



Books about Town Book List



Dear Books about Town artist,

Welcome to our project and thank you for your interest. During Books about Town we plan to have four trails of unique BookBenches around London and the proposed areas for these trails are Greenwich, Bloomsbury, Kensington and Chelsea and City of London.

While planning this project we have carried out some research on books with literary links to London, and we would like to share with you what we found. You are welcome to select a piece of work or an author from this list to inspire the artwork for your BookBench, however this is not an exhaustive list and you are also welcome to choose something that is not on the list at all. We may update this list as we come across new discoveries we feel are too exciting to miss off.

We hope our list gets some creative juices flowing and look forward to seeing your designs.

Thanks

Books about Town Team

Author	Title	Genre/Type	Link to London
Fiction			
Children's Literature			
J K Rowling	Any Harry Potter	Childrens	The Hogwarts Express leaves from Kings Cross, Diagon Alley is in London and there are many other scenes featuring the capital
J M Barrie	Peter Pan	Childrens	The family lived in Bloomsbury and one of the main four Peter Pan works was set in Kensington Gardens
P.L Travers	Mary Poppins	Childrens	The Banks family lived in London when Mary Poppins came to be their Nanny and they had many adventures in the city
Terry Pratchett	Dodger	Childrens	Dodger scrounges a living in the depths of a Dickensian London
Charlie Fletcher	Stoneheart	Childrens	On a trip to London a statue outside the National History Museum comes to life to lead the characters on an adventure across the city

A A Milne	Winnie the Pooh	Childrens	A A Milne lived in Chelsea, and Christopher Robin Milne was born there
Charles Kingsley	The Water Babies	Childrens	Charles Kingsley lived in a quiet corner of Chelsea
Frank Lampard	Frankie's magic Football	Childrens	Frank Lampard plays for London team, Chelsea
Michael Bond	Paddington Bear	Childrens	Paddington bear is named after the railway station where he was found before travelling all over the city in his books
Ted Hughes	The Iron man	Childrens	Ted Hughes lived in London for part of his life although he was from Yorkshire
Keith Mansfield	Johnny Mackintosh and the Spirit of London	Young adult	Johnny is abducted by aliens and travels the galaxy in a spaceship shaped exactly like The Gherkin
Tom Pollock	The Glass Republic	Young adult	The secret lives of the city's spirits are discovered in this fantasy novel
Anthony Horowitz	Alex Rider series	Young adult	The main character is a spy and lives in London
Charlie Higson	The Enemy	Young adult	Post apocalyptic young adult book set in London
Michael Morpurgo	War horse	Childrens Novel, Play	Moving story of a boy and his horse separated by World War One and their remarkable journey back to one another, now a hugely successful stage show
Novels			
P.G Wodehouse	Jeeves and Wooster books	Comedy	Series of stories about the incessantly ridiculous Wooster and his upper class problems, invariably solved by his brilliant butler
Arthur Conan Doyle	All Sherlock Holmes titles	Crime fiction	Followed closely by his faithful Watson Sherlock Holmes strides the streets of London solving crimes with his unique approach
Agatha Christie	Seven Dials Mystery	Crime fiction	One of the most famous crime novelists ever, Agatha Christie also wrote the world's longest running play The Mousetrap
William Hope Hodgson	Carnacki, The Ghost Finder	Crime fiction	Early 20 th century series of supernatural detective stories, in which the main character lives in Chelsea
Sarah Waters	Night Watch	Historical fiction	Novel set in post second World War London following the story of several Londoners and told with a backwards narrative

Jules Verne	Around the world in 80 days	Adventure novel	The protagonist, Phileas Fogg, lives in London and sets off on his round the world trip for a £20,000 wager
Helen Fielding	Bridget Jones	Novel	Modern novel which follows the life of a 30 something 'typical' London woman as she tries to get her life on track
Henry James	What Masie Knew	Novel	Henry James settled in London after spending the first 20 years of his life alternating between Europe and America, he also wrote A London Life
Joseph Conrad	The Secret Agent	Novel	The main character in the book lives in London, running his shop as a cover to his secret agent role
Oscar Wilde	The Picture of Dorian Grey	Novel	This is the only published novel by Oscar Wilde and is set in London. The author has many noted haunts around the Chelsea area
William Thackeray	Vanity Fair	Novel	Set in early 19th century Britain and featuring the capital heavily, Vanity Fair is now considered a classic
Graham Greene	The End of the Affair	Novel	A famous novel examining complex relationships during and just after the second world war in London
Ian McEwan	Saturday	Novel	The story of one single day in London
Zadie Smith	White Teeth	Novel	Modern novel set in London and showing the later lives of wartime friends
Sebastian Faulks	A Week in December	Novel contemporary	Contemporary work following the intertwined lives of several characters in London
Ben Aaranovich	Rivers of London series	Novel supernatural	Series of books following PC Grant and his colleagues in a unique branch of the metropolitan police as they deal with supernatural and mysterious happenings
Wilkie Collins	All titles, some co-written with Charles Dickens	Novel, short stories, plays	Regularly to be found enjoying the company of Charles Dickens, Wilkie Collins lived and wrote in London

