

# BBC Readings & Short Stories

Serial readings of well-loved books are among the most popular of all contemporary radio programmes. Readings cover a wide range of fiction and non-fiction from Jane Austen and Dickens to Carl Hiaasen, Bill Bryson and Dame Edna Everage, abridged and read by the best writers and actors, in what is a highly specialised form.

In all the titles offered here the duration of each episode is fifteen minutes.

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# BBC Short Stories (section 2)

Short stories make ideal schedule-fillers at any time - daytime or evening - and all the stories in this selection are suitable for a fifteen-minute slot.

They have been categorised for convenience and flexibility of scheduling and include collected stories by some of the acknowledged masters of the genre.

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## 1. Thrillers/Crime

- Beggar's Banquet (1-5)**  
by Ian Rankin  
5 X 15'  
Five readings from the collection of short stories by the crime writer Ian Rankin.  
RE0066
- Blood Sport**  
Dick Francis  
13 x 15'  
by Gene Hawkins must travel to Kentucky to spend three weeks looking for kidnapped stallions. But before he leaves, Gene's survival skills are called on closer to home and he is drawn into a nightmare of blackmail and murder.  
CN0196
- The Day of the Jackal (1-6)**  
6 x 15'  
Derek Jacobi reads Frederick Forsyth's compelling thriller.  
RE0072
- Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde**  
6 x 15'  
The haunting and sinister Victorian mystery about a good man and his terrifying alter ego. When an angry fiend assaults a small girl an inquisitive lawyer begins to question the erratic behaviour of his friend, the well-respected Dr Jekyll The lawyer's investigations reveal a story so frightening, so horrific that he can scarcely believe it...  
Read by Joss Ackland.  
RE0041
- The Fencing Master**  
by Arturo Perez-Reverte  
10 x 15'  
A seductive, intricate, historical murder mystery set against the events of the September Revolution in Spain in 1868.  
RE0030
- The Franchise Affair**  
Josephine Tey  
13 x 15'  
by An unusual and absorbing mystery as a young woman is kidnapped, seemingly without motive.  
TCD0337
- A Gun For Sale**  
by Graham Greene  
15 x 15'  
A professional gunman seeks revenge in Greene's exciting story, the immediate forerunner of *Brighton Rock*.  
CN2350
- High Stakes**  
by Dick Francis  
10 x 15'  
Steven Scott loves his nine racehorses and they are trained by his great friend Jody Leeds. When he finds out that Jody has been cheating him out of large sums of money he takes his horses away from his yard. The consequences are unpredictable and terrifying.  
CN2350

<p><b>I'm Not Scared</b> 5 X 15'</p>	<p>During the suffocating Italian summer of 1978, a nine-year-old boy goes on a bicycle ride into the hills. Inside a derelict farmhouse he makes a frightening discovery – one he instinctively knows he must keep to himself...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RE0081</p>
<p><b>The Negotiator</b> by Frederick Forsyth 10 x 15'</p>	<p>A young man is kidnapped in the Oxfordshire countryside and this proves to be the brutal first step in an elaborate plot to force the President of the United States out of office. This fast-moving thriller is packed with authentic detail and moves to a thrilling climax.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CN5443</p>
<p><b>No Highway</b> by Neville Shute 15 x 15'</p>	<p>Mounting tension on a transatlantic flight as a scientist works out that the plane's tail is about to disintegrate through metal-fatigue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CN1329</p>
<p><b>Playback</b> by Raymond Chandler 10 x 15'</p>	<p>Cynical, wisecracking private investigator Philip Marlowe takes on his last case - to tail a mysterious femme fatale down the California coast.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RE0022</p>
<p><b>The Prisoner Of Zenda</b> by Antony Hope 8 x 15'</p>	<p>The perennially popular swashbuckling adventure filmed five times since its publication in 1894, read by Richard E Grant..</p> <p>Rudolf Rassendyll, a charming, witty and wealthy London aristocrat, plans a trip abroad, to a place, that, for a special reason, has always captured his imagination...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RE0048</p>
<p><b>Psycho</b> by Robert Bloch 8 x 15'</p>	<p>The horrific chiller, memorably filmed by Alfred Hitchcock, with Mrs. Bates's son Norman ensuring "Vacancies" at his seedy motel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RE0016</p>
<p><b>Ripley's Game</b> 10 X 15'</p>	<p>Amoral hero Tom Ripley – one of the most outrageous creations in crime-fiction – pits his wits against the Mafia in a trans-European tale of money laundering, contract killing and garrotting good fun.</p> <p>Stanley Tucci's films include <i>Conspiracy</i>, <i>Road To Perdition</i> and <i>The Terminal</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RE0083</p>
<p><b>The Russia House</b> by John le Carré 12 x 15'</p>	<p>Three years into "perestroika" and a reluctant spy and a beautiful girl give a little post-Cold War warmth to le Carré's espionage genre. Read by the author.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CN5412</p>
<p><b>The Sign Of Four</b> by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 10 x 15'</p>	<p>Sherlock Holmes is called upon to solve a mystery, which involves a hidden fortune, a secret pact, revenge from the East and a sinister and deadly pygmy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CN3658</p>

**The Spy Who Came  
In From The Cold**  
by John le Carré  
14 x 15'

Double bluff and betrayal in the bleak atmosphere of Cold War espionage, by a master of the genre.

CN3091

**The Tesseract**  
by Alex Grand  
10 x 15'

From the author of the best-selling *The Beach*, this is the story of three disparate characters: Sean, who has mestizo gangster connections; Rosa, a doctor with a beach boy lover; and Vincent, a 13-year-old street boy. Their lives collide in a terrifying climax.

