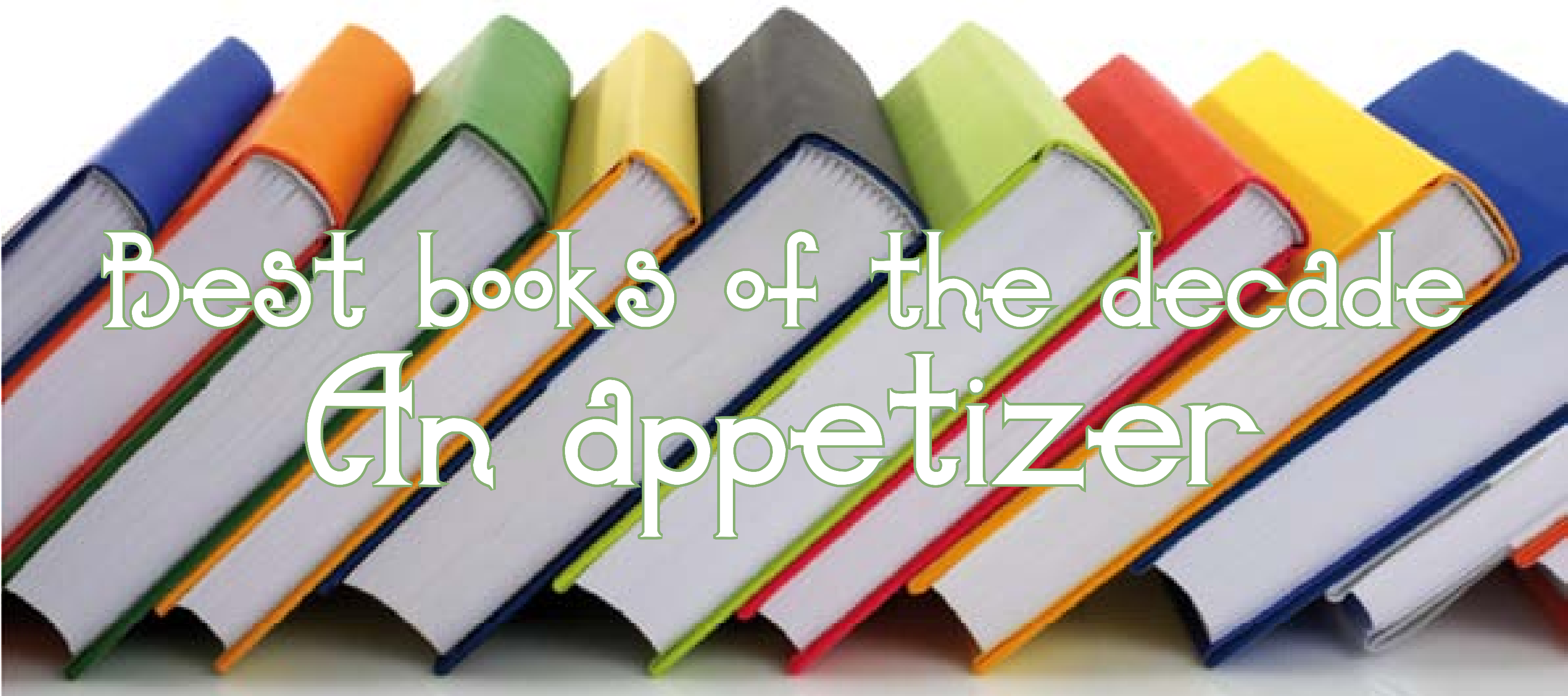
# Best books of the decade
# An appetizer



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**Assistant Director, Metropole Control Area**

At the end of the last century we published a list of the 100 best books of the century in the **Cape Librarian**. That list was the result of a unique Western Cape 'election' in which 1000s of library users nominated their personal choice of best books.

'Best of' lists always make for fascinating reading. On that list **Lord of the Rings** by JRR Tolkien came out as the clear winner for the title of best book of the century. Next was Dalene Matthee with her immensely popular Afrikaans novel, **Kringe in 'n bos** (**Circles in a forest**).

The first decade of the new millennium has come and gone and it is time to start making lists again. We are planning our next 'election' for early 2011. Between mid-January and mid-February 2011 all library users will have a chance to vote for their personal choice of best books of the decade. Details will be available at your nearest public library.

