Along with his best friend and roommate Harry Dunne (Jeff Daniels), Lloyd starts the long drive west from Providence to Aspen to find his dream woman and return the locked briefcase, which just happens to be filled with money. The cross-country trek isn't easy, however. Not only are the intrepid duo lumbered with IQs barely into the double-digits (they make Forrest Gump look like a genius), but they're being pursued by a pair of crooks (Mike Starr and Karen Duffy) who want the money. Fortunately for Lloyd and Harry, the bad guys aren't exactly Valedictorian material, either. Overall, an enjoyable movie!



11. **NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN**

Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, and Josh Brolin

No Country for Old Men is a 2007 crime thriller film adapted for the screen and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen, and starring Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, and Josh Brolin. Adapted from the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, No Country for Old Men tells the story of a botched drug deal and the ensuing cat-and-mouse drama, as three men crisscross each other's paths in the desert landscape of 1980 West Texas. The film examines the themes of fate and circumstance the Coen brothers have previously explored in Blood Simple and Fargo.



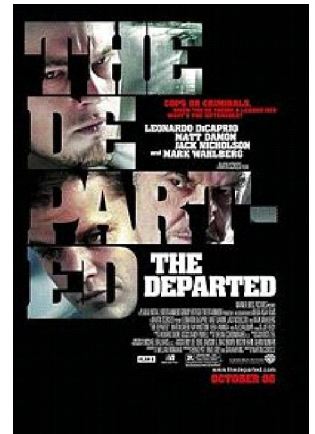
No Country for Old Men has been highly praised by critics. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times called it "as good a film as the Coen brothers...have ever made." Guardian journalist John Patterson said the film proved "that the Coens' technical abilities, and their feel for a landscape-based Western classicism reminiscent of Anthony Mann and Sam Peckinpah, are matched by few living directors." The film was honored with numerous awards, garnering three British Academy of Film awards, two Golden Globes, and four Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director (Joel and Ethan Coen), Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor (Javier Bardem).

## 12. **THE DEPARTED**

*Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson*

The Departed is a 2006 American crime-thriller film remake of the 2002 Hong Kong crime thriller Infernal Affairs.

The Departed is directed by Martin Scorsese, written by William Monahan and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson and Mark Wahlberg. The film won four Academy Awards at the 79th Academy Awards, including the Best Picture, and a long-awaited Best Director win for Scorsese.



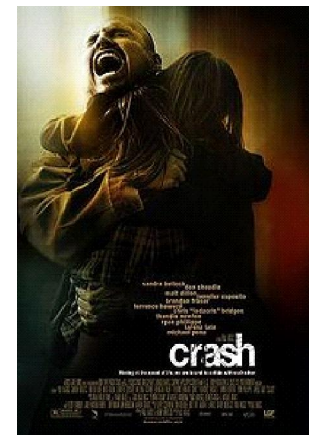
This film takes place in Boston, Massachusetts, where notorious Irish Mob boss Francis "Frank" Costello (Jack Nicholson) plants his protégé Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon) as an informant within the Massachusetts State Police. Simultaneously, the police assign undercover cop Billy Costigan, Jr. (Leonardo DiCaprio) to infiltrate Costello's crew. When both sides of the law realize the situation, each man attempts to discover the other's true identity before being found out.

## 13. **CRASH**

*Brendan Fraser, Sandra Bullock, Chris Bridges, Larenz Tate*

Crash is a 2004 American/German drama film, written, produced, and directed by Paul Haggis. It premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September 2004, and was released internationally in 2005. The film is about racial and social tensions in Los Angeles. A self-described "passion piece" for director Paul Haggis, Crash was inspired by a real life incident in which his Porsche was carjacked outside a video store on Wilshire Boulevard in 1991.

It won three Oscars for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay and Best Editing of 2005 at the 78th Academy Awards. The film depicts several characters living in Los Angeles, California during a 36-hour period and brings them together through car collisions, shootings, and carjacking. Through these characters' interactions, the film seeks to depict and examine not only racial tension, but also the distance between strangers in general.



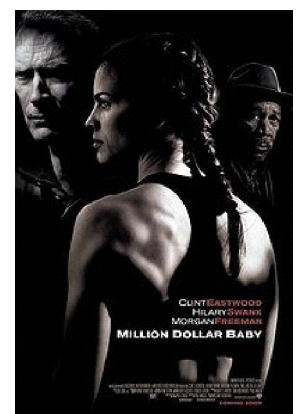
The screenplay was written by Paul Haggis, based on short stories by F.X. Toole, the pen name of fight manager and "cutman" Jerry Boyd. Originally published under the title Rope Burns, the stories have since been republished under the movie's title.

## 14. **MILLION DOLLAR BABY**

*Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman*

Million Dollar Baby is a 2004 film directed, co-produced and scored by Clint Eastwood and starring Eastwood, Hilary Swank, and Morgan Freeman. It is the story of an under-appreciated boxing trainer, his elusive past, and his quest for atonement by helping an underdog amateur female boxer (the film's title character) achieve her dream of becoming a professional. The film won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Maggie Fitzgerald (Hilary Swank), an amateur who aspires to prove herself by becoming a successful boxer, is reluctantly taken on by Frankie Dunn (Clint Eastwood), a brilliant but down-and-out boxing trainer who has been cast aside by his colleagues and relatives, including his estranged daughter, Katy. Dunn helps Maggie realize her goal while developing a stronger-than-blood bond with her.





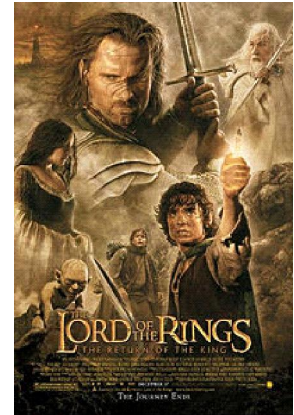
Initially, Dunn's attitude towards Maggie is indifferent, because she is female and already 31 years old. Maggie, however, perseveres in her attempts to win Dunn's favor by training each day in his gym, even when others discourage her. Frank's friend and employee, ex-boxer Eddie "Scrap Iron" Dupris (Morgan Freeman) narrates the story in non-dialogue scenes.

15. **THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING**

*Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin*

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King is a 2003 fantasy film directed by Peter Jackson that is based on the second and third volumes of J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings and the concluding film in The Lord of the Rings film trilogy following The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) and The Two Towers (2002).

As Sauron launches the final stages of his conquest of Middle-earth, Gandalf the Wizard, and Théoden King of Rohan rally their forces to help defend Gondor's capital Minas Tirith from the looming threat. Aragorn finally claims the throne of Gondor and summons an army of ghosts to help him defeat Sauron. Ultimately, even with full strength of arms, they realize they cannot win; so it comes down to the Hobbits, Frodo and Sam, who face the burden of the Ring and the treachery of Gollum, and finally arrive at Mordor, seeking to destroy the One Ring in Mount Doom.



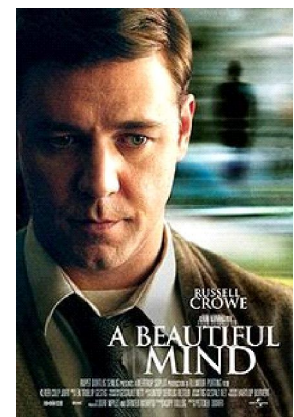
Released on 17 December 2003, The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King became one of the most critically acclaimed films and greatest box-office successes of all time. It won all eleven Academy Awards it was nominated for, which ties it with only Titanic and Ben-Hur for most Academy Awards ever won. It also won the Academy Award for Best Picture, the only time in history a fantasy film has done so. It is the 2nd highest-grossing movie of all time, grossing \$1.12 billion worldwide, and it is the 49th most successful in North America once adjusted for inflation. The Special Extended Edition, containing an additional 52 minutes of footage, was released on DVD on 14 December 2004.