Virginia Woolf	Mrs Dalloway/Night and Day	Novels	Virginia Woolf has become one of the most famous modernist novelists, and was a prominent figure in London's literary society between the wars
Martin Amis	London Fields	Novels	Described as a black comic murder mystery novel, the story of an American writer who now lives in London
George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evan)	Middlemarch	Novels and poetry	Mary Ann Evans wrote under her pseudonym, eventually stepping forward as the author after the publication of Adam Bede. She lived in London and edited The Westminster Review journal
Evelyn Waugh	Brideshead Revisited/All titles	Novels, biographies, journalism	Evelyn Waugh lived most of his life in London, but also travelled and served in WW2. His most famous novel, Brideshead Revisited was published in London in 1945
Chaucer	All titles	Novels, poetry	Geoffrey Chaucer, one of the most famous poets of all time also oversaw the construction of Tower Wharf (next to the Tower of London) in his role as Clerk of Kings Works
Charles Dickens	All titles	Novels, short stories, journalism, non-fiction	Hugely renowned for his observational and opinionated take on London, Dickens story telling around the lives of the city's people is still unrivalled
Aldous Huxley	Brave New World	Science fiction	Dystopian novel set in London AD2540
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein	Science fiction/horror	Mary Shelley lived in London and used to sneak around Bloomsbury to meet her married lover, one of her father's political followers
Harper Lee	To Kill a Mocking Bird	Novel	Immediately successful novel addressing serious issues in a unique way, the Pulitzer Prize winner will be shown as a stage show in London for the first time in 2014

Plays, scripts and poetry			
E.A. Poe	All titles	Poetry	E.A Poe attended boarding school in London, and was later a regular in the same haunts as many literary figures, apparently counting Charles Dickens as a personal friend
Robert Burns	Tam O'Shanter	Poetry	Cutty Sark was the nick-name of a character in this poem, after the undergarment she wore. The figure head of the Cutty Sark ship (now in Greenwich) is named after this character
H. Pinter	The Homecoming	Play	This 1965 play is set in North London
George Bernard Shaw	Pygmalion/My Fair Lady	Play/musical	George Bernard Shaw lived in Fitzroy Square in London and was co-founder of the London School of Economics
Shakespeare	All Shakespeare works	Plays, poetry, sonnets, stories	One of the most famous and influential play-writes of all time, Shakespeare's Globe is on the Southbank of the Thames in London
Non Fiction			
Robert Graves	Goodbye to all that - WW1 biography	Autobiography	Robert Greaves was born in South West London, and this book about his early life experiences in the first world War was first published in 1929
Samuel Pepys	The Diary of Samuel Pepys	Autobiographical or Biography	Samuel Pepys lived and wrote in London for 10 years. Today, a website publishes his diary entries on the correct date, then repeat the cycle
Captain Scott	Autobiography of his expeditions	Autobiographical or Biography	An account of the fateful mission Scott and his team embarked on in 1910, using extracts from his writings

George Orwell	Down and Out in Paris and London	Autobiographical or Biography	Memoirs of Orwell's life in poverty in Paris, the London chapters were only added after the work had once been refused publication
Voltaire	Letters Concerning the English Nation	Essays	Essays written by Voltaire whilst staying in England, observing the cultural nuances of its people. One of his essays addressed parliament in Britain
Charles Darwin	On the Origin of Species	Scientific literature	Darwin is buried at Westminster Abbey and he spent a lot of his married life in London whilst working on his journals
Sigmund Freud	The Interpretation of Dreams	Scientific literature	Sigmund Freud and his daughter Anna lived in London after leaving Austria as they fled from the Nazis in 1938
Stephen Hawking	A brief history of time	Scientific literature	Stephen Hawking moved away from his parents Highgate home during the war, but moved back to London in post-war years
	London Newspapers were first published in the 17th century	Journalism	
Patricia Pierce	Old London Bridge	Historical non-fiction	The story of the longest inhabited bridge in Europe and its people
Samuel Johnson	Dr Johnson's Dictionary	Dictionary	One of the most influential dictionaries in the history of English language, this was published in London and viewed as the pre-eminent English dictionary until 173 years later, when the Oxford English dictionary was published
Edited by Ian Hislop	Private Eye	Cultural publication	First published in 1961, Private Eye is still going strong