What follows is an appetiser prior to the real, homegrown, Western Cape list. This list was compiled from numerous 'Best Books of the Decade' lists found on the Internet. It was neither an official nor a scientific exercise, but even so there was a remarkable percentage of agreement on which books are considered the best of the decade. Because this list was compiled from other lists it is not in numerical order of rank, but in alphabetical title order. Even so, ten books stood out above the rest and are therefore listed separately.

Only five non-fiction books appear on the list, but a refreshing nine debuts make their appearance. Not surprisingly, there are two children's books (ever heard of Harry Potter?) and then, of course, a large number of prize-winning books. A fair number of these books have been made into movies.

The most surprising appearance must be the one and only graphic novel on the list, **Persipolis**. Come on, book selectors, go on and buy that one for the Library Service, please.

Happy reading!

## Top 10

| | |
|---|---|
| **The amazing adventures of Kavalier & Clay** | Chabon, Michael |
| **Atonement** | McEwan, Ian |
| **The corrections** | Franzen, Johnathan |
| **The curious incident of the dog in the night-time** | Haddon, Mark |
| **Gilead** | Robinson, Marilynne |
| **Heartbreaking work of staggering genius** | Eggers, Dave (*1st book, NF*) |
| **Middlesex** | Eugenides, Jeffrey |
| **Never let me go** | Ishiguro, Kazuo |
| **The road** | McCarthy, Cormac |
| **White teeth** | Smith, Zadie (*1st novel*) |

## The rest

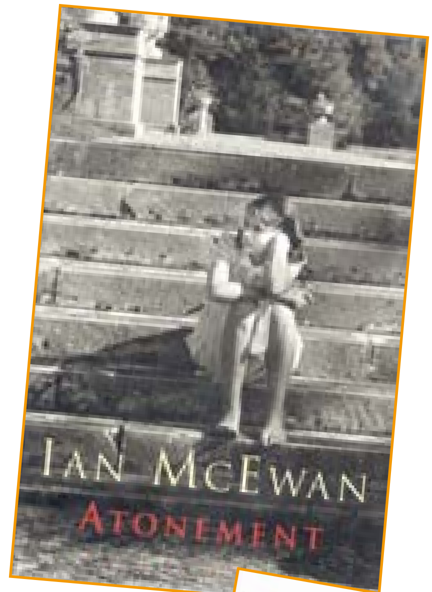
| | |
|---|---|
| **2666** | Bolaño, Roberto |
| **The Accidental** | Smith, Ali |
| **Austerlitz** | Sebald, WG |
| **Bel Canto** | Patchett, Ann |
| **The book thief** | Zusak, Markus |
| **The brief wondrous life of Oscar Wao** | Diaz, Junot (*1st novel*) |
| **Cloud atlas** | Mitchell, David |