RE0019

## 2. Comedy

- Adrian Mole: The Cappuccino Years**  
by Sue Townsend  
5 x 15'
- Hapless Adrian has aged - he's now 30 ¾ - but he still confides in his secret diary.
- RE0024
- Adrian Mole: The Wilderness Years**  
by Sue Townsend  
8 x 15'
- Oh dear, poor Adrian is over his adolescence but he does still have problems.
- TCD0617
- A Bullet In The Ballet**  
by Caryl Brahms  
and S.J. Simon  
10 x 15'
- Dirty deeds in the ballet company of Vladimir Stroganoff in the first of Brahms and Simon's comic novels.
- CN3084
- The Darling Buds of May**  
8 X 15'
- A delightful tale set in rural England in the 1950s. Life on the farm is "perfick" for Pop and Ma Larkin and their six children. When a young tax inspector arrives to do his duty he is disarmed by the Larkins' copious hospitality – and the allure of their eldest daughter. Before long he's seduced by the excitements of village life and quite unable to return to his dull desk job...
- RE0080
- The Graduate**  
by Charles Webb  
10 x 15'
- "Mrs. Robinson, are you trying to seduce me?" Impressionable college-boy, Benjamin Braddock, falls prey to the advances of his girlfriend's mother.
- RE0037
- Skin Tight**  
by Carl Hiaasen  
10 x 15'
- Hiaasen's Florida is a corrupt, polluted and blackly comic backdrop to this tale of small-time crooks, big-time graft and bad plastic surgery.
- RE0005
- Summer Lightning**  
by P.G. Woodhouse  
15 x 15'
- Everything happens at Blandings Castle. Lord Emsworth's prize pig, The Empress of Blandings, is stolen and Emsworth has to cope with a looming family scandal and two sets of star-crossed lovers.
- CN3787
- Unreliable Memoirs**  
by Clive James  
9 x 15'
- Clive James recalls his boyhood in post-war suburban Sydney with all the explosive wit and good humour familiar to his television audiences.
- CN3733

**Whisky Galore**  
by Compton  
MacKenzie  
15 x 15'

During World War II a ship with a cargo of whisky is wrecked off the coast of a small Hebridean island. The locals, anticipating a welcome break from rationing, are keen to avoid the attention of the Customs and Excise men.

CN2885

### 3. Travel

<b>Among The Russians</b> by Colin Thubron 10 x 15'	An absorbing record of the author's solitary journey by car across Russia.	CN4672
<b>Black Lamb, Grey Falcon</b> by Rebecca West 10 x 15'	Diana Rigg reads the acclaimed and often controversial account of West's travels through Yugoslavia from 1935 to 1938.	TCD0288
<b>Casino Royale (1-10)</b> by Ian Fleming 10 X 15'	In 1953, a thriller by Ian Fleming was published - it featured a man with certain distinctive hallmarks - and it was to create an icon. Now, half a century after Fleming's unmistakable creation began his life as the most famous spy in the world, Alex Jennings reads the very first double-o-seven story.	RE0069
<b>A Cook's Tour</b> 5 x 15'	Manhattan chef, Anthony Bourdain follows the best-selling <i>Kitchen Confidential</i> with this hugely entertaining account of his travels round the world in search of "the perfect meal". Read by the author.	RE0051
<b>Dark Star Safari (1-5)</b> by Paul Theroux 5 X 15'	An acclaimed master of the modern travel book revisits Africa thirty years on and encounters beauty, squalor, friendship and danger as makes a mighty journey across the 'green continent' from Cairo to Cape Town.	RE0064
<b>Fresh-Air Fiend</b> by Paul Theroux 5 x 15'	Five corners of the world - their people, buildings and customs - as seen through the eyes of the cool humorist and highly-acclaimed travel writer	RE0031
<b>The Great Railway Bazaar</b> by Paul Theroux 10 x 15'	Fired by a fascination with trains that stemmed from childhood, Paul Theroux set out one day with the intention of boarding every train that chugged into view from Victoria Station in London to Tokyo Central, and to come back again via the Trans-Siberian Express.	RE0004
<b>In Siberia</b> by Colin Thubron 10 x 15'	Imagine a land five million square miles in area, seven time zones from side to side, one twelfth the land mass of the planet. Imagine its strange, exotic peoples, its bizarre architecture, its melancholy past. Imagine a journey that takes you to its heart.	RE0028

**The White Spider**  
5 x 15'

A gripping account of the early attempts to ascend the appallingly steep and difficult north face of the Eiger – 6000 vertical feet of crumbling limestone in the Swiss Alps. Just below the summit is the 'White Spider', a dangerous ice field that lies in wait to funnel ice and rock onto the heads of climbers...  
The reader is Anton Lesser.

RE0056

## 4. World Classics

- The African Queen (1-6)**  
by C.S. Forester  
6 X 15'
- Cast aside all images of Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn in John Huston's 1951 movie, the two protagonists in Forester's 1935 novel are a disparate English couple and arguably the book has a more realistic and poignant ending than the film. At the outbreak of WW1, a missionary and a gin-loving cockney engineer are thrown together on the African Queen, a launch full of mining supplies. Somehow they must get her down an unnavigable river and sink a German gunboat which is dominating the region.
- RE0059
- Age Of Iron**  
by J.M. Coetzee  
10 x 15'
- In Cape Town an old woman, a classics professor, is forced to confront the realities of apartheid which she has merely opposed in principle in the past. A powerful story of mounting anger and despair read by South Africa's award-winning actress Yvonne Br.
- TCD0251
- The Ambassadors**  
10 x 15'
- A rich American widow sends Strether to Europe to save her son from the clutches of a 'wicked woman'. But Strether finds the young man much improved by the Old World environment. Convincing him to return is going to be extremely difficult...
- The Ambassadors* explores one of James's favourite themes: the collision between American innocence and European experience. James thought it his finest work.
- RE0047
- Around The World In Eighty Days**  
10 x 15'
- It's 1872. The enigmatic Phileas Fogg takes on a £20,000 bet from his fellow members at the Reform Club - to circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. But can he do it?
- RE0046
- Barchester Towers**  
by Anthony Trollope  
20 x 15'
- The new bishop of Barchester, Dr. Proudie, and his overbearing wife are locked in a struggle for control of the diocese with the oily chaplain Slope and archdeacon Grantly. Trollope's wonderfully dense story of thwarted provincial ambition is a delight.
- TCD0148
- Beowulf Translated**  
by Seamus Heaney  
10 x 15'
- Beowulf is a hero from the golden age of Anglo-Saxon heroes whose adventures formed the basis of an epic poem written 1,000 years ago. He kills the monster Grendel and then must fight its even more terrifying mother, "the swamp thing from hell". Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995 reads his own acclaimed version.
- RE0026