16. **A BEAUTIFUL MIND**

*Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris, Paul Bettany*

A Beautiful Mind is a 2001 American film based on the life of John Forbes Nash, a Nobel Laureate in Economics. The film was directed by Ron Howard and written by Akiva Goldsman. It was inspired by a bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-nominated 1998 book of the same name by Sylvia Nasar. The film stars Russell Crowe, along with Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris and Paul Bettany.

The story begins in the early years of Nash's life at Princeton University as he develops his "original idea" that will revolutionize the world of mathematics. Early in the movie, Nash begins developing paranoid schizophrenia and endures delusional episodes while painfully watching the loss and burden his condition brings on his wife and friends.



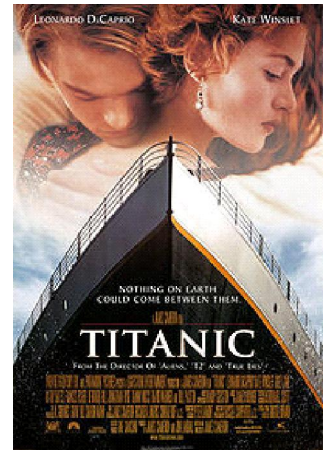
The film opened in US cinemas in December 2001. It was well-received by critics, grossed over \$300 million worldwide, and went on to win four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actress. It was also nominated for Best Leading Actor, Best Editing, Best Makeup, and Best Score. The film has been criticized for its inaccurate portrayal of some aspects of Nash's life. The film fictionally portrayed his hallucinations as visual and auditory, yet factually they were exclusively auditory. Too, Nasar concluded Nash's refusal to take drugs "may have been fortunate," since their side effects "would have made his gentle re-entry into the world of mathematics a near impossibility"; in the screenplay, however, just before he receives the Nobel Prize, Nash speaks of taking "newer medications."

## 17. **TITANIC**

*Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Frances Fisher*

Titanic is a 1997 American romantic film directed, written, co-produced and co-edited by James Cameron about the sinking of the RMS Titanic. It features Kate Winslet as Rose DeWitt Bukater, and Leonardo DiCaprio as Jack Dawson, two members of different social classes who fall in love aboard the ill-fated voyage of the ship. The main characters and the central love story are fictional, but some characters (such as members of the ship's crew) are based on real historical figures. Gloria Stuart plays the elderly Rose, who narrates the film in a modern day framing device.

Despite low expectations, the film was an enormous critical and commercial success, winning eleven Academy Awards including Best Picture and becoming the highest-grossing film of all time, with a total worldwide gross of approximately \$1.8 billion. This simple saga of love, set amidst possibly the greatest peacetime maritime tragedy of all time, is wonderfully filmed with haunting music and bravura performances by the entire cast. This film launched Leonardo DiCaprio's career, putting him in the A-list of Hollywood actors.

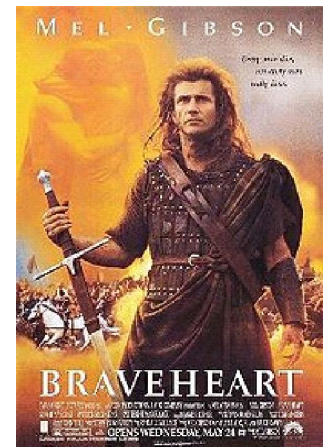


## 18. **BRAVEHEART**

*Mel Gibson, Alan Ladd, Jr., Bruce Davey, Stephen McEveety*

Braveheart is an Academy Award-Winning, 1995 historical action-drama movie produced and directed by Mel Gibson, who also starred in the title role. The film was written for screen and then novelized by Randall Wallace. Gibson portrays a legendary Scot, William Wallace, who gained recognition when he came to the forefront of the First War of Scottish Independence by opposing Edward I of England (portrayed by Patrick McGoohan) and subsequently abetted by Edward's daughter-in-law Princess Isabelle (played by Sophie Marceau) and a claimant to the Scottish throne, Robert the Bruce (played by Angus Macfadyen).

This epic saga of one man's quest for freedom has been lavishly shot and the scale and grandeur of the film is to be seen to be believed. The battle scenes are high action, adrenaline pumping ones that bring to the fore all the technical wizardry of Hollywood.



If one has to find a point to quibble, that would be the blood and gore of some of the scenes - especially, at the end when William Wallace is being publicly tortured. Frankly, it is not a sight for the faint or weak-hearted !

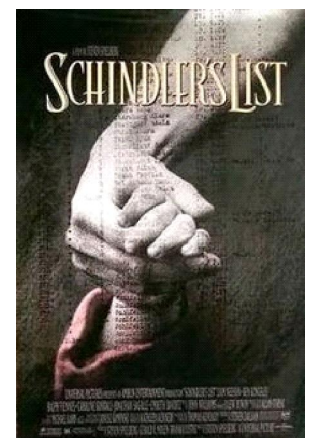
Otherwise, the narrative is taut and hold the viewer to his seat. Historical movies are sometimes called slow paced - this is one movie, that will not invite that epithet.

## 19. **SCHINDLER'S LIST**

*Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Caroline Goodall*

Schindler's List is a 1993 released film directed by Steven Spielberg. It is a dramatized account of the true story of Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who saved the lives of more than one thousand Polish Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories.

The film, based on the novel Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally, stars Liam Neeson as Schindler, Ralph Fiennes as Schutzstaffel (SS) officer Amon Göth, and Ben Kingsley as Schindler's accountant Itzhak Stern. The film was both a box office success and recipient of seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Original Score.





The film traces the journey of Oskar Schindler, an unsuccessful businessman, who arrives in the city from the Sudetenland in hopes of making his fortune as a war profiteer; how he bribes his way to become a respectable business figure in the town and his ultimate metamorphosis into a person who commits all his resources to save the Jewish workers in his factories.

It is a tale told simply, without trying to make a hero out of the eponymous character. It depicts his initial failings and weaknesses with as much candor as his ultimate devotion and commitment to humanity. The portrayals are subtle and the director brings out the best from his ensemble cast. The concentration camp scenes have been filmed masterfully and once again make the viewer all too aware of the scope of the tragedy that was WW II.

The film ends on an emotional note by showing a procession of now-elderly Jews who worked in Schindler's factory, each of whom reverently sets a stone on his grave. The actors portraying the major characters walk hand-in-hand with the people they portrayed, and also place stones on Schindler's grave as they pass. The audience learns that at the time of the film's release, there are fewer than 4,000 Jews left alive in Poland, while there are more than 6,000 descendants of the Schindler Jews. In the final scene, Liam Neeson (though his face is not visible) places a pair of roses on the grave and stands contemplatively over it.

## 20. **LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL**

*Roberto Benigni, Nicoletta Braschi, Giorgio Cantarini, Giustino Durano*

Life Is Beautiful (Italian: *La vita è bella*) is a 1997 Italian language film which tells the story of a Jewish Italian, Guido Orefice (played by Roberto Benigni, who also directed and co-wrote the film), who must learn how to use his fertile imagination to help his son survive their internment in a Nazi concentration camp.

