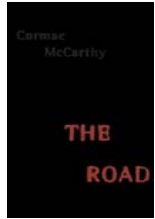
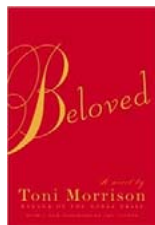


EW's Top Five Picks Are...



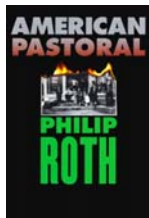
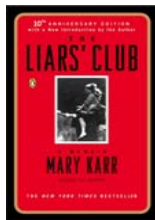
#1
The Road
Cormac McCarthy (2006)

#2
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
J.K. Rowling (2000)



#3
Beloved
Toni Morrison (1987)

#4
The Liars' Club
Mary Karr (1995)



#5
American Pastoral
Philip Roth (1997)

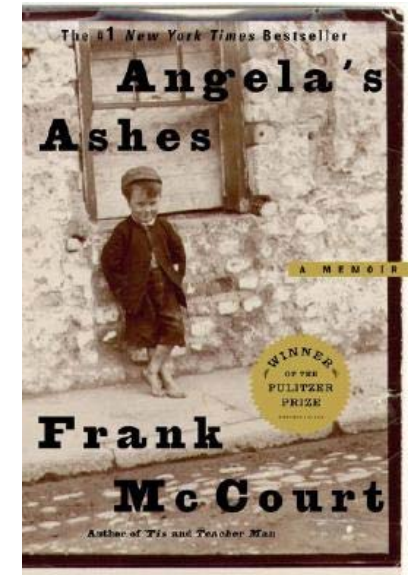
Tracy's Take on the Best Books of the Last 25 Years

So... lists like these can't please everyone. They're subjective and great books are inevitably passed over. I haven't read all the books selected by *EW* (or even a third of them, if I'm honest), so I may not be qualified to give my opinion—but I will anyway. There were some odd choices (for example, why pick *Goblet of Fire* over the other Potter books?). And, of course, I was really surprised not to see some books included. Below is my list of "glaring omissions" as well as a few personal favorites thrown in for good measure.

- White Teeth*, Zadie Smith (2000)
- The Alchemist*, Paul Coehlo (1988)
- Oscar & Lucinda*, Peter Carey (1987)
- Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides (2002)
- Like Water for Chocolate*, Laura Esquivel (1989)
- Disgrace*, J.M. Coetzee (1999)
- Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, Fannie Flagg (1987)
- Ellen Foster*, Kaye Gibbons (1997)
- The English Patient*, Michael Ondaatje (1992)
- Dreams of Sleep*, Josephine Humphreys (1984)
- In Country*, Bobbie Ann Mason (1985)
- Sarah, Plain and Tall*, Patricia MacLachlan (1985)
- The Silence of the Lambs*, Thomas Harris (1988)
- Breathing Lessons*, Anne Tyler (1988)
- City of Tiny Lights*, Patrick Neate (2006)
- Bastard Out of Carolina*, Dorothy Allison (1992)
- The Gargoyle*, Andrew Davidson (2008)
- Color of Water*, James McBride (1998)
- The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Milan Kundera (1984)
- A Child Called "It"*, Dave Pelzer (1995)
- Bad Land*, Jonathan Raban (1996)
- The Shipping News*, Annie Proulx (1993)
- Reservation Blues*, Sherman Alexie (1995)
- Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro (2005)
- Ironweed*, William Kennedy (1983)
- Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card (1985)

What books do you think belong on the list? To share your thoughts, please e-mail me at reference@bcplib.org.

The New Classics



The 100 Best Reads from 1983 to 2008, as selected by *Entertainment Weekly*

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SEPTEMBER 2008

And rounding out the Top 100 . . .