- Brave New World (1-10)**  
10 x 15'
- Aldous Huxley's classic novel, first published in 1932, riveted readers with ideas on consumerism, cloning and leisure time. It was a stinging indictment on what science and corporate life can do to the individual. Today, many of its predictions are coming true.
- RE0073
- Candide**  
by Francois Voltaire  
8 x 15'
- Everything happens to Candide, an innocent abroad in an evil and unfeeling world. His spirits are kept up by Dr. Pangloss, who holds that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, despite his own particularly unpleasant experiences. Voltaire's witty satire, published in 1759 is still stimulating and fresh.
- RE0012
- A Christmas Carol**  
by Charles Dickens  
8 x 15'
- Ebenezer Scrooge is made to face up to his miserly life by three Christmas ghosts - Past, Present and Future - in the most famous of all Dickens' stories.
- CN4753
- The Count of Monte Cristo (1-9)**  
by Alexandre Dumas  
9 X 15'
- A new adaptation of one of the greatest thrillers of all time. This classic story of love, treachery and revenge follows a young sailor, Edmond Dantes, as he prepares to captain his own ship and marry his beloved. But on the day of his wedding he is falsely accused of aiding the exiled Napoleon and condemned to life imprisonment on an island fortress. Fourteen years later Dantes escapes and posing as the Count of Monte Cristo he sets out to reclaim his lost love and exact a terrible revenge on his enemies.
- RE0058
- Daisy Miller**  
by Henry James  
4 x 15'
- Daisy Miller, an American girl, travels to Europe with her mother, where her "New World" mixture of innocence and audacity offends the conventions of the more staid European society.
- CN3239
- Dracula (1-10)**  
10 x 15'
- Dracula by Bram Stoker. Michael Fassbender, Gillian Kearney, James D'Arcy and James Greene read the various diary accounts of the four main characters of Jonathan Harker, Mina Murray, Dr Seward and Dr Van Helsing to relate the epic legend of the Transylvanian Count.
- RE0078
- Eugene Onegin (1-5)**  
5 X 15'
- An accessible, lively translation of a classic Russian verse novel. It tells the story of the bored society of Eugene Onegin, the unspoilt country maid who falls in love with him and the ill-starred young poet, Vladimir Lensky.
- RE0075

<p><b>Le Grand Meaulnes</b> by Alain-Fournier 10 x 15'</p>	<p>This much-loved French classic is a haunting and magical story of romantic idealism, adolescent passion and the search for "a lost domain". It was based on the author's boyhood experiences and was his only novel. He was killed in action in 1914.</p>	<p>RE0018</p>
<p><b>A House For Mr. Biswas</b> by V.S. Naipaul 15 x 15'</p>	<p>Set in Trinidad, the story of Mr. Biswas and his house charts the dissolution of a whole way of life as the younger members of his family leave for new educational opportunities in Europe.</p>	<p>CN3267</p>
<p><b>The Hunchback Of Notre Dame</b> 8 x 15'</p>	<p>The classic tale of the unrequited love between a deaf, deformed bell-ringer and a beautiful, romantic gypsy girl. Read with tremendous verve by well-known TV and film actor, Richard Griffiths.</p>	<p>RE0043</p>
<p><b>Jane Eyre</b> by Charlotte Brontë 19 x 15'</p>	<p>Jane is a penniless and harshly-treated orphan who arrives at a gloomy Yorkshire mansion to be the new governess. The master of the house is a brooding figure with a sardonic temper and a dark secret but gradually she comes to love him. This gothic romance has thrilled generations of readers with its emotional and narrative power.</p>	<p>CN5295</p>
<p><b>Frankenstein (1 - 10)</b> by Mary Shelley 10 x 15'</p>	<p>Inspired by a nightmare, the chilling story of Frankenstein was first published in 1818, when its author, Mary Shelley, was only 21.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A student attempts to discover the secrets of creating life.</li> <li>2. Rescued from the icy wastes of the Arctic, Victor Frankenstein begins his extraordinary narrative.</li> <li>3. "By the dim and yellow light of the moon, I beheld the wretch - the miserable monster whom I had created ..."</li> <li>4. A family tragedy sends Victor Frankenstein back home to Geneva.</li> <li>5. "I lived in daily fear lest the monster whom I had created should perpetrate some new wickedness."</li> <li>6. The creature describes the first few months of his troubled existence.</li> <li>7. "One as deformed and horrible as myself would not deny herself to me. This being you must create ..."</li> <li>8. Victor Frankenstein travels to the remote Orkney Islands to create a female.</li> <li>9. Victor Frankenstein prepares for his marriage to Elizabeth.</li> <li>10. Frankenstein pursues his monstrous creation to the icy wastes of the Arctic.</li> </ol>	<p>RE0087</p>
<p><b>Madame Bovary</b> by Gustave Flaubert 15 x 15'</p>	<p>Flaubert's heroine escapes her rural background to become a Doctor's wife, but she is stifled by the provincialism of her new life. The story of her adultery, crippling debts and ultimate suicide is told by Flaubert with humour, with great authenticity and no moral censure. On its publication in 1857, Flaubert, his publisher and printer, were tried for outraging public morals but were later acquitted.</p>	<p>CN4430</p>

