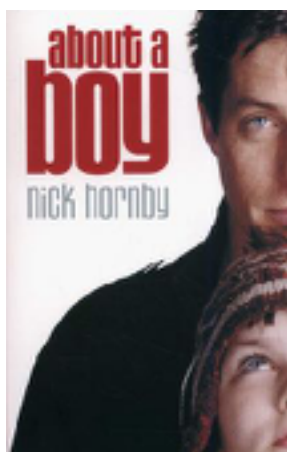




A paper from the meeting of Book Group 2 of Cheadle Hulme U3A

About A Boy
Nick Hornby

Recommended by Jean C



Thirty-six-year-old Londoner Will loves his life. Living carefree off the royalties of his dad's Christmas song, he's rich, unattached and has zero responsibilities — just the way he likes it.

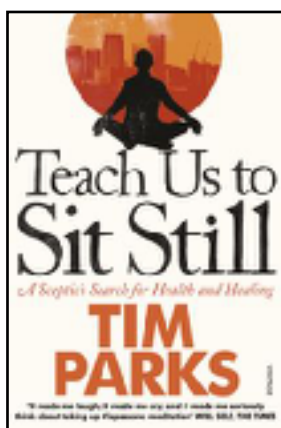
But when Will meets Marcus, an awkward twelve-year-old who listens to Joni Mitchell and accidentally kills ducks with loaves of bread, an unlikely friendship starts to bloom.

Can this odd duo teach each another finally how to act their age?

Genre: General Fiction

Teach Us to Sit Still
Tim Parks

Recommended by Maria G



How have the modern world, technology and our addiction to information changed who we are? What effect does it have on our relationships, minds and bodies? What can the simple act of sitting still teach us about ourselves?

When Tim Parks fails to find a cause for his crippling chronic pain, he turns to meditation. This is a refreshingly honest and profoundly moving introspection of one writer and his quest to overcome the inner battle between mind and body. *Teach Us to Sit Still* examines how the philosophy of 'sit still, relax and stop worrying' can be profoundly life-altering.

Genre: Non-fiction

Gateway

Frederik Pohl

Recommended by Sue D



Wealth ... or death. Those were the choices Gateway offered. Humans had discovered this artificial spaceport, full of working interstellar ships left behind by the mysterious, vanished Heechee.

Their destinations are preprogrammed. They are easy to operate, but impossible to control. Some came back with discoveries which made their intrepid pilots rich; others returned with their remains barely identifiable. It was the ultimate game of Russian roulette, but in this resource-starved future there was no shortage of desperate volunteers.

Gateway begins Pohl's space operatic Heechee saga.

Genre: Science Fiction

Slipstream: A Memoir

Elizabeth Jane Howard

Recommended by Jane C



Slipstream reveals the remarkable life of Writer Elizabeth Jane Howard, one of Britain's most beloved writers. In her riveting memoir, Elizabeth looks back at her eventful life, revealing a story as full of love, passion and betrayal as her novels.

After fleeting pursuits as an actress and model, Howard turned to writing. Her memoir unveils her turbulent marriages, most notably with Kingsley Amis, and her close friendships with some of the greatest writers and thinkers of her era: Laurie Lee, Arthur Koestler and Cecil Day-Lewis, among others.

Genre: Autobiography

Kit's Hill

Jean Stubbs

Recommended by Pat T



The first adventure in the saga of the Howarths of Garth...

Lancashire, 1760

As a genteel woman with an education but no dowry, Dorcas Wilde has resigned herself to a life as the companion of her spinster aunt.

However, when she receives a proposal from Ned Howarth — a kind yeoman farmer — she puts aside her prejudices and agrees to become his wife.

But can Dorcas find her place at Kit's Hill? Will she and Ned find true happiness together?

Or will they come to regret their hasty marriage?

