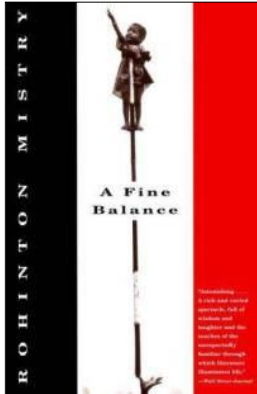


Canada Reads

Books that didn't win but should be read

It is now the 10th year of Canada Reads, CBC's contest of celebrities who argue for their chosen book. I'd like to suggest some that didn't win that are still worth exploring.



2002 Canada Reads

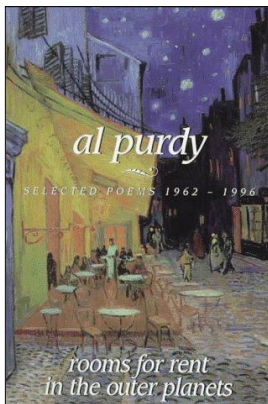
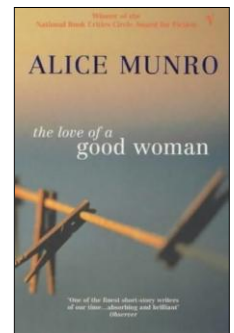
A fine balance. Rohinton Mistry.

Mistry's wonderful novel has been favourably compared to works by Charles Dickens and some of the great 19th century Russian writers. Set in 1970s India in a corrupt society, it follows the lives of four ordinary working-class individuals. Although hope is sometimes hard to find in this masterly work, it remains a stunning indictment of cruelty and a beautiful canvas of the teeming life of India's streets. Be forewarned – it is almost as long as a Victorian novel.

2004 Canada Reads

The love of a good woman. Alice Munro.

In her 9th collection of short stories, Munro is at the height of her powers. The curious characters that people her fiction are revealed to the reader in clear, rich prose. Carol Shields called Munro the modern Chekov. Read any of Munro's collections. She just gets better and better.



2006 Canada Reads

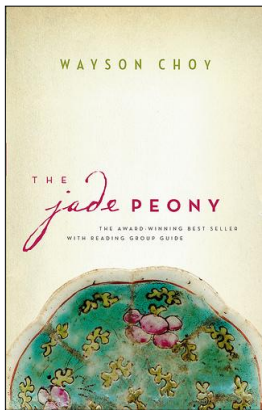
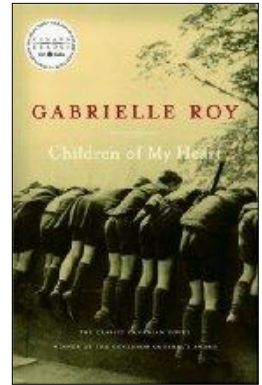
**Rooms for rent in outer planets:
Selected poems 1962-1996. Al Purdy.**

Of any of our Canadian poets, Purdy is one of the most iconic. In this excellent selection of his poetry over a period of 30 years are many of the classics of Canada lit. Purdy is a marvellous wordsmith concentrating on landscape, memory and action. If you don't usually read poetry, this is a good starting point.

2007 Canada Reads

Children of my heart. Gabrielle Roy.

Roy is not read much today but in her time she was not only winner of three Governor-General's awards but also the winner of prominent French and Quebec awards. Based on her experiences as a young teacher in Manitoba, in this book she illuminates the lives of immigrant children in the gritty years of the Depression. Critics have called it passionate, troubling and a route to the inner recesses of the heart.



2009 Canada Reads

The jade peony. Wayson Choy.

A first novel for Choy and winner of the Trillium award. Choy traces the life of three siblings in the early days of Vancouver's Chinatown during the 1930s and 1940s. With lyrical and moving prose, Choy shows the dilemmas of first generation Canadians torn between two cultures.