- Nana**  
by Emile Zola  
15 x 15'
- Nana is an 18-year-old who can neither sing nor act, but when she stars in a titillating new show the men in the audience are spellbound by her voluptuous beauty. *Nana* is one of the most evocative and frank novels of the nineteenth century - a compelling portrait of a decadent society riddled with corruption and immorality. Read by Juliet Stevenson.
- RE0020
- The Phantom Of The Opera**  
by Gaston Leroux  
10 x 15'
- Scary nineteenth century French melodrama set in the Paris Opera House, as beauty, the beast and Art fight it out together. Memorably filmed several times and made ever more popular by Andrew Lloyd Webber's worldwide smash musical.
- TCD0942
- The Picture Of Dorian Gray**  
by Oscar Wilde  
10 x 15'
- Wilde's deliciously decadent fin-de-siècle story of temptation and corruption, within a glittering society setting.
- CN4463
- Pride And Prejudice**  
by Jane Austen  
18 x 15'
- The path of true love is particularly rocky for the sparky Elizabeth Bennett and the proud Mr. Darcy. Originally titled *First Impressions*, Austen's delicious comedy of manners sparkles with wit and wisdom in Patricia Hodge's reading.
- CN5487
- A Tale Of Two Cities**  
by Charles Dickens  
15 x 15'
- "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." So begins Dickens' stirring tale of love and self-sacrifice, set against the background of the French Revolution's Terror.
- RE0039
- Tales From Ovid**  
by Ted Hughes  
10 x 15'
- The late Ted Hughes reads from his award-winning version of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* - stories of the underworld and overworld of classical myth and legend.
- RE0017
- Tess Of The Durbervilles**  
by Thomas Hardy  
20 x 15'
- Perhaps the author's finest work, a classic story of innocence ruined set against the timeless and unfeeling natural background of Hardy's Wessex.
- CN5365
- Where Angels Fear To Tread**  
by E.M. Forster  
11 x 15'
- An English middle class family are appalled when one of their number, on a trip to Italy, marries a young Italian man several years her junior. When she dies in childbirth, her friends and relatives, for a variety of reasons, decide to "rescue" her baby from the father's dubious and "foreign" environment.
- CN1161
- Wild Swans**  
by Jung Chang  
5 x 15'
- Combining the intimacy of memoir with the epic sweep of a great novel, *Wild Swans* tells the story of three women - Jung Chang, her mother and her grandmother - whose fortunes mirror the tumultuous history of twentieth-century China. Read by Pik-Sen Lim.
- TCD1153

**The Woman in  
White (1 - 8)**  
8 x 15'

A gripping mystery thriller, first published in 1860, brimming with love and deceit, villainy and retribution.

1. Walter Hartright, a drawing instructor, is down on his luck. But his life is turned completely upside down after he meets a mysterious woman, dressed all in white.
2. Walter is now teaching two women, one of whom bears a spooky resemblance to the "Woman in White".
3. Walter leaves England to forget Laura. When he returns she is dead. Or is she?
4. Walter is determined to help Laura re-establish her identity.
5. Walter still searches for the answer to why Lady Laura Glyde is in an asylum - the same place the Woman in White has disappeared to.
6. Walter discovers why Sir Percival Glyde had both Ann Catherick (The Woman in White) and his wife locked away in an asylum.
7. Sir Percival is now dead, but Walter is confronted with a more chilling adversary in Count Fosco.
8. Walter attempts to extract a true confession from Count Fosco and re-establish his wife's identity.

RE0088

**Zorba The Greek**  
by Nikos  
Kazantzakis  
15 x 15'

A young English writer on his first visit to Crete falls under the influence of a larger-than-life figure who comes to dominate his life.

CN3305

## 5. Modern Classics

- Absolute Friends**  
10 x 15'  
John le Carré reads from his latest novel: an epic tale of loyalty and betrayal that spans the lives of two friends, from the riot-torn West Berlin of the 1960s to the grimy looking-glass of Cold War espionage to the post 9/11 world of terrorism, counter-terrorism and dubious alliances.  
RE0079
- Angela's Ashes**  
by Frank McCourt  
7 x 15'  
The author looks back with sadness and affection at his first eighteen years growing up in New York and Ireland.  
RE0011
- As It Is In Heaven**  
by Niall Williams  
5 x 15'  
A passionate and haunting love story set in Venice and the west of Ireland by the acclaimed author of *Four Letters Of Love*.  
RE0032
- Behind The Scenes At The Museum**  
10 x 15'  
The wonderfully quirky 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year tells the story of Ruby Lennox - from her deeply unromantic conception through to middle-age. She has a philandering father who runs a pet shop, a mother who is intensely irritable and two older sisters who are her constant companions. But as Ruby grows up she realises that the family is shielding her from a terrible secret - and she lies at its heart...  
Read by Patricia Hodge.  
RE0040
- Breakfast At Tiffany's**  
by Truman Capote  
7 x 15'  
Holly Golightly is a bruised, eccentric young girl of great charm adrift in the world of 1950s Greenwich Village in New York. Perhaps Truman Capote's funniest and most delicate novel, with the central character delightfully portrayed by Audrey Hepburn in the successful film.  
CN5195
- The Coachman Rat**  
by David Henry Wilson  
8 x 15'  
The story of Robert, the rat transformed into Cinderella's coachman, and what happened to him after he resumed his animal form. Wilson creates a gripping fantasy and a humorous allegory on man's inhumanity to man.  
CN5525
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time**  
10 x 15'  
A gripping murder mystery, narrated by an intelligent 15 year-old with a rare form of autism. When he discovers the neighbour's dog dead on the lawn with a garden fork in its side, his quest to discover the perpetrator takes him on a journey that turns his world upside down.  
Written by Mark Haddon.  
RE0074
- Disappointment – 5 Stories**  
by Anton Chekhov  
5 X 15'  
Chekhov wrote over four hundred short stories. Although many of them display the same bleak view of the world as do his plays, others are infused with wit. They all offer sublime insights not only into life in Russia at the end of the Nineteenth Century, but into the human condition generally. Read by Ewan McGregor.  
RE0065