The first half of the movie is a whimsical, romantic comedy and often slapstick. Guido (Roberto Benigni), a young Italian Jew, arrives in Arezzo where he sets up a bookstore. Guido is both funny and charismatic, especially when he romances Dora (Italian, but not Jewish; portrayed by Benigni's actual wife Nicoletta Braschi), whom he steals - at her engagement - from her rude and loud fiancé. Several years pass, in which Guido and Dora have a son, Joshua (written Giosué in the Italian version; portrayed by Giorgio Cantarini). In the film, Joshua is around five years old. However, both the beginning and ending of the film is narrated by an older Joshua.



In the second half, Guido, Guido's uncle Eliseo, and Joshua are taken to a concentration camp on Joshua's birthday. Dora demands to join her family and is permitted to do so. Guido hides Joshua from the Nazi guards and sneaks him food. In an attempt to keep up Joshua's spirits, Guido convinces him that the camp is just a game - a game in which the first person to get 1,000 points wins a tank. He tells Joshua that if you cry, complain that you want your mother, or complain that you are hungry, you lose points, while quiet boys who hide from the camp guards earn points. He convinces Joshua that the camp guards are mean because they want the tank for themselves and that all the other children are hiding in order to win the game. He puts off every attempt of Joshua ending the game and returning home by convincing him that they are in the lead for the tank. Despite being surrounded by rampant death and depression, Joshua does not question this fiction both because of his father's convincing performance and his own innocence.

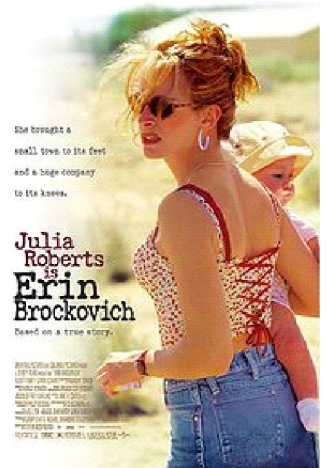
Guido maintains this story right until the end, when - in the chaos caused by the American advance drawing near - he tells his son to stay in a sweatbox until everybody has left, this being the final test before the tank is his. After trying to find Dora, Guido is caught, taken away, and is shot to death by a Nazi guard, but not before making his son laugh one last time by imitating the Nazi guard as if the two of them are marching around the camp together. Joshua manages to survive, and thinks he has won the game when an American tank arrives to liberate the camp, and he is reunited with his mother.

21. **ERIN BROCKOVICH**

*Julia Roberts, Albert Finney, Aaron Eckhart*

Erin Brockovich is a 2000 drama which dramatizes the story of Erin Brockovich's first fight against the American West Coast energy giant Pacific Gas and Electric Company known as PG&E. The film was directed by Steven Soderbergh and featured actress Julia Roberts in the lead role for which she subsequently won the Academy Award for Best Actress. It is based on a true story and the real Erin Brockovich has a cameo appearance as a waitress named Julia. The original music score was composed by Thomas Newman.

Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts) is an unemployed single mother of three children who, after losing a personal injury lawsuit against a doctor in a car accident she was in, asks her lawyer, Edward L. Masry (Albert Finney), if he can find her a job in compensation for the loss. Ed gives her work as a file clerk in his office, and she runs across some files on a pro bono case involving real-estate and medical records against PG&E.



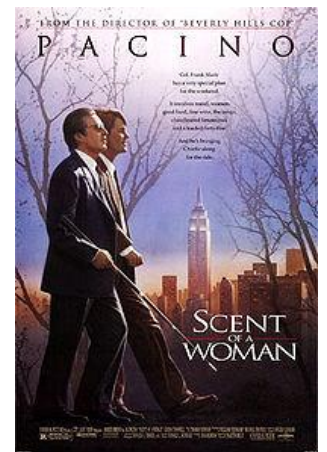
Erin begins digging into the particulars of the case, convinced that the facts simply do not add up, and persuades Ed to allow her further research. After investigation, she discovers a systematic cover-up of the industrial poisoning (Hexavalent chromium) of the town of Hinkley's water supply that threatens the health of an entire community. She finds that PG&E is responsible for the extensive illnesses residents of Hinkley have been diagnosed with and fights to bring the company to justice.

22. **SCENT OF A WOMAN**

*Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell, James Rebhorn, Gabrielle Anwar, Philip Seymour Hoffman*

Scent of a Woman is a 1992 film which tells the story of a preparatory school student who takes a job as an assistant to an irascible, blind, medically retired Army officer. It stars Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell, James Rebhorn, Gabrielle Anwar, and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Charlie Simms (Chris O'Donnell) is a student at a private preparatory school who comes from a poor family. To earn the money for his flight home to Gresham, Oregon for Christmas, Charlie takes a job over Thanksgiving looking after retired U.S. Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Frank Slade (Al Pacino), a cantankerous middle-aged man who is now blind, alcoholic, eccentric, and impossible to get along with. Seemingly at odds at the start of their relationship, the film tracks their lives that culminates in a deep, mutual respect Charlie and the Lieutenant Colonel ultimately share for each other.



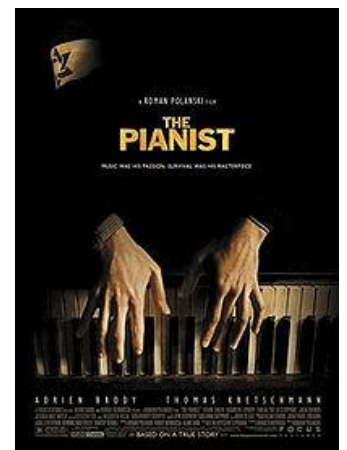
The film is notable for the bravura performance by Al Pacino in the role of the blind officer. The nuances that he brings in to the portrayal of the blind man is brilliant. Some of the scenes, like where the entire family is having dinner, or where the blind officer flirts with the gorgeous Gabrielle Anwar or the one in which, the Lieutenant Colonel takes Charlie for a ride (literally) evoke laughter, without relapsing into slap-stick. Watch it to understand how a person with a severe physical disability actually feels like. Close to home we have a similar movie and performance by Naseeruddin Shah in Sparsh. Another must see movie.

23. **THE PIANIST**

*Adrien Brody, Thomas Kretschmann*

The Pianist is a 2002 Polish-French-German-British co-produced film directed by Roman Polanski, starring Adrien Brody. It is an adaptation of the autobiography of the same name by Jewish-Polish musician Wladyslaw Szpilman.

In addition to the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, the film won the Oscars for Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Adapted Screenplay. It was also awarded seven French Césars including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor for Brody (who became the only American actor to win one).



This is another movie that is based on the WW II. It is indeed ironic that an event of such destructive magnitude could have spawned so many wonderful accounts of humanity. This movie, tells the story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a famous Polish Jewish pianist working for Warsaw radio, who sees his whole world collapse with the outbreak of World War II and the invasion of Poland in September 1939.

Separated from his family and loved ones, Szpilman manages to survive. At first he is pressed into a German reconstruction unit inside the Ghetto as a slave labourer where he enlists in the partisan group that was involved in the planning for the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

After the failed uprising and the retribution by the SS (that the protagonist managed to escape), Szpilman is befriended by a regular German officer by the name of Hosenfeld who not only saves his life but also encourages him to play the piano. This is another instance of humanity surviving against all man-made attempts to divide people on the basis of race and religion. It also depicts the power of music to sustain an individual as it did Szpilman in those trying times.