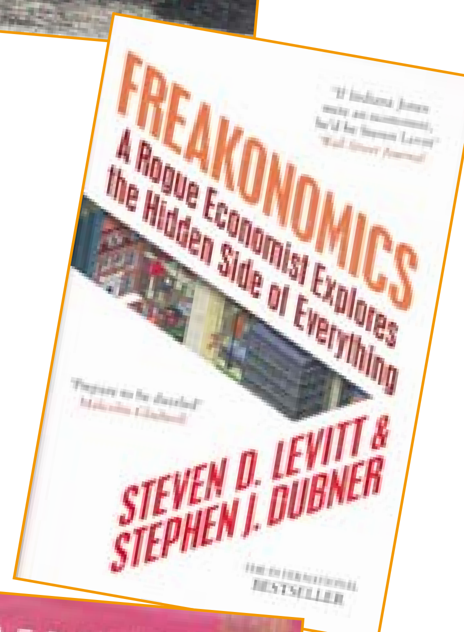
# BOOK WORLD

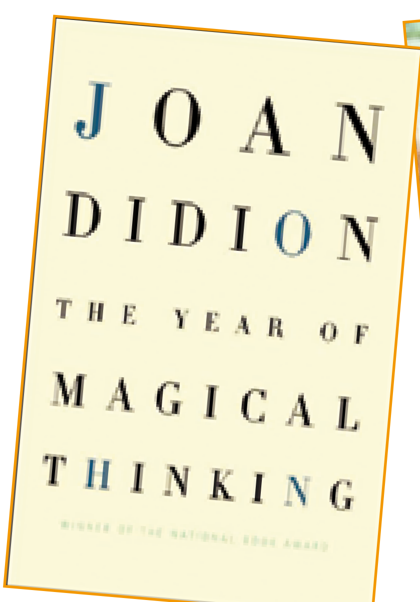
Boekwêreld • Ilizwe Leencwadi

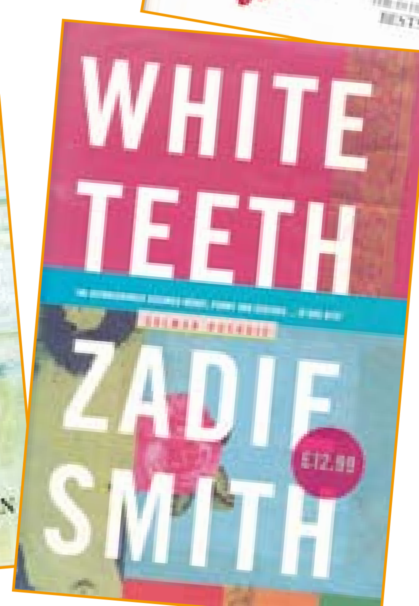
| | |
|---|---|
| The Da Vinci code | Brown, Dan |
| Empire Falls | Russo, Richard |
| Everything is illuminated | Foer, Jonathan Safran (*1st novel*) |
| The fortress of solitude | Lethem, Jonathan |
| Freakonomics | Levitt, Steven D & Dubner, SJ (*NF*) |
| The girl with the dragon tattoo | Larsson, Stieg (*1st novel*) |
| Harry Potter and the deathly hallows | Rowling, JK |
| Harry Potter and the half-blood prince | Rowling, JK |
| The human stain | Roth, Philip |
| Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell | Clarce, Susanna (*1st novel*) |
| The kite runner | Hosseini, Khaled (*1st novel*) |
| The known world | Jones, Edward P (*1st novel*) |
| Life of Pi | Martel, Yann |
| *Me talk pretty one day | Sedaris, David |
| *Out stealing horses | Petterson, Per |
| *Persepolis | Satrapi, Marjane |
| The plot against America | Roth, Philip |
| Seabiscuit | Hillenbrand, Laura (*NF*) |
| The time traveler's wife | Niffenegger, Audrey (*1st novel*) |
| *Tipping point: how little things can make a big difference | Gladwell, Malcolm |
| True history of the Kelly Gang | Carey, Peter |
| *The world without us | Weisman, Alan (*NF*) |
| The year of magical thinking | Didion, Joan (*NF*) |

Note: *Books not in stock.





# Lusmakertjie vir die beste Afrikaanse boeke van die dekade

Teen die einde van die vorige eeu het ons 'n lys van die 100 beste boeke van die eeu in die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** gepubliseer. Daardie lys was die resultaat van 'n unieke Wes-Kaapse 'verkiesing' waaraan duisende biblioteekgebruikers reg oor die provinsie deelgeneem het.

So 'n 'Beste van'-lys sorg altyd vir interessante leesstof. Op daardie lys is **Lord of the rings** loshande gekroon as die beste boek van die eeu. Onthou, dit was nog vóór die reeks flieks wat dit daarna nóg gewilder gemaak het. Dalene Matthee was by verre die gewildste Afrikaanse skrywer op die lys met haar bosboek, **Kringe in 'n bos**.

Nou is die eerste dekade van die nuwe millennium al verby en dit is weer tyd vir lysies maak! Ons gaan vroeg in 2011 weer lekker 'verkiesing' hou. Tussen middel-Januarie en middel-Februarie sal alle biblioteekgebruikers weer hulle stemme kan laat geld vir die beste boeke van die dekade. Hou u plaaslike openbare biblioteek dop vir besonderhede.