- Goodby Mr. Chips (1-5)**  
by James Hilton  
5 X 15'
- A five-part adaptation of James Hilton's classic novel about the life of beloved public-school teach Mr Chipping. Read by Sir Derek Jacobi.
- RE0067
- The Girl At The Lion D'Or**  
by Sebastian Faulks  
6 x 15'
- A mysterious young girl arrives to take up a job as a waitress in the run-down Hotel du Lion D'Or. In a small French provincial town in the 1930s the Great War still hangs over the country and haunts the lives of most people.
- TCD1059
- Girl With A Pearl Earring (1-5)**
- Sixteen-year old Griet is obliged to work as a maid to support her family and she is taken on by the painter Johannes Vermeer. Griet's brief encounter with genius will transform her life and it is her destiny to become immortalised in oil. But first, she must pass an exacting test...
- RE0077
- The Girl With Green Eyes**  
8 x 15'
- Edna O'Brien's 1960s classic romance of a young woman's first love - with an older married man.
- RE0052
- The Handmaid's Tale**  
by Margaret  
Attwood  
10 x 15'
- Attwood's chilling futuristic story is set in the USA where women have lost all rights and are merely required for breeding.
- TCD1198
- Hotel du Lac**  
by Anita Brookner  
14 x 15'
- Edith Hope, a writer of romantic fiction is staying in an out-of-season hotel on the shores of a Swiss lake. In her solitude she considers her career and the nature of love, while making contact with some of the other guests.
- CN4978
- In Custody**  
by Anita Desai  
10 x 15'
- Deven is a small-town scholar and is asked to interview India's greatest poet, Nur. But the old man he finds deep in the bazaar of Old Delhi is nothing like the idol of his youth.
- CN5062
- Laughter In The Dark**  
by Vladimir  
Nabokov  
10 x 15'
- A wealthy art dealer is taken in by an ambitious usherette and her lover, and after being blinded in a car accident tries to kill them both.
- CN3137
- Miss Garnet's Angel**  
5 x 15'
- A subtle and absorbing novel about love and the discovery of other worlds. When retired schoolteacher Miss Julia Garnet is left a legacy, she takes the uncharacteristically bold decision to rent an apartment in Venice. Her narrow life will be profoundly changed by the people and experiences she encounters there. Read by Eileen Atkins.
- RE0044

<p><b>Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha</b> by Roddy Doyle 15 x 15'</p>	<p>Paddy Clarke, a ten-year-old Dubliner, describes his world, a place full of warmth, cruelty, love, sardines and slaps across the face. He sees everything but seems to understand less and less.</p>	<p>TCD0675</p>
<p><b>Picnic At Hanging Rock</b> by Joan Lindsay 10 x 15'</p>	<p>It is St. Valentines Day 1900 and the girls of Appleyard College are at Hanging Rock for the school picnic. As the afternoon wears on some girls leave the main party to climb the ancient rock.....This haunting mystery is read by Lisa Harrow.</p>	<p>TCD1259</p>
<p><b>Pompeii (1-10)</b> 10 x 15'</p>	<p>A re-creation of one of the greatest natural disasters in human history, seen through the eyes of a young Roman engineer in 79AD. Marcus Attilius has taken charge of the Augusta, an enormous aqueduct that conveys water to towns around the Bay of Naples. For the first time in generations, the springs are failing and a crisis is looming on the Augusta's 60-mile main line. As Attilius heads across the bay towards Mount Vesuvius he is about to discover that there are forces even the world's only superpower cannot control.</p>	<p>RE0076</p>
<p><b>Rebecca</b> by Daphne Du Maurier 15 x 15'</p>	<p>"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again". Mystery and romance in a spectacular Cornish setting in du Maurier's finest novel.</p>	<p>TCD0571</p>
<p><b>The Rector's Daughter</b> by F.M. Mayor 11 x 15'</p>	<p>An absorbing and painfully honest account of filial and married love and middle-aged desire. A forgotten classic, published in 1924, but now highly acclaimed.</p>	<p>CN3207</p>
<p><b>The Remains Of The Day</b> by Kazuo Ishiguro 10 x 15'</p>	<p>A butler comes to realise that his lifelong respect for and service to his aristocratic master was misplaced. As the years go by his sense of personal loss is compounded by his reticence in declaring his love for a fellow-servant, until it's too late.</p>	<p>TCD0436</p>
<p><b>Room At The Top</b> by John Braine 15 x 15'</p>	<p>A young working-class man is eager to get on and better himself. Along the way he has to choose between two women, the experienced Alice or Susan, the boss's daughter.</p>	<p>CN2883</p>

**Saturday (1-10)**  
by Ian McEwan  
10 x 15'

Ian McEwan's new novel describes a day in the life of Henry Perowne, a surgeon who is comfortable and happy with his lot - until early one morning in 2003 he sees an ailing plane flying low over London. His life will never be the same again.

1. "Surely, meteors have a darting, needle-like quality? This is moving slowly, majestically even ... "
2. It's a great day for Henry's squash game. Isn't it?
3. Hitting the other car makes Henry late for squash - and he meets Baxter.
4. Henry's epic game with Jay Strauss begins.
5. Game over and Henry goes shopping for the reunion that night.
6. Henry makes a poignant visit to his mother and a difficult journey through the peace march.
7. Henry heads for an important date with the kitchen and then his guests.
8. Dinner is vividly interrupted by the arrival of Rosalind ... and others.
9. Baxter and Nige have forced their entry and now it's time to get rid of them.
11. Henry now has a decision to make at the end of the day.

RE0089

**Tara Road**  
by Maeve Binchy  
8 x 15'

A funny and poignant best-seller from Ireland's most popular writer.

