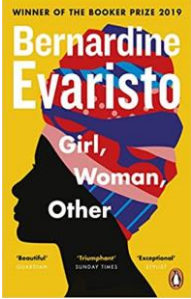

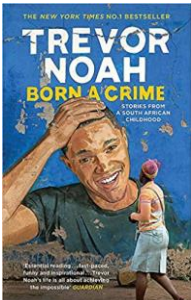
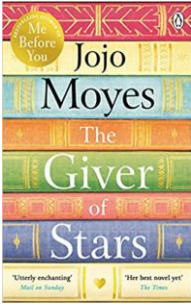
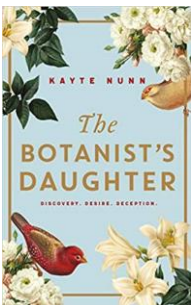


		PSC Reading Group Selections for 2020-2021	Date
1	<p><b>Girl, Woman, Other</b> by Bernardine Evaristo 464 pages</p> 	<p>This is Britain as you've never read it. This is Britain as it has never been told.</p> <p>From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, <i>Girl, Woman, Other</i> follows a cast of twelve characters on their personal journeys through this country and the last hundred years. They're each looking for something - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home, somewhere to fit in, a lover, a missed mother, a lost father, even just a touch of hope . . .</p>	<p>Monday 28th September 2020</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>
2	<p><b>The Silent Patient</b> by Alex Michaelides 336 pages</p> 	<p>Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London. Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him.</p>	<p>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>
3	<p><b>Born a Crime</b> by Trevor Noah 304 pages</p> 	<p>One of the comedy world's brightest new voices, Trevor Noah is a light-footed but sharp-minded observer of the absurdities of politics, race and identity, sharing jokes and insights drawn from the wealth of experience acquired in his relatively young life. As host of the US hit show <i>The Daily Show with Trevor Noah</i>, he provides viewers around the globe with their nightly dose of biting satire, but here Noah turns his focus inward, giving readers a deeply personal, heartfelt and humorous look at the world that shaped him.</p> <p>Noah was born a crime, son of a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother, at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the first years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, take him away.</p> <p>A collection of eighteen personal stories, <i>Born a Crime</i> tells the story of a mischievous young boy growing into a restless young man as he struggles to find his place in a world where he was never supposed to exist. <i>Born a Crime</i> is equally the story of that young man's fearless, rebellious and fervently religious mother - a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence and abuse that ultimately threatens her own life.</p>	<p>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>

4	<p><b>The Giver of Stars</b> by Jojo Moyes 448 pages</p> 	<p>From the author of <i>Me Before You</i>, set in Depression-era America, a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond.</p> <p>Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.</p> <p>The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.</p> <p>What happens to them—and to the men they love—becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.</p> <p>Based on a true story rooted in America's past, <i>The Giver of Stars</i> is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling. Funny, heartbreaking, enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic—a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.</p>	<p>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>
5	<p><b>State of Wonder</b> by Ann Patchett 400 pages</p> 	<p><i>There were people on the banks of the river.</i></p> <p>Among the tangled waterways and giant anacondas of the Brazilian Rio Negro, an enigmatic scientist is developing a drug that could alter the lives of women for ever. Dr Annick Swenson's work is shrouded in mystery; she refuses to report on her progress, especially to her investors, whose patience is fast running out. Anders Eckman, a mild-mannered lab researcher, is sent to investigate. A curt letter reporting his untimely death is all that returns.</p> <p>Now Marina Singh, Anders' colleague and once a student of the mighty Dr Swenson, is their last hope. Compelled by the pleas of Anders's wife, who refuses to accept that her husband is not coming home, Marina leaves the snowy plains of Minnesota and retraces her friend's steps into the heart of the South American darkness, determined to track down Dr. Swenson and uncover the secrets being jealously guarded among the remotest tribes of the rainforest.</p> <p>What Marina does not yet know is that, in this ancient corner of the jungle, where the muddy waters and susurrating grasses hide countless unknown perils and temptations, she will face challenges beyond her wildest imagination. Marina is no longer the student, but only time will tell if she has learnt enough.</p>	<p>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>
6	<p><b>The Botanists Daughter</b> by Kayte Nunn 400 pages</p> 	<p>A buried secret...Present day: Anna is focused on growing her new gardening business and renovating her late grandmother's house. But when she discovers a box hidden in a wall cavity, containing water colours of exotic plants, an old diary and a handful of seeds, she finds herself thrust into a centuries-old mystery. One that will send her halfway across the world to Kew Gardens and then onto Cornwall in search of the truth.</p> <p>A lady adventurer...1886: Elizabeth Trebithick is determined to fulfil her father's dying wish and continue his life's work as an adventurer and plant-hunter. So when she embarks on a perilous journey to discover a rare and miraculous flower, she will discover that the ultimate betrayal can be found even across the seas...</p> <p>Two women, separated by centuries. Can one mysterious flower bring them together?</p>	<p>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021</p> <p>7.30 – 9.00pm</p>