In the film's final scene, Szpilman triumphantly performs Chopin's Grand Polonaise brillante in E flat major to a large audience in Warsaw. Title cards shown just before the end credits reveal that Szpilman continued to live in Warsaw and died in 2000, but that Hosenfeld died in 1952 in a Soviet prisoner-of-war camp.

#### 24. **ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST**

*Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, William Redfield*

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is a 1975 drama film directed by Miloš Forman. The film is an adaptation of the 1962 novel One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey. The movie was the first to win all five major Academy Awards (Best Picture, Actor in Lead Role, Actress in Lead Role, Director, Screenplay) since It Happened One Night in 1934, an accomplishment not repeated until 1991, by The Silence of the Lambs.

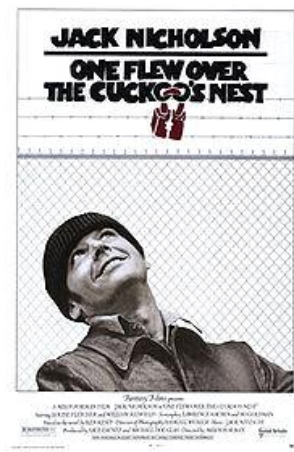
Randle Patrick McMurphy (Jack Nicholson), a recidivist criminal serving a short prison term on a work farm for statutory rape, is transferred to a mental institution due to his apparently deranged behavior. This is possibly a deliberate gambit by McMurphy in the belief that he'll now be able to serve out the rest of his sentence in relative comfort and ease.

His ward in the mental institution is run by a calm but unyielding tyrant, Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher), who has cowed the patients - most of whom are there by choice, categorized as "voluntary" patients - into dejected submission. While he initially has little respect for his fellow patients, McMurphy's antiauthoritarian nature is aroused. His needling of Nurse Ratched is initially just for kicks, but his sense of injustice at their treatment leads him into a battle for the hearts and minds of the patients.

McMurphy gradually forms deep friendships in the ward with a group of men which includes Billy Bibbit (Brad Dourif), a suicidal, stuttering and helpless young man whom Ratched has humiliated and dominated, and "Chief" Bromden (Will Sampson), a 6' 5" (1.96 m) muscular Native American. In Billy, McMurphy sees a younger brother figure whom he wants to teach to have fun, while the Chief ultimately becomes his only real confidant, as they both see their struggles against authority in similar terms.

The drama builds up when Nurse Ratched drives Billy to commit suicide and an enraged McMurphy tries to strangle her leading to her permanently damaging her vocal cords. McMurphy is lobotomized and the Chief, unable to bear this, stragulates him and escapes from the institution.

Slightly manic and sometimes over-the-top performance by Jack Nicholson drives this film forward and Louise Fletcher wonderfully supports him as the tyrannical nurse. Their interplays are electric and one can almost hear the electricity crackling when they confront each other. This film remains the benchmark performance by Jack Nicholson.





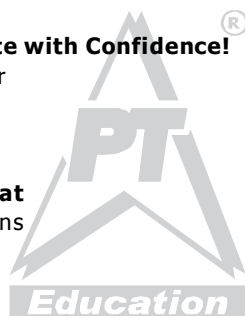
# Part 2 - BOOKLIST

This booklist is a generally recommended list of all time great authors and should be taken up seriously by individuals keen on improving their overall personality and outlook towards life . These books cover all possible facets of literature and if pursued sincerely can help broaden your horizons dramatically. Some of these titles may be available in your PT centre's library. Please locate accordingly. In any case, it is advisable to start making your own personal library - slowly and steadily - and see the treasure trove grow.

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
<b>Business / Management</b>		
1.	<b>In Search of Excellence</b> Tom Peters & Robert Waterman Junior	Two consultants from Mckinsey & Co, USA find out which are the excellent companies in USA and what is the secret of their success. They find a common thread running through the way these excellent corporations run their business. <i>An all time hit.</i>
2.	<b>In Pursuit of "Wow"</b> Tom Peters & Robert Waterman Junior	It is no longer enough to just satisfy the customer ..... he should say 'Wow!' after using your product or service. <i>A masterpiece.</i>
3.	<b>Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship</b> Peter Drucker	Starts with explaining "economic cycles" (The Kondratieff cycle), takes one through the "skunk works" at IBM, HP etc., and ends with insights into entrepreneurship and entrapreneurism. <i>Very insightful.</i>
4.	<b>Every street is Paved with Gold</b> Kim Woo Choong	The Daewoo (ex) CEO explains his rise from a newspaper boy to the Korean chaebol's boss in a lucid style stressing virtues like hard work, dedication, honesty etc. <i>Interesting.</i>
5.	<b>Ogilvy On Advertising</b> David Ogilvy	Explains what advertising is all about and what factors affect advertising plans and strategies. <i>A masterpiece.</i>
6.	<b>Instant Management</b> Carol Kennedy	A handy reference for students, containing write-ups on more than 25 all time great management thinkers. <i>Useful.</i>
7.	<b>What they don't teach at Harvard Business School</b> Mark MacCormack	One of the world's best managers tells his success secrets in a simple style illustrated with examples (IMG Group, which is basically into sport event marketing). <i>Very Insightful.</i>
8.	<b>Lee Iacocca - An autobiography</b> <b>Lee Iacocca - Talking straight</b>	The ex-CEO of Chrysler Corp. explains his philosophy and takes you inside the world of Detroit car makers. <i>Great.</i>
9.	<b>Made in Japan</b> Akio Morita	Sony's boss tells us about the growth of his company and his country. <i>An eye opener.</i>
10.	<b>The Dilbert Future, The Dilbert Principle</b> Scott Adams	A lighter look at the funnier side of modern management.... Scott Adams is the nemesis of the archetypal boss! <i>Fun to read.</i>
11.	<b>Matsushita Leadership</b> John P. Kotter	Thrown into poverty at age four, Konosuke Matsushita struggled with the early deaths of family members, an apprenticeship which demanded sixteen-hour days at age nine, all the problems associated with starting a business with neither money nor connections, the death of his only son, the Great Depression, the horror of World War II in Japan etc. Yet Matsushita grew to be a fabulously successful entrepreneur and business leader. <i>A fantastic story !</i>