RE0027

**Tulip Fever**  
by Deborah Moggach  
10 x 15'

In seventeenth century Amsterdam, at the height of "tulipmania", a painter falls in love with his young, pretty, married subject in this witty tale of passion and intrigue. (Audition Advised)

RE0023

## 6. Adventure

- Catriona**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson  
14 x 15'
- A sequel to *Kidnapped* as David Balfour seeks to have his friend James Stewart acquitted of a murder he did not commit in the dangerous world of eighteenth century Scotland. David falls in love with Catriona Drummond, daughter of the renegade James More.
- CN4780
- The Day Of The Triffids**  
by John Wyndham  
14 x 15'
- The world is suddenly invaded by a new and dangerous species of plant, 7-foot-high monsters, which can propel themselves on their three-pronged roots. Can scientists find a way of destroying them before they take over the world?
- CN3957
- The Invisible Man**  
by H.G. Wells  
10 x 15'
- A scientist discovers a means of making himself invisible, but in the process becomes a megalomaniac.
- CN2925
- Kim**  
by Rudyard Kipling  
15 x 15'
- Kim is the orphaned son of a British soldier in India during the Raj. Attached to his father's old regiment he shows an aptitude for secret service - "The Great Game" - and the hazards of such undercover adventure.
- CN5017
- Lost Horizon**  
by James Hilton  
10 x 15'
- A group of people escaping a Chinese revolution are kidnapped and taken to the remote Tibetan valley of Shangri-La, a civilisation of tranquillity and kindness where the inhabitants seem to have the secret of eternal youth.
- CN1602
- The Thirty-Nine Steps**  
by John Buchan  
10 x 15'
- A nanny is murdered in Richard Hannay's apartment. Under suspicion, Hannay flees to the Highlands of Scotland, both to clear his name and to track down an international spy ring.
- CN3754
- Treasure Island**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson  
13 x 15'
- Pirate treasure is the lure in a tale where pieces-of-eight, dead men's chests and Long John Silver are the stuff of pure adventure.
- CN4189
- True Grit**  
by Charles Portis  
5 x 15'
- In the Old West a young girl, seeking to avenge her murdered father, seeks the aid of a hard-drinking old marshal.
- RE0014

## 7. Autobiography

**As I Walked Out  
One Midsummer  
Morning**

by Laurie Lee  
5 x 15'

"At the bend of the road I looked back again...then I turned the corner, passed the village school and closed that part of my life forever." Kenneth Branagh reads from Laurie Lee's memoir of his travels in Spain in the early thirties.

TCD1010

**Auto-Da-Fay**

by Fay Weldon  
5 x 15'

The controversial novelist, playwright and pioneering feminist gives an honest, sometimes painful, often funny account of a life lived to the full. Read by the author.

RE0055

**Clinging To The  
Wreckage**

by John Mortimer  
10 x 15'

Memoirs read by the barrister, novelist and playwright. Mortimer is the original champagne socialist and creator of the incomparable Rumpole of the Bailey.

CN4140

**The Diary Of Anne  
Frank**

by Anne Frank  
8 x 15'

The moving and poignant diary of a young adolescent girl, hiding with her family from the Nazis in occupied Amsterdam during World War II.

CN3357

**Driving Over  
Lemons (1-5)**

by Chris Stewart

5 X 15'

When English sheep shearer and drummer Chris Stewart quit an unknown band called Genesis to buy an isolated farmhouse in the Spanish mountains, he was fully aware that it didn't have electricity, running water, or access to roads. But he had little idea of the headaches and hilarity that would follow (including scorpions, dam-builders, and a former owner who won't budge).

RE0057

**Evelyn Waugh  
Short Stories (1-5)**

by Evelyn Waugh

5 X 15'

Evelyn Waugh's shorter fiction that displays the author's characteristic wit and ruthless irony.

RE0068

**Goon Abroad**

by Harry Secombe  
5 x 15'

The highly popular entertainer recalls experiences in an eventful life, from a musical childhood in pre-war Swansea, radio stardom in *The Goon Show* and later theatrical success.

CN4244

- Just Resting**  
by Leo McKern  
8 x 15'
- Reminiscences from one of Australia's most versatile actors, with a distinguished theatre and cinema career, perhaps best known for his TV role as the face and voice of Rumpole.
- CN4623
- Just Williams**  
by Kenneth Williams  
10 x 20'
- One of Britain's most popular comic actors in cinema, TV and radio recalls his beginnings in the theatre, the many personalities he worked with and reveals a more thoughtful side to his public persona.
- CN4868
- Lucky Man**  
by Michael J. Fox  
5 x 15'
- At the age of 29, Canadian actor Michael J Fox, star of TV's *Spin City* and the *Back To The Future* films, discovered he had Early Onset Parkinson's Disease. In his memoirs he talks about his illness without bitterness or sentimentality, and gives a frank and witty account of the realities of being a star.  
Read by the author.
- RE0054
- The Mechanical Turk (1-5)**  
by Tom Standage  
5 X 15'
- In 1770, an extraordinary chess-playing automaton made its debut appearance in Vienna. Over the next 84 years the Turk- so called because of its exotic costume - impressed audiences throughout Europe and America, and influenced a variety of scientific developments. But was it quite what it seemed to be? This is the true story of the Turk's amazing career.
- RE0060
- A Musing Morley**  
by Robert Morley  
5 x 10'
- "Anyone who works is a fool. I don't work - I merely inflict myself on the public." Memories of the theatre and cinema from one of Britain's best-loved actors, a larger-than-life figure from a distinguished theatrical family.
- CN2769
- My Autobiography**  
by Charles Chaplin  
20 x 15'
- From his debut on the stage of a London music-hall at five, to silent-screen stardom and the dire films of his later self-imposed exile from America, Chaplin's life is full of extraordinary moments. For many the oppressed little man with the bowler hat and the cane remains the most famous image of the twentieth century.
- CN0938
- The Past Is Myself**  
by Christabel Bielenberg  
10 x 15'
- An extraordinary account of life in Germany under the Nazis as Bielenberg and her husband, sickened by the horrors of fascism eventually become involved in the plot to kill Hitler in 1944. Although an intensely exciting story the overall impression for the listener is the essential humanity of the writer, even under the most intense pressures of war.
- CN5402
- Sagittarius Rising**  
by Cecil Lewis  
10 x 15'
- From Royal Flying Corps pilot in the First World War to early pioneer of television Cecil Lewis recalls a full and varied life.
- CN4211

**Sir Viv**  
by Sir Viv Richards  
5 x 15'

Colourful extracts from the life of cricketing legend and former West Indies captain. Read by his long-standing friend and batting stooge, Rudolph Walker.