Genre: Historical Romance

Boy Overboard

Morris Gleitzman

Recommended by Roger L



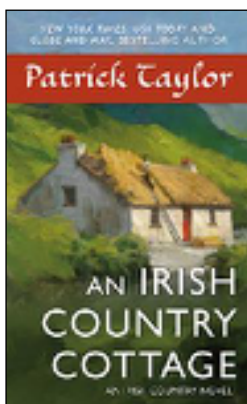
Jamal loves playing football. His stubborn little sister, Bibi, is even better at football than Jamal. But girls playing football is against the law in Afganistan. When it is discovered that Jamal's mother has been secretly running a school, the family must leave their home immediately and begin a long and dangerous journey to Australia.

Genre: Children's Fiction

An Irish Country Cottage

Patrick Taylor

Recommended by Linda V



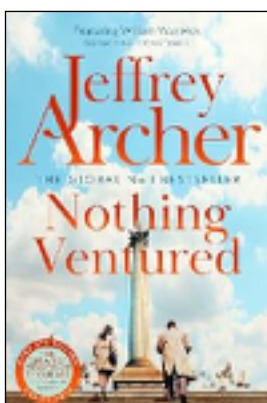
The tale of a tight-knit Irish village rallying together in times of need. The New Year brings challenges and changes to the colourful Irish village of Ballybucklebo. The Christmas holidays have barely passed before a fire engulfs the humble thatched cottage housing of Donal Donnally and his family. Although the family escapes the blaze more or less unscathed, they find themselves with nothing left but the clothes on their back. *Good thing Doctors O'Reilly and Laverty are on hand to rally the good people of Ballybucklebo to come to their aid and get them back on their feet again, no matter what it takes.*

Genre: General Fiction

Nothing Ventured

Jeffrey Archer

Recommended by Kelvin V



The first novel in the eight-volume William Warwick series.

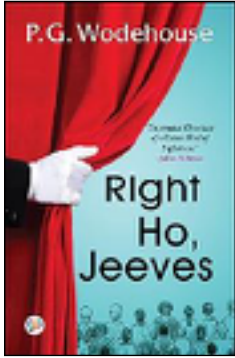
This is not a detective story. This is a story about a detective. William Warwick is eight when he decides to join the police force. Resolute in the face of his QC father's objections, William graduates from university with a degree in art history and immediately enrolls as a constable in the Metropolitan Police force. His keen mind quickly takes him into a role in Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques unit and his first case: the recovery of a Rembrandt stolen from the Fitzmolean Museum.

Genre: Mystery

Right Ho, Jeeves

P. G. Wodehouse

Recommended by Barry R



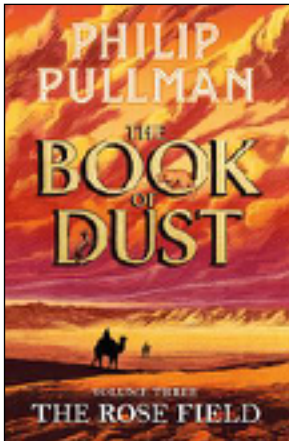
Follow the adventures of Bertie Wooster and his gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, in one of the greatest comic novels in the English language, first published in 1934, second only to *Three Men in a Boat*. Bertie must deal with the Market Snodsbury Grammar School prize giving, the broken engagement of his cousin Angela, the wooing of Madeline Bassett by Gussie Fink-Nottle, and the resignation of Anatole, the genius chef. Will he prevail? Only with the aid of Jeeves!

Genre: General Fiction

The Book of Dust: The Rose Field

Philip Pullman

Recommended by John L



The third and concluding volume in the highly regarded *Book of Dust* series from Phillip Pullman, creator of *His Dark Materials*. When readers left Lyra in *The Secret Commonwealth*, the second volume in the series, she was alone, in the ruins of a deserted city. Pantalaimon had run from her – and Lyra had travelled across the world from her Oxford home in search of her dæmon. And Malcolm, loyal Malcolm, also journeyed far from home, towards the Silk Roads in search of Lyra...

Genre: Young Adult Fantasy



I don't know why people think technology is making us anti-social.

I was ignoring people with books for a long time before the mobile phone was invented.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at 10.00am
Ladybridge Connect, Cheadle Hulme**