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
12.	<b>Success Secrets</b> Mark H. McCormack	As Mark McCormack makes clear, to succeed in business, you must be 'match tough', you must have the competitive edge which comes only through operating in areas where you are pushed to the very limit. To survive under such conditions is never easy, but, with Success Secrets, wherever you are on the corporate ladder, you will no longer find yourself struggling to keep up with the competition - they should be struggling to keep up with you. <i>Inspirational.</i>
13.	<b>Built To Last</b> James C. Collins & Jerry I. Porras	The authors have examined eighteen exceptional and long-lasting companies, including General Electric, 3M, Hewlett-Packard and Procter & Gamble, and compared each with one of its closest but less successful competitors, in order to discover just what has given it the edge over its rivals. <i>Strong lessons.</i>
14.	<b>Jack Welch and the GE Way</b> Robert Slater	When Jack Welch was first named CEO of General Electric, the business world saw GE as an intrinsically healthy corporation, secure in its position as a world industrial leader. Welch saw a company in trouble. Instead of a rock-solid corporation, he saw GE as standing on a precipice : too large to fail, yet too unwieldy to adapt for further growth. So Welch rolled up his sleeves and went to work. The prescient changes he instituted restructured and revolutionized GE, and made Jack Welch the most respected CEO in business today. <i>A masterpiece !</i>
15.	<b>Understanding Organizations</b> ® Charles B. Handy	Organization theory, because of the basic unpredictability of human behaviour, eludes the precise qualifications and prescriptions of a behavioural science. But the larger and more complex the organizations become, the greater the need to understand how they can be made to work effectively. <i>An all-time great !</i>
16.	<b>The McKinsey Way</b> Ethan M. Rasiel	In The McKinsey Way, Rasiel puts you through McKinsey boot camp so you can be your own consultant, tracking down iron-clad solutions to tough business problems. Whether you are an executive, manager or business owner tackling tough strategic issues, or a business professional striving to improve your efficiency, effectiveness, and profile in your own organization, it offers a bold, fascinating guide to business success as practiced by the firm that defines management thinking today. <i>A learning experience !</i>
17.	<b>The World Is Flat</b> Thomas L. Friedman	'The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century' is an international bestselling book by Thomas L. Friedman that analyzes globalization, primarily in the early 21st century. The title is a metaphor for viewing the world as a level playing field in terms of commerce, where all competitors have an equal opportunity. As the first edition cover illustration indicates, the title also alludes to the perceptual shift required for countries, companies and individuals to remain competitive in a global market where historical and geographical divisions are becoming increasingly irrelevant.
18.	<b>Freakonomics</b> Steven Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner	'Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything' is a 2005 non-fiction book by University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt and New York Times journalist Stephen J. Dubner. The book has been described as melding pop culture with economics. The book is a collection of economic articles written by Levitt, translated into prose meant for a wide audience. Levitt, who in the book is ascribed the epithet "rogue economist", had already gained a reputation in academia for applying economic theory to diverse subjects not usually covered by "traditional" economists
19.	<b>The Search</b> John Battelle	The book explores how Google changed the world of information gathering and trounced its competitors. Drawing on over 350 interviews, read the book to discover why Google really was successful.

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
20.	<b>The Leadership Integrity Challenge</b> Edward E. Morler	The book provides guidance for leaders who want to follow a comprehensive approach to creating a culture of integrity. Edward E. Morler offers the tools for how to develop a core competency of assessing and facilitating emotional maturity.
21.	<b>Blink</b> Malcolm Gladwell	Gladwell explores the power of the trained mind to make split second decisions. The author describes his subject as "thin-slicing": our ability to gauge what is really important from a very narrow period of experience. In other words, spontaneous decisions are often as good as-or even better than-carefully planned and considered ones. Gladwell draws on examples from science, advertising, sales, medicine, and popular music to reinforce his ideas.
22.	<b>Now Discover Your Strengths</b> Marcus Buckingham	The book by Marcus Buckingham provides insights to help you understand your own strengths (and weaknesses) better. Then stretch and use it to help you understand your people better.
23.	<b>First, Break All the Rules</b> Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman	Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman summarize in this book the results of their in-depth study of great managers. The managers who ultimately became the focus of the research excelled at developing each employee's specific talents and growing them into top performers. These managers, as the title says, do not hesitate to break any rule that conventional wisdom says must be followed.
24.	<b>Communicate with Confidence!</b> Dianna Booher	Each year, Dianna Booher teaches thousands of people how to communicate more effectively, at work, at home, in any situation. This book distills her tips into a single source that you can use to increase your ability to think on your feet and verbally communicate with confidence.
25.	<b>Good to Great</b> James C. Collins	'Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap... and Others Don't' is a management book by James C. Collins that aims to describe how companies transition from being average companies to great companies and how companies can fail to make the transition. "Greatness" is defined as financial performance several multiples better than the market average over a sustained period of time. Collins finds the main factor for achieving the transition to be a narrow focusing of the company's resources on their field of competence.
26.	<b>Who Moved My Cheese?</b> Spencer Johnson	'Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life', published in 1998, is a motivational book by Spencer Johnson written in the style of a parable. It describes change in one's work and life, and four typical reactions to said change with two mice, two "little people", and their hunts for cheese.
27.	<b>Barbarians at the Gate</b> Bryan Burrough and John Helyar	'Barbarians at the Gate: The Fall of RJR Nabisco' is a 1990 book about the leveraged buyout (LBO) of RJR Nabisco, written by investigative journalists Bryan Burrough and John Helyar. The book centers on F. Ross Johnson, the CEO of RJR Nabisco, who planned to buy out the rest of the Nabisco shareholders.
28.	<b>Rich Dad Poor Dad</b> Robert Kiyosaki and Sharon Lechter	'Rich Dad Poor Dad' advocates financial independence through investing, real estate, owning businesses, and the use of finance protection tactics. The book is written in an anecdotal manner and is aimed at creating public interest in finance. Kiyosaki and Lechter stress the advocacy of owning the system or means of production, rather than being an employee as a recurring theme in the book's chapters.

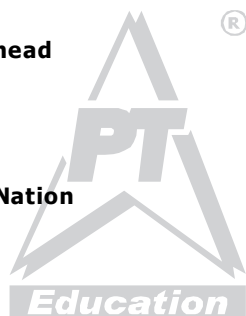




S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
29.	<b>In Spite of the Gods</b> Edward Luce	In his 'In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India' Edward Luce, a onetime New Delhi correspondent for The Financial Times, describes the conflicting forces at work in India, as he visits Infosys' plush offices in Bangalore, bustling call centers in Mumbai, and impoverished farmers in the state of Uttar Pradesh. He reveals that less than 10% of India's 470 million workers are employed in the formal economy, while more than 300 million live in squalor in the country's 680,000 villages. Luce's vivid anecdotes and trenchant analysis make this volume a pleasure to read.
30.	<b>Asian Godfathers</b> Joe Studwell	'Asian Godfathers: Money and Power in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia' is a book by Joe Studwell, founder of the China Economic Quarterly. Li Ka-shing, Robert Kuok, Stanley Ho, and other moguls are among the richest men on the planet. Yet in a region full of such tycoons, why is one so hard-pressed to identify globally competitive Southeast Asian multinationals? Studwell argues that with these few men controlling vast enterprises, regional economies haven't mastered the "technological capabilities, branded corporations, and productivity gains that drive sustainable economic development."
31.	<b>The Age of Turbulence</b> Alan Greenspan	Former Fed Chief Alan Greenspan's 'The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World' made headlines with its scorn for the Bush administration's economics, GOP congressmen, and Richard Nixon. The volume is also a memoir of Greenspan's life, from his boyhood in New York to leadership of the world's most powerful central bank. But the book's true value lies in its second half, where the author offers his take on everything from Russia to financial regulation and the inevitable slowdown of globalization.
32.	<b>The Black Swan</b> Nassim Nicholas Taleb	According to the author, any attempts at prediction are a fool's game. Taleb's advice is to assume that really crazy things can and will happen. You should set yourself up so that you can benefit from good crazy things rather than being hurt by bad crazy things. His best-selling 'The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable' elaborates on the unpredictability of life, a thesis first expounded in a previous book, 'Fooled by Randomness'. Taleb ridicules the mathematical constructs underlying modern finance in what reviewer Peter Coy called "a richly enjoyable read with an important message."
33.	<b>The Strategy Paradox</b> Michael E. Raynor	In his book 'The Strategy Paradox: Why Committing to Success Leads to Failure (And What to Do About It)', author Raynor contends that successful and failing companies often share many similarities, because "the strategies that have the best chance of succeeding brilliantly are also the ones most exposed to the most debilitating kind of strategic uncertainty." The Deloitte Research consultant deduces that what is needed is a change in governance structure and a serious commitment to strategic planning, with senior executives mapping out every scenario they can imagine.
34.	<b>Boeing Versus Airbus</b> John Newhouse	Former New Yorker writer John Newhouse's 'Boeing Versus Airbus: The Inside Story of the Greatest International Competition in Business' offers an instructive view of the two companies during the latter half of the 1990s and into this century. Newhouse depicts the U.S. planemaker as struggling with a variety of issues in the late 1990s, particularly that of absorbing new acquisitions and managing a much enlarged organization. He also captures the recent decline of Airbus and the story behind the troubles plaguing its A380.