RE0036

**The Story of Lucy Gault (1-10)**  
by William Trevor  
10 X 15'

County Cork, summer 1921. During the turmoil and dissent that's sweeping across Ireland three men come to fire the Big House. They ignite a chain of events which has tragic consequences for Captain Gault, his wife and eight-year-old daughter who live there.

RE0063

**Unreliable Memoirs**  
by Clive James  
9 x 15'

Journalist, poet, lyricist and television personality, Clive James looks back on his childhood in post-war Australia, his days at Kogarah Infants School and life as a student in Sydney. A wonderfully funny memoir.

CN3733

## 8. Children's Fiction

- The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer**  
by Mark Twain  
10 x 15'
- Deeply rooted in his own childhood, Twain's story of Tom, his sweetheart Becky Thatcher and his irrepressible chum Huckleberry Finn, gives an unforgettable account of Mississippi frontier life in the mid-nineteenth century.
- TCD0435
- 101 Dalmations**  
by Dodie Smith  
7 x 15'
- Juliet Stevenson is the reader in this story of the horrid Cruella de Vil whose desire for a fur coat made out of Dalmatian puppies just has to be thwarted.
- TCD1247
- Kidnapped**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson  
12 x 15'
- In eighteenth century Scotland David Balfour is cheated out of his inheritance by his miserly uncle, falls in with the Jacobite rebel Alan Breck and evades "redcoats" and other dangers to regain his estate.
- CN4018
- Peter Pan**  
by J.M. Barrie  
10 x 15'
- Glorious adventures in Never Never Land as Peter Pan and the Lost Boys take on the pirates led by the villainous Captain Hook. If your audience believes in fairies this story will entertain and delight.
- TCD0557
- The Story Of Dr. Doolittle**  
by Hugh Lofting  
5 x 15'
- Alan Bennett reads Lofting's story of an eccentric able to talk with animals. Originally, these stories were part of letters written to his children from the Western Front in the Great War and were published in 1920.
- TCD1224
- Treasure Island**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson  
13 x 15'
- An old pirate treasure map, a mutiny at sea and the sinister Long John Silver can only be thwarted by the plucky young Jim Hawkins and his friends.
- TCN4148
- The Wind In The Willows**  
by Kenneth Grahame  
10 x 15'
- These delightful tales from the riverbank of Mole, Ratty, Badger and Toad were originally based on bedtime stories and letters to Grahame's son and never intended for publication. Alan Bennett reads this children's classic which was published in 1909.
- CN5442
- The Young Visitors**  
by Daisy Ashford  
5 x 15'
- This comic masterpiece was written by Daisy Ashford when still a child. It's a sparkling, misspelt and unpunctuated view of High Life and the adventures of Ethel Monticue and her admirer Mr. Salteena.
- CN2152

## 9. Non-Fiction

- The Arcanum**  
by Janet Gleeson  
5 x 15'
- An eighteenth century apothecary discovers the secret of producing porcelain, a material that once was worth more than gold. The formula for making it - the "Arcanum" - is something that people are prepared to lie, cheat, steal and even kill for.
- RE0015
- The Code Book**  
by Simon Singh  
5 x 15'
- The story of the centuries-old battle between code makers and code breakers. Simon Singh, author of the best-selling *Fermat's Last Theorem*, offers a compelling glimpse of the role of cryptography in deciding wars, influencing politics and protecting our privacy.
- RE0025
- Gipsy Moth  
Circles The World**  
by Francis  
Chichester  
12 x 15'
- Chichester's story of his epic voyage in a small boat at an age when most people are enjoying a quiet retirement.
- CN1178
- Henry VIII: King  
And Court**  
5 x 15'
- The colourful story of the popular and controversial English monarch, set against the background of his magnificent court.
- RE0045
- In The Heart Of  
The Sea**  
by Nathaniel  
Philbrick  
5 x 15'
- In 1821 the Nantucket whaling ship, Essex, was sunk by an enraged sperm whale and its twenty-man crew left to drift across thousands of miles of ocean. Three months later eight survivors were rescued, deranged and close to death. Of their shipmates there was no sign - save a pile of gnawed bones. This grisly tale inspired Melville's masterpiece, *Moby Dick*.
- RE0038
- Last Man Down –  
The Fireman's  
Story (1-5)**  
by Richard Picciotto  
5 X 15'
- New York fireman Richard Picciotto led a group of firefighters to the 36th floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center shortly after the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 - and survived. He was literally the last man down the stairwell and instrumental in helping survivors escape. His voice is one of the few that speaks for the thousands who died - from the stance of really being there.
- RE0061
- The Reason Why**  
by Cecil Woodham-  
Smith  
15 x 15'
- "Theirs but to do and die". This classic historical work of detection, read by Robert Powell, seeks the reasons behind the seemingly suicidal Charge of the Light Brigade. Poor communication, military pig-headedness, family feuding and bad luck all contribute to answer the question "Why?"
- CN4823
- Tolstoy  
Remembered**  
by Tatyana Tolstoy  
10 x 15'
- The great Russian author recalled by his daughter.
- CN3337

# BBC Short Stories (section 2)

Short stories make ideal schedule-fillers at any time - daytime or evening - and all the stories in this selection are suitable for a fifteen-minute slot.

They have been categorised for convenience and flexibility of scheduling and include collected stories by some of the acknowledged masters of the genre.

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# 1. Christmas

A variety of stories, all suitable for the festive season.