Wat hier volg is net 'n lusmakertjie vir daardie régte lys van 'Beste boeke van die dekade'. Ons het twee hande vol boekemense gevra om elk hul persoonlike keuse van 20 Afrikaanse boeke wat tussen 2000 en 2009 gepubliseer is, te nomineer. Die lys wat hier volg is saamgestel uit die lysies van skrywers, boekredakteurs, uitgewers, vertalers, boekkeurders, bibliotekarisse, boekhandelaars en boekjoernaliste. Aangesien dit net 'n meningsopname van 'n klompie kenners is en nie die uitslag van duisende stemme nie, is die lys nie volgens rangvolgorde opgestel nie, maar alfabeties volgens titels. Die top vyf het wel duidelik uitgestaan en word eerste gelys, ook alfabeties.

Dit is dadelik opvallend hoeveel skrywers die lys met twee titels vereer. Hulle is André P Brink, Antjie Krog, Danie Marais, Deon Meyer, Marlene van Niekerk, Eben Venter en Ingrid Winterbach, met Etienne van Heerden sommer drie keer. Die lys is natuurlik deurspek met pryswenners. Die hoeveelheid digbundels op die lys is ook verbasend: 'n volle ses, met Breyten Breytenbach selfs in die top vyf. Daar is ook nog ses ander nie-fiksie boeke op die lys. Die grootste verrassing is egter die elf debuutwerke wat hierdie geëerde lys gehaal het. Die Afrikaanse boek is duidelik sterk, jonk en steeds groeiend in die nuwe millennium.

Lekker lees!

## Top 5

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|---|---|
| **Agaat** | Van Niekerk, Marlene |
| **Bidsprinkaan** | Brink, André P |
| **Die boek van toeval en toeverlaat** | Winterbach, Ingrid |
| **Fees van die ongenooides** | Du Plessis, PG |
| **Windvanger** | Breytenbach, Breyten (*Digbundel*) |

## Die res

| | |
|---|---|
| **13 Uur** | Meyer, Deon |
| **30 nagte in Amsterdam** | Van Heerden, Etienne |
| **Die Afrikaners** | Giliomee, Herman (*NF*) |
| **Al is die maan 'n misverstand** | Marais, Danie (*Digbundel*) |
| **'n Ander tongval** | Krog, Antjie (*NF*) |
| **Die ander vennoot** | Haasbroek, PJ |
| **Begeerte** | Venter, Eben |
| **'n Beter hemel** | Schreuder, Danie (*Kontreikuns, debuut*) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Dis ek, Anna | Lotter, Elbie (*Debuut, NF*) |
| Eilande | Sleigh, Dan |
| Horrelpoot | Venter, Eben |
| In die buitenste ruimte | Marais, Danie (*Debuut, digbundel*) |
| In stede van die liefde | Van Heerden, Etienne |
| Kleur kom nooit alleen nie | Krog, Antjie (*Digbundel*) |
| Kroes | Stamatelos, Pat (*Debuut*) |
| Die laaste Afrikaanse boek | Schoeman, Karel (*NF*) |
| Landskap met diere | Odendaal, Welma (*Kortverhale*) |
| Leroux: 'n lewe | Kannemeyer, JC (*NF*) |
| Memorandum | Van Niekerk, Marlene |
| Nasleep | Van der Merwe, Carel (*Debuut*) |
| Niggie | Winterbach, Ingrid |
| Noudat slapende honde | Kamfer, Ronelda (*Debuut, digbundel*) |
| Onsigbaar | Meyer, Deon |
| Op die agterpaaie | Snyman, Dana (*Kort/reisverhale*) |
| Plaasmoord | Brynard, Karin (*Debuut*) |
| Raka: die roman | Kombuis, Koos |
| Roepman | Van Tonder, Jan |
| Siegfried | Anker, Willem (*Debuut*) |
| Staan in die algemeen nader aan vensters | Marais, Loftus (*Debuut, digbundel*) |
| 'n Stringetjie blou krale | Dido, EKM |
| Swartskaap | Schoeman, Odette (*Debuut*) |
| Die swye van Mario Salviati | Van Heerden, Etienne |
| Tot verhaal kom | De Vries, Braam (*Kortverhale*) |
| Vonke uit die Koeroeklip | Sarrisam, Gert (*Debuut, kontreikuns*) |
| 'n Vurk in die pad | Brink, André P (*NF*) |