35. **The Oil and the Glory**  
Steve LeVine  
'The Oil and the Glory: The Pursuit of Empire and Fortune on the Caspian Sea' by former Wall Street Journal correspondent Steve LeVine is a canny and entertaining look at the dubious practices, intrigue, and political arm-twisting that can be a part of deals in developing nations, where more and more of the oil business takes place. The disintegration of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s unleashed a modern-day Klondike in the bleak Caspian region, with oil giants butting heads and distributing money to gain access to the huge oil fields. A host of outrageous, sometimes intimidating characters help make LeVine's book engrossing.
36. **The House of Mondavi**  
Julia Flynn Siler  
A fascinating immigrant-family saga and unusual business narrative may be found in 'The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty' by Julia Flynn Siler of The Wall Street Journal. Paterfamilias Cesare Mondavi began the family enterprise with an early-20th century fruit-wholesaling business. In the 1940s, the family moved into winemaking with the purchase of the Charles Krug Winery. But the Mondavis would prove to be one of the most dysfunctional families in the history of U.S. industry, and after repeated feuds, by 2004 the company was on the block. It was a sad conclusion to a fascinating history filled with charismatic yet flawed characters.
37. **The Billionaire Who Wasn't**  
Conor O'Clery  
In 'The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune', Irish journalist Conor O'Clery chronicles the fascinating life of a most unusual Samaritan. Through the 1970s and '80s, Chuck Feeney and partner Robert Miller built Duty Free Shoppers into an international behemoth. Meanwhile, Feeney decided to give his wealth steadily away, transferring his share of Duty Free to an offshore foundation whose grants are cloaked in secrecy.
38. **The Road Ahead**  
Bill Gates  
'The Road Ahead', a book written by Bill Gates, Nathan Myhrvold and Peter Rinearson and published in 1995, summarized the implications of the personal computing revolution and described a future profoundly changed by the arrival of a global interactive network.
39. **Innovation Nation**  
John Kao  
Consultant John Kao asserts that America's competitive advantage is going, going, nearly gone. 'Innovation Nation: How America Is Losing Its Innovation Edge, Why It Matters, and What We Can Do to Get It Back' notes that today, talent is more widely dispersed across the globe than ever before. Venture-capital pools are launching a generation of new startups across Asia and Europe. How should the U.S. respond? For one thing, Kao would spend \$20 billion to create 20 innovation hubs revolving around such things as clean energy, digital media, and health care.



## Psychology

40. **I'm OK - you're OK**  
Thomas A Harris  
A book on transactional analysis, self analysis, organisational behaviour that talks about character traits etc. *Opens your mind.*
41. **Staying OK**  
Thomas A. Harris  
Almost similar to above.
42. **Games People Play**  
Eric Berne  
Talks about people's psychology in the modern world giving day to day examples. *Opens your mind.*
43. **Theories of Personality**  
Hall and Lindzey  
Sort of an introductory text book for students interested in knowing something serious about Freud, Jung, Maslow etc.  
A learning experience.
44. **The Dragons of Eden**  
Carl Sagan  
Superb analysis of how man's brain allowed him to come to the modern stage. *A masterpiece.*

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
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| 45. | <b>Gluttons and Libertines</b><br>Marston Bates | The picture of man that emerges from these pages is a remarkable one. From a biological point of view, man is the least economical of all animals: he refuses nourishing food even when it is immediately available to him, he engages in sexual activities that are simply exorbitant when seen as a device to assure reproduction, he spoils the resources of the environment in which he lives, and in general he engages in a form of waste that no other species could even begin to afford. <i>A masterpiece.</i> |
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### Motivational

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| 46. | <b>Jonathan Livingston Seagull</b><br>Richard Bach      | } All these are motivational books on self development, relationships, value systems, nature of reality etc. <i>Meant for serious readers.</i> |
| 47. | <b>Illusions - Changing perceptions</b><br>Richard Bach |  |
| 48. | <b>One</b><br>Richard Bach                              |  |
| 49. | <b>Bridge across forever</b><br>Richard Bach            |  |
| 50. | <b>Running from safety</b><br>Richard Bach              |  |

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| 51. | <b>Fountain Head</b><br>Ayn Rand | Talks of an iconoclastic architect's lifestory and struggles against a conventional society. A masterpiece. |
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| 52. | <b>Atlas Shrugged</b><br>Ayn Rand | Talks of objective individualism, struggles of a bold working woman who dared to think differently. <i>Inspirational.</i> |
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| 53. | <b>The seven habits of highly effective people</b> - Stevan Covey | Already a management masterpiece. Lucidly explains the differences between successful and unsuccessful people. |
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| 54. | <b>Snapshots from hell - The making of an MBA</b><br>Peter Robinson (MBA - Stanford) | An insider's look at how an excellent MBA course is actually conducted - The trials and tribulations. Lovely! |
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### Science Non-fiction

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| 55. | <b>Cosmos</b><br>Carl Sagan | The all time great masterpiece that talks of politics, humans, evolutions, ET life, genetics and of course..... Astronomy! |
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| 56. | <b>Pale Blue Dot</b><br>Carl Sagan | Talks about the futility of life on Earth as seen against the cosmic backdrop. |
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| 57. | <b>The Trials of Life</b><br><b>Life on Earth,</b><br><b>The Living Planet</b><br>Sir David Attenborough | The all time great trilogy describing life on Earth. |
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| 58. | <b>The Making of Mankind</b><br>Richard E. Leakey | A detailed account of man's evolutionary path as found through the fossils in Africa..... An eye opener. |
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| 59. | <b>The Ascent of Man</b><br>Jacob Brownowsky | A masterpiece on what makes man different from everything else on this planet. |
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S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
60.	<b>Man Watching, Animal Watching, The Naked Ape, The Human Zoo</b> Desmond Morris	Neatly describes the human race from the point of view of a keen observer. Lots of illustrations, examples.
61.	<b>A Brief History of Time The Universe in a Nutshell</b> Stephen Hawking	Explains the nature of Universe with special emphasis on Black Holes..... All time best seller.
62.	<b>Future Shock, Power Shift, Third Wave</b> Alvin Toffler	The classic Toffler trilogy..... Talks about nature of power, development of power over thousand of years, changes sweeping the world and man's enability to cope with the same. Read the Future.
63.	<b>Paradigms Lost, Complexifications</b> John L. Casti	A scientist's view of uncertainties in nature, laws of nature, man's limitations in understanding nature. Serious stuff meant for the mature reader. Intense Stuff.
64.	<b>The Tao of Physics</b> Fritjof Capra	It is the author's classic exploration of the connections between Eastern mysticism and modern physics. An international bestseller, the book's central thesis, that the mystical traditions of the East constitute a coherent philosophical framework within which the most advanced Western theories of the physical world can be accommodated, has not only withstood the test of time but is ever more emphatically endorsed by ongoing experimentation and research. Insightful !
65.	<b>Chaos</b> James Gleick	The science of chaos cuts across traditional scientific disciplines, tying together unrelated kinds of wildness and irregularity, from the turbulence of weather to the complicated rhythms of the human heart, from the design of snowflakes to the whorls of windswept desert sands. Interesting.