<b>The Archbishop's Egg</b> by Lawrence Scott	TCD1171
<b>Baboushka</b> by Arthur Scholey	RE0033
<b>Christmas At Cold Comfort Farm</b> by Stella Gibbons	CN2783
<b>Christmas At Dingley Dell</b> by Charles Dickens	RE0033
<b>Christmas Eve In New York</b> by Betty Smith	RE0033
<b>Christmas Present</b> by Maeve Binchy	TCD1171
<b>Christmas Roses</b> by Edna O'Brien	CN3870
<b>The Christmas Truce</b> by Richmal Crompton	TCD0329
<b>The Ghost Who Vanished By Degrees</b> by Robert Davies	RE0003
<b>The Ghost Of Christmas Turkey Past</b> by Jamie Rix	TCD0770
<b>The Investigators</b> by David Belbin	TCD1171
<b>Masquerade</b> by Roy Heath	TCD1171
<b>Not So Tiny Tim, Or God Bless Us, Everyone</b> by John Mortimer	CD1171
<b>The Snow Queen</b> by Hans Christian Anderson	RE0033
<b>What The Dickens?</b> by Iain Patterson	RE0003
<b>Winter</b> by Laurie Lee	RE0033

## 2. The Great Storytellers

A series of classic stories written by masters of this highly-specialised genre.

<b>An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge</b> by Ambrose Bierce	TCD0673
<b>Araby</b> by James Joyce	TCD0673
<b>Mr. And Mrs. Dove</b> by Katherine Mansfield	TCD0673
<b>The Night The Ghost Got In</b> by James Thurber	TCD0672
<b>Old Mrs. Chundle</b> by Thomas Hardy	TCD0672
<b>The Outing</b> by Dylan Thomas	TCD0672
<b>Pigeons At Daybreak</b> by Anita Desai	TCD0672
<b>Romance With A Double Bass</b> by Anton Chekhov	TCD0673
<b>Trouble With Natives</b> by Arthur C. Clarke	TCD0673
<b>The Tower</b> by Marghanita Laski	TCD0672

### 3. Tales Of The Supernatural

This genre has long fascinated writers who find the short story the ideal medium for the scary or the unexplained, chillers for any audience. In this group are five tales from M.R. James, long acknowledged for the cool, scholarly surface of his writing, but with a darker, more gruesome underside.

There are also five stories from John Connolly, a contemporary writer, whose work follows in the great tradition of Poe, Dickens and James.

#### **A Collection Of Ghost Stories**

by M.R. James

Canon Alberic's Scrapbook  
The Haunted Doll's House  
Lost Hearts  
Rats  
A School Story

RE0013

#### **A Collection Of Ghost Stories**

by John Connolly

The Erl-King  
Mr. Gray's Folly  
Mr. Pettinger's Dream  
Nocturne  
The Ritual Of The Bones

RE0034

#### **The Ghost Horse Of Genghis Khan**

by Russell Hoban

TCD0910

#### **Ghost Of Honour**

by Pamela Hansford-Johnson

CN5321

#### **The Signalman**

by Charles Dickens

TCD0561

## 4. The Best Contemporary Short Stories

Contemporary short stories by well-known novelists.

<b>All We Want Is Your Happiness, Brian</b> by Frederick Raphael	CN4042
<b>25<sup>th</sup> August 1983</b> by Jorge Luis Borges	CN4279
<b>Changing Babies</b> by Deborah Moggach	TCD0329
<b>The Cries Of Love</b> by Patricia Highsmith	CD0252
<b>The Fall Of A Coin</b> by Ruth Rendell	TCD958
<b>Footballers Don't Cry</b> by Brian Glanville	CN3058
<b>Mole Cooks His Goose</b> by Sue Townsend	TCD0770
<b>Nothing Missing But The Samovar</b> by Penelope Lively	CN5649
<b>Taking It Easy</b> by Michelle Roberts	TCD0494
<b>The Tribute</b> by Jane Gardam	CN4171

## **5. James Thurber**

**A series of comic stories from the great American humorist, much of whose work was first published in The New Yorker.**

The stories are read by Blain Fairman.

**A Ride With Olympy  
Doc Marlowe  
Draft Board Nights  
Something To Say  
The Night The Ghost Got In  
The Dog That Bit People  
The Car We Had To Push  
The Luck Of Jad Peters**

CN2074

## **6. Raymond Carver**

**By the time of his early death in 1988 Raymond Carver had established himself as one of America's great short story writers. His characters in the main come from the underside of life in the north western USA and when their luck runs out Carver's simple and direct style can be heartbreaking.**

These stories are read by actors from Chicago's acclaimed Steppenwolf Theatre Group.

**Are These Actual Miles?  
Collectors  
Neighbors  
Sacks  
They're Not Your Husband**

RE0029

## **7. Roald Dahl**

**Famous for his bizarre tales of the unexpected these five stories are vintage Roald Dahl.**

**A Dip In The Pool  
The Hitchhiker  
Mrs. Bixby And The Colonel's Coat  
Vengeance Is Mine Inc.  
The Way Up To Heaven**

RE0021

## 8. Mark Twain

Samuel Langhorne Clemens took his name from the leadsman's call on the Mississippi, and was perhaps the most famous of America's humorists of the nineteenth century. His writing is firmly based on the frontier tradition of the telling of tall tales, but there is a sophistication in his wit which is distinctive and often highly subversive.

These stories are read by Kelsey Grammer, television's *Frasier*.

**Cannibalism In The Cars**

**A Day At Niagra**

**Experiences Of The MacWilliamses With Membraneous Croup**

**The Facts In The Great Beef Contract**

**A Ghost Story**

RE0009

## 9. The French Connection

Contemporary short stories by well-known novelists.

**The Accursèd House**

by Émile Gaboriau

RE0008

**Augustine de Villeblanche**

by Le Marquis de Sade

RE0008

**The Boy Spy**

by Alphonse Daudet

RE0008

**Morning Glories**

by Collette

RE0008

**On Horseback**

by Guy de Maupassant

RE0008