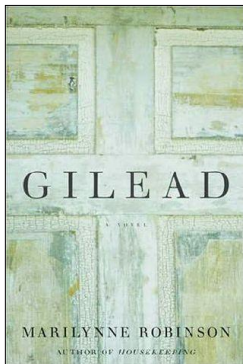
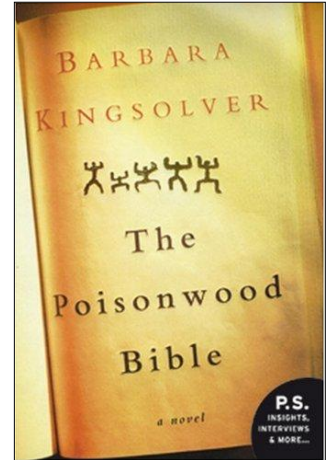


Fathers and children

Poisonwood Bible. Barbara Kingsolver.

Nathan Price is one of the most memorable fathers in recent fiction. This Baptist minister from the American Midwest travels with his wife and 4 daughters to the Belgian Congo in 1959 to convert the native people of the area to Christianity. His bullying nature, foolish choices and general ignorance of the people all work against the family. The book goes on to cover another thirty years in the lives of the characters. Kingsolver's exquisite prose, carefully researched background information and compelling narrative make this a classic (and also a favourite for book reading groups).

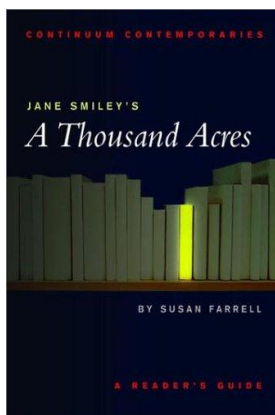
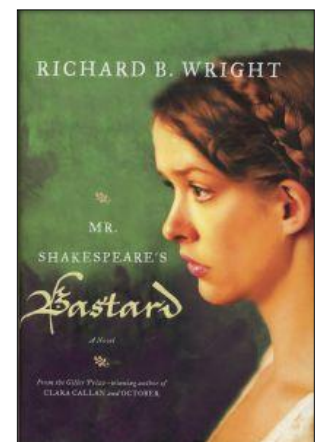


Gilead. Marilynne Robinson.

A wonderful novel set in 1956. An elderly minister in Iowa records an account of his life and ancestors for his young son. Moving from the past to the present, this shimmering novel shows the strength of the parent-child relationship. Robinson deals with universal issues and doesn't miss a step. Her follow-up book Home covers some of the same characters with the same themes.

Mr. Shakespeare's Bastard. Richard Wright.

Wright is one of our Canadian literary stars. He is never afraid to tackle interesting subjects. In this rather intriguing book, an elderly housekeeper on an English estate puts her story to paper. She is the illegitimate daughter of William Shakespeare, fathered during his years in London. Aerlene resembles her father more than her pretty mother although she only ever meets Shakespeare once in her entire life. It is both a skilful rendering of Elizabethan England and a thoughtful study of a girl with an absentee father.



A thousand acres. Jane Smiley.

Smiley has always been one of my favourite authors. In this Pulitzer prize-winning novel, she takes the King Lear story and transfers it to the American prairies. Larry Cook abruptly decides to turn his thousand acre farm over to his two eldest daughters – one who always gives in to him and one who tries to stand up to him. The third daughter, Carolyn, a successful lawyer also gets pulled into the family web. Probably one of the best modern novels about sibling rivalry and the dark heart of family secrets. Highly recommended.

Fear the worst. Linwood Barclay.

A Canadian thriller about a missing daughter. Barclay is getting quite a reputation for his taut, fast-paced suspense novels. Tim Blake's adolescent daughter disappears and her co-workers claim to never have even met her. Lots of red herrings, good plotting and thrills and chills make this a novel that can be compared to Harlan Coben's writings. A popcorn-gobbling novel about a father's desperate search for his child.