### Science Fiction

66.	<b>Contact</b> Carl Sagan	Tantalizingly talks about man's first encounter with ET life.
67.	<b>The ROBOT Series</b> Isaac Asimov	Talks about the laws of robotics and man's relationship with robots.
68.	<b>The Odyssey Series</b> Arthur C. Clarke	A great series on man's trip to Jupiter, a rogue computer HAL, ET life ..... Truly a masterpiece.
69.	<b>Brave New World</b> Aldous Huxley	A chilling narration of what life may become in the age of genetic science and biotechnology.

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
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**Philosophy**

70.	<p><b>Logic and Knowledge, Why I am Not a Christian, Russell's Best, The Principles of Mathematics, Human Knowledge, Philosophical Essays, Our Knowledge of the External World, Human Society in Ethics and Politics, The Philosophy of Leibniz, The Analysis of Mind, My Philosophical Development, Political Ideals, Roads to Freedom, Marriage and Morals, Unpopular Essays, In Praise of Idleness, Authority and The Individual, The Impact of Science on Society,</b> Bertrand Russell</p>	<p>Logic Sceptical Essays Assorted Essays Mathematics Philosophy Philosophy Science  General / Politics  Biography Philosophy / Psychology Biography / Philosophy Politics / General Politics Anthropology / Sociology Miscellaneous General Psychology Science</p>	<p>All these are products of the brilliant mind of British polymath Bertrand Russell. Shockingly iconoclastic, surprisingly humourous, immensely witty, and full of human passion and dignity.</p> <p>A must for any reader intending to develop an insight into philosophy.</p>
71.	<p><b>Talks and Dialogues, Commentaries on Living, The First and Last Freedom, The Impossible Question, The Book of Life, The Years of Awakening, Questioning Krishnamurti, The Years of Fulfillment, Tradition and Revolution, The Flight of the Eagle, Life Ahead, This Matter of Culture, The Way of Intelligence, The Ending of Time</b> J. Krishnamurti</p>	<p>Psychology Life Philosophy Philosophy General Biographical Biographical Biographical Miscellaneous Psychology General Culture Psychology General</p>	<p>A unique Indian insight into life, its meaning, approaches to life, the Indian approach, etc.</p> <p>A must-read for any student who is a beginner.</p>
72.	<p><b>The Second Sex</b> Simone De Beauvoir</p>	<p>The philosophy of woman as the second sex..... This book revolutionised society's outlook towards women.</p>	
73.	<p><b>Zen &amp; the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</b> - Robert M. Pirsig</p>	<p>The philosophy of life as seen through the eyes of a wandering motorcyclist.</p>	
74.	<p><b>The Story of Philosophy</b> William Durant</p>	<p>A beautiful collection of different philosophers' viewpoints.... A great compilation.</p>	
75.	<p><b>An Idealist View of Life</b> Radhakrishnan</p>	<p>'Science is a system of second causes, which cannot describe the world adequately, much less account for it'. Radhakrishnan explores in this book modern intellectual debate and the vain attempts to find a substitute for religion. He discusses, drawing upon the traditions of East and West, the nature and validity of religious experience. Finally, he creates a fine vision of man's evolution and the emergence of higher values. The range of subject combined with the author's own faith, undogmatic and free of creed, makes this book a philosophical education in itself.</p>	

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
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### Creativity

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| 76. | <b><i>Practical Thinking, Handbook for the Positive Revolution, Wordpower, Letters to Thinkers, Teach Yourself to Think, Conflicts A Better Way to Resolve Them, The Happiness Purpose, Water Logic, The 5-day Course in Thinking, Masterthinker's Handbook</i></b><br>Edward De Bono | }   | A great collection for those who wish to develop thinking skills beyond the ordinary. |
| 77. | <b>How Would You Move Mount Fuji?</b><br>William Poundstone   | In 'How Would You Move Mount Fuji?', author William Poundstone provides strategies for job seekers walking into a world of job interviews affected by "Microsoft's cult of the puzzle" (the book's subtitle). What's interesting, though, is that he spends a fair chunk of the book discrediting performance in solving puzzles as a true measure of a person's intelligence, and intelligence testing as done using the Stanford-Binet test as a whole. |   |

### General Fiction

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| 78. | <b><i>The Hospital, The Airport, Strong Medicine etc.</i></b><br>Arthur Hailey                                     | Well researched thrillers for some light reading  |
| 79. | <b><i>Not A Penny More Not A Penny Less, Shall We Tell the President? Kane and Abel etc.</i></b><br>Jeffrey Archer | Enjoyable reading for relieving stress.   |
| 80. | <b>Nineteen Eighty-Four</b><br>George Orwell   | Nineteen Eighty-Four is a classic novel by English author George Orwell that focuses on a repressive, totalitarian regime where civil liberties are absent and people are brainwashed into submission. The story follows the life of one seemingly insignificant man, Winston Smith, a civil servant assigned the task of falsifying records and political literature, thus effectively perpetuating propaganda. Smith grows disillusioned with his meagre existence and so begins an ultimately futile rebellion against the system. The novel has become famous for its portrayal of the rights of the individual. Since its publication the terms Big Brother and Orwellian have entered the popular vernacular.             |
| 81. | <b>Congo, Jurassic Park, Contagion etc.</b><br>Michael Crichton  | Well researched science-themed thrillers  |
| 82. | <b>Animal Farm</b><br>George Orwell  | George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' reflects events leading up to and during the Stalin era before World War II. The short novella is an allegory in which animals play the roles of the Bolshevik revolutionaries and overthrow and oust the human owners of the farm, setting it up as a commune in which, at first, all animals are equal; however, class and status disparities soon emerge between the different animal species (the pigs being the "greater species"). The novel describes how a society's ideologies can be manipulated and twisted by those in positions of social and political power, including how a utopian society is made impossible by the corrupting nature of the very power necessary to create it. |