6. *Mystic River*, Dennis Lehane (2001)
7. *Maus*, Art Spiegelman (1986/1991)
8. *Selected Stories*, Alice Munro (1996)
9. *Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier (1997)
10. *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, Haruki Murakami (1997)
11. *Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer (1997)
12. *Blindness*, José Saramago (1998)
13. *Watchmen*, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons (1986-87)
14. *Black Water*, Joyce Carol Oates (1992)
15. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, Dave Eggers (2000)
16. *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood (1986)
17. *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Gabriel García Márquez (1988)
18. *Rabbit at Rest*, John Updike (1990)
19. *On Beauty*, Zadie Smith (2005)
20. *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Helen Fielding (1998)
21. *On Writing*, Stephen King (2000)
22. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Junot Díaz (2007)
23. *The Ghost Road*, Pat Barker (1996)
24. *Lonesome Dove*, Larry McMurtry (1985)
25. *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan (1989)
26. *Neuromancer*, William Gibson (1984)
27. *Possession*, A.S. Byatt (1990)
28. *Naked*, David Sedaris (1997)
29. *Bel Canto*, Anne Patchett (2001)
30. *Case Histories*, Kate Atkinson (2004)
31. *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien (1990)
32. *Parting the Waters*, Taylor Branch (1988)
33. *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Joan Didion (2005)
34. *The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold (2002)
35. *The Line of Beauty*, Alan Hollinghurst (2004)
36. *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt (1996)
37. *Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi (2003)
38. *Birds of America*, Lorrie Moore (1998)
39. *Interpreter of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri (2000)
40. *His Dark Materials*, Philip Pullman (1995-2000)
41. *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros (1984)
42. *LaBrava*, Elmore Leonard (1983)
43. *Borrowed Time*, Paul Monette (1988)
44. *Praying for Sheetrock*, Melissa Fay Greene (1991)
45. *Eva Luna*, Isabel Allende (1988)
46. *Sandman*, Neil Gaiman (1988-1996)
47. *World's Fair*, E.L. Doctorow (1985)
48. *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver (1998)
49. *Clockers*, Richard Price (1992)
50. *The Corrections*, Jonathan Franzen (2001)
51. *The Journalist and the Murderer*, Janet Malcom (1990)
52. *Waiting to Exhale*, Terry McMillan (1992)
53. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, Michael Chabon (2000)
54. *Jimmy Corrigan*, Chris Ware (2000)
55. *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls (2006)
56. *The Night Manager*, John le Carré (1993)
57. *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, Tom Wolfe (1987)
58. *Drop City*, TC Boyle (2003)
59. *Krik? Krak!* Edwidge Danticat (1995)
60. *Nickel & Dimed*, Barbara Ehrenreich (2001)
61. *Money*, Martin Amis (1985)
62. *Last Train To Memphis*, Peter Guralnick (1994)
63. *Pastoralia*, George Saunders (2000)
64. *Underworld*, Don DeLillo (1997)
65. *The Giver*, Lois Lowry (1993)
66. *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*, David Foster Wallace (1997)
67. *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini (2003)
68. *Fun Home*, Alison Bechdel (2006)
69. *Secret History*, Donna Tartt (1992)
70. *Cloud Atlas*, David Mitchell (2004)
71. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Ann Fadiman (1997)
72. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon (2003)
73. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving (1989)
74. *Friday Night Lights*, H.G. Bissinger (1990)
75. *Cathedral*, Raymond Carver (1983)
76. *A Sight for Sore Eyes*, Ruth Rendell (1998)
77. *The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro (1989)
78. *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert (2006)
79. *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell (2000)
80. *Bright Lights, Big City*, Jay McInerney (1984)
81. *Backlash*, Susan Faludi (1991)
82. *Atonement*, Ian McEwan (2002)
83. *The Stone Diaries*, Carol Shields (1994)
84. *Holes*, Louis Sachar (1998)
85. *Gilead*, Marilynne Robinson (2004)
86. *And the Band Played On*, Randy Shilts (1987)
87. *The Ruins*, Scott Smith (2006)
88. *High Fidelity*, Nick Hornby (1995)
89. *Close Range*, Annie Proulx (1999)
90. *Comfort Me With Apples*, Ruth Reichl (2001)
91. *Random Family*, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc (2003)
92. *Presumed Innocent*, Scott Turow (1987)
93. *A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley (1991)
94. *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser (2001)
95. *Kaaterskill Falls*, Allegra Goodman (1998)
96. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown (2003)
97. *Jesus' Son*, Denis Johnson (1992)
98. *The Predators' Ball*, Connie Bruck (1988)
99. *Practical Magic*, Alice Hoffman (1995)
100. *America (the Book)*, Jon Stewart/Daily Show (2004)