S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
83.	<b>The White Tiger</b> Aravind Adiga	The 2008 Booker prize winning novel by Indian author Aravind Adiga studies the contrast between India's rise as a modern global economy and the main character Balram Halwai, who comes from crushing rural poverty. The novel takes the form of a series of letters written late at night by the protagonist Balram to Wen Jiabao, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. In the letters, Balram describes his rise from lowly origins to his current position as an entrepreneur in Bangalore, as well as his views on India's caste system and its political corruption.
84.	<b>The Inheritance of Loss</b> Kiran Desai	The 2006 Booker prize winning book by Indian author Kiran Desai has among its main themes-migration and living between two worlds and between past and present. Set in the 1980s, the book tells the story of Jemubhai Poptalal Patel, a judge living out a disenchanted retirement in Kalimpong, a hill station in the Himalayan foothills, and his relationship with his granddaughter Sai. The novel also depicts the insurgency in the Himalayas by the Gorkha people fighting for their own identity and its impact on the wider population. Another focus of the novel is the life of Biju, the son of Mr. Patel's cook; an illegal immigrant making his way in New York
85.	<b>Vernon God Little</b> DBC Pierre	'Vernon God Little' is the 2003 Booker Prize winning novel of DBC Pierre. The main character of the novel is a fifteen-year-old boy who lives in a small town in the U.S. state of Texas. When his friend Jesus Navarro commits suicide after killing sixteen bullying schoolmates, suspicion falls on Vernon, who becomes something of a scapegoat in his small hometown of Martirio. Fearing the death penalty, he goes on the run to Mexico. The book satirizes trailer park residents, the media, and most of all, those who believe that life in the United States is just like what they see on the TV news. The Booker Prize judges described it as a "coruscating black comedy reflecting our alarm but also our fascination with America".
86.	<b>Life of Pi</b> Yann Martel	'Life of Pi' is a fantasy adventure novel written by Canadian author Yann Martel. In the story, the protagonist Piscine 'Pi' Molitor Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of religion, spirituality, and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck, while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean. The novel won the prestigious Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2002.
87.	<b>The Blind Assassin</b> Margaret Atwood	'The Blind Assassin' is 2000 Booker Prize winning novel by the Canadian author Margaret Atwood. The book centres on the protagonist, Iris Chase, and her sister Laura, who committed suicide immediately after the Second World War. Iris, now an old woman, recalls the events and relationships of her childhood, youth and middle age, as well as her unhappy marriage to Richard Griffen, a rival of her industrialist father.
88.	<b>Disgrace</b> J. M. Coetzee	'Disgrace' is a novel by South African-born author J. M. Coetzee, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature; the book itself won the Booker Prize in 1999. Disgrace is the story of a David Lurie, twice-divorced and dissatisfied with his job as an English professor, who loses everything: his reputation, his job, his peace of mind, his good looks, his dreams of artistic success, and finally even his ability to protect his cherished daughter. In the new South Africa, violence is unleashed in new ways, and Lurie and his daughter become victims.
89.	<b>Amsterdam</b> Ian McEwan	'Amsterdam', a novel by British writer Ian McEwan, is a morality tale revolving around a newspaper editor Vernon Halliday and eminent composer Clive Linley. During the course of the book Clive and Vernon become mortal enemies bent on exacting revenge. The consequences of their decisions, and a pact made between them, lead them both to Amsterdam where the novel's dénouement plays out. McEwan was awarded the 1998 Booker Prize for the novel.
90.	<b>The God of Small Things</b> Arundhati Roy	'The God of Small Things' (1997) is a politically charged novel by Indian author Arundhati Roy. It is a story about the childhood experiences of a pair of fraternal twins who become victims of circumstance. The book is a description of how the small things in life build up, translate into people's behavior and affect their lives. The book won the Booker Prize in 1997.



S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
91.	<b>The Famished Road</b> Ben Okri	'The Famished Road' is the 1991 Booker Prize-winning novel written by Nigerian author Ben Okri. The novel follows the life of Azaro, an abiku or spirit child, living in an unnamed most likely Nigerian city. The novel employs a unique narrative style incorporating the spirit world with the "real" world in what some have classified as magical realism. Others have labeled it animist realism. Still others choose to simply call the novel fantasy literature.
92.	<b>The Remains of the Day</b> Kazuo Ishiguro	Japanese-British author Kazuo Ishiguro's 'The Remains of The Day' won the Kazuo Ishiguro Booker Prize in 1989. The novel The Remains of the Day tells the story of Stevens, an English butler who dedicates his life to the loyal service of Lord Darlington (mentioned in increasing detail in flashbacks). The story is told from the first person point of view with the narrator recalling his life through a letter to an unknown person while progressing through the present. Events in the narrator's contemporary life remind him of events from his past.
93.	<b>Midnight's Children</b> Salman Rushdie	Salman Rushdie's 'Midnight's Children' won the 1981 Booker Prize. The novel is a loose allegory for events in India both before and, primarily, after the independence and partition of India, which took place at midnight on 15 August 1947. The protagonist and narrator of the story is Saleem Sinai, a telepath with an extraordinary nose. The technique of magical realism finds liberal expression throughout the novel and is crucial to constructing the parallel to the country's history.
94.	<b>Heat and Dust</b> Ruth Praver Jhabvala	'Heat and Dust' is a novel by Ruth Praver Jhabvala which won the Booker Prize in 1975. The events of the story take place in India, during the periods of the British Raj in the 1920s and the present day of the novel (the 1970s). A young English woman, searches for the truth about her greataunt Olivia (1920s). The narrator discovers that Olivia was a woman smothered by the social restrictions placed upon her by British society.
95.	<b>Sophie's Choice</b> William Styron	'Sophie's Choice', a novel by William Styron published in 1979, concerns a young American Southerner, an aspiring writer, who befriends the Jewish Nathan Landau and his beautiful lover Sophie, a Polish (but non-Jewish) survivor of the Nazi concentration camps. The difficult decision that shapes the character Sophie is sometimes used as an idiom. A "Sophie's Choice" is a tragic choice between two unbearable options.
96.	<b>The Shipping News</b> E. Annie Proulx	'The Shipping News' is a 1993 Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning novel by E. Annie Proulx. The story centers on Quoyale, a newspaper worker from New York whose father had emigrated from Newfoundland. Shortly after the suicide of his parents, Quoyale's unfaithful and abusive wife Petal and her lover leave town. Days later, she sells their daughters to a 'black market adoption agency' for the sum of \$6,000. Soon thereafter, Petal and her lover are killed in a car accident; the young girls are located by police and returned to Quoyale. Despite the safe return of his daughters, Quoyale's life is collapsing and his paternal aunt, Agnis Hamm, convinces him to return to their ancestral home of Newfoundland for a new beginning.
97.	<b>All the Pretty Horses</b> Cormac McCarthy	'All the Pretty Horses', a novel by U.S. author Cormac McCarthy, won the U.S. National Book Award in 1992. The novel tells of John Grady Cole, a sixteen year old cowboy who grew up on his grandfathers's ranch in west Texas. The story begins soon after the death of John Grady's grandfather, and John Grady learns that the ranch is to be sold. Faced with the prospect of moving into town, John Grady instead chooses to leave, convincing his best friend, Lacey Rawlins, to accompany him.
98.	<b>The Color Purple</b> Alice Walker	'The Color Purple' received the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award. Taking place mostly in rural Georgia, the story focuses on female black life during the 1930s in the Southern United States, addressing the numerous issues in the black female life, including their exceedingly low position in American social culture.

S. No.	Book Title / Author	Theme of Book
99.	<b>Rabbit is Rich</b> John Updike	'Rabbit Is Rich', awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1982, is the third novel in the four-part series which begins with Rabbit, Run and Rabbit Redux, and concludes with Rabbit At Rest. The novel examines the life of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, a one-time high school basketball star, who has reached a paunchy middle-age without straying from Brewer, Pennsylvania, the downtrodden, fictional city of his birth. Harry and Janice, his wife of twenty-two years, live comfortably, having inherited her late father's Toyota dealership. He is indeed rich, but Harry's persistent problems - his wife's drinking, his troubled son's schemes, his libido, and spectres from his past - complicate life.
100.	<b>Cold Mountain</b> Charles Frazier	'Cold Mountain' is a 1997 historical fiction novel by Charles Frazier. It tells the story of W. P. Inman, a wounded deserter from the Confederate army near the end of the American Civil War who walks for months to return to Ada Monroe, the love of his life; the plot shares several similarities with Homer's The Odyssey. The novel alternates chapter-by-chapter between Inman's and Ada's stories.

... the list continues. In fact the more you read, the more you will become aware of newer authors, newer titles, newer themes. Take the first step, and your journey towards a great future with unlimited horizons would have already begun.

