LIBRARIES

BIBLIOTEKE
AMATHALA EENCWADI

Madiba Day rocks!

Thanks go to councilor Justus for donating books and games to Edward Primary – what a wonderful Madiba Day event!

Apart from joining the staff and Friends of **Elsies River Library** for their Madiba Day programme at Edward Primary School in Elsies River – councillor Clive Justus also donated books to the Elsies River Library. Everybody was very impressed with the councillor's storytelling skills when he participated in the day's programme by telling a story about a star fish to learners.

Staff and Friends
Elsies River Library

The storyteller, Clive Justus in action!

The book donations by councillor Justus were much appreciated

*Honderde gebruikers het by **Steenvliet Biblioteek** bymekaar gekom op 18 Julie 2012 om Mandela Dag te vier*

***Esselen Biblioteek** se personeel deel graag hierdie krale-uitstalling met lesers*

SKRYWERS EN BOEKE

BOOKS AND AUTHORS
IINCWADI NABABHALI

Gewilde Ierse skrywer sterf

Die Ierse skrywer Maeve Binchy is oorlede op ouderdom 72.

Binchy, skrywer van topverkopers soos **Circle of friends** en **Tara Road**, word as een van Ierland se gewildste skrywers beskou.

Haar werk het haar al 'n plek op die *New York Times* se lys vir topverkopers besorg. Haar boeke is ook deur Oprah Winfrey se boekklub aanbeveel.

Binchy het aan die University College of Dublin gegradueer en eers onderwys gegee voordat sy as joernalis by die *Irish Times* gewerk het en later as romanskrywer bekend geword het.

Haar laaste roman, **Minding Frankie**, is in 2010 gepubliseer en sy het ook in dieselfde jaar 'n prys vir lewenslange prestasie van die Irish Book Awards ontvang.

Gore Vidal se skerp tong stil

Die Amerikaanse skrywer Gore Vidal, bekend vir werke soos **Lincoln** en **Myra Breckenridge**, is in die ouderdom van 86 jaar oorlede.

Vidal se kreatiewe skryfwerk was van wisselende gehalte, sê die Afrikaanse skrywer en oud-uitgewer Kerneels Breytenbach.

'Dis ironies dat hy 'n klein fortuin versamel het uit verstrooiingsverhale wat hy onder die skuilnaam Edgar Box in die jare vyftig geskryf het. Hy sal onthou word vir sy roman **Myra Breckenridge**, vir die onbevange wyse waarop hy oor homoseksualiteit geskryf het in 'n tyd toe die literêre wêreld die piep wou kry daaroor, en as essayis.

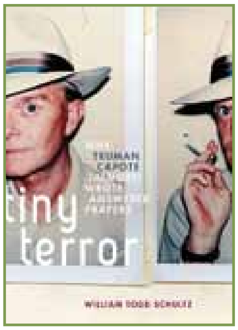
'Hy was 'n ongelooflike stilis en het wyd en onderhoudend geskryf. Hy had ook een van die skerpste tonge in die bedryf. Hy sal altyd onthou word vir sy beskrywing van die Reagan-administrasie as die "*triumph of the embalmer*'s *art*".'

Sapa-AFP bestempel Vidal as een van die reuse van 'n generasie van skrywers wat Norman Mailer en Truman Capote ingesluit het.

Hy het 25 romans, essays, Broadway-treffers, draaiboeke en televisiedramas geskryf in 'n loopbaan wat ook onsuksesvolle pogings ingesluit het om die politiek te betree, gevierde kletsprogram-tweegevegte en selfs 'n verskyning as homself in Fellini se rolprent **Roma**.

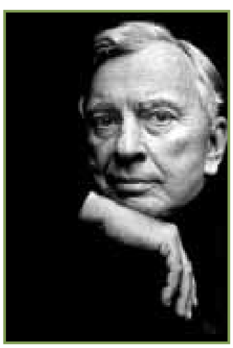
Joan Hambidge, 'n professor in kreatiewe skryfwerk aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad, sê die stryd tussen Vidal en Capote was boeiend en het skynbaar ontstaan 'oor Capote se losbek en skinderlustige aard'. Hierdie twis kry aandag in **Tiny Terror: why Truman Capote almost wrote answered prayers** deur William Todd Schultz.

In etlike van sy ander romans het Vidal Amerikaanse politiek en geskiedenis betrek en het dit, wat hy beskou het as die opkoms van 'n Amerikaanse Empire, beskryf in **Burr** (1973), **1876** (1976), **Lincoln** (1984), **Empire** (1987), **Hollywood** (1990), en **The Golden Age** (2000).



Onder sy satiriese werke tel **Kalki** (1978), **Duluth** (1983) en **Live From Golgotha: the gospel according to Gore Vidal** (1992).

Die *Los Angeles Times* berig Vidal se essays is vol anekdotes oor bekendes, vriende en vyande, onder wie Anaïs Nin, Williams, Christopher Isherwood, Orson Welles, Capote, Frank Sinatra, Jack Kerouac, Marlon Brando, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Eleanor Roosevelt en verskeie Kennedys. Hy was familie van Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis en Al Gore.



In 1993 het hy die Amerikaanse National Book Award ontvang vir sy **United States essays, 1952-1992**, 'n versameling van belese en vertoornde kritiek op politiek, seksualiteit, godsdiens en letterkunde wat oorspronklik in publikasies soos *The Nation*, *Esquire* en die *New York Review of Books* gepubliseer is.

Una van der Spuy (99) oorlede

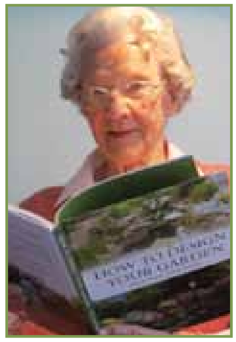
Sy was dinamies, het 'n positiewe uitkyk op die lewe gehad en het skoonheid waardeer.

Só het Peter van der Spuy, seun van die tuinier en tuinboekskrywer Una van der Spuy (99), sy ma in haar historiese tuin in Jonkershoek beskryf.

Van der Spuy is 'n paar dae voor haar 100ste verjaardag aan 'n hartaanval dood. Sy het 71 jaar lank in die Eikestad gewoon.

Meer as 20 tuinboeke het uit haar pen verskyn. Die jongste hiervan, **My favourite plants**, sal in September op die rakke wees.

Van der Spuy is in Oos-Londen gebore en het in 1928 in King William's Town gematrikuleer, waarna sy ekonomie en internasionale politiek aan Rhodes Universiteit gestudeer het.



Van 1938 tot 1941 het sy in Londen gewoon, maar het in 1941 saam met haar man, genl Kenneth Reid van der Spuy, na Suid-Afrika teruggekeer. Dit is ook in dié jaar dat die egpaar die eiendom Old Nectar, 'n Kaaps-Hollandse huis, buite Stellenbosch gekoop het.

Van tuinmaak het Van der Spuy aanvanklik nie veel geweet nie, maar sy het haarself geleer. Haar tuin by Old Nectar is later tot 'n nasionale monument verklaar – die enigste private tuin in Suid-Afrika wat dié status kon behaal.

Sy het ook geleer om self die foto's te neem wat in haar tuinboeke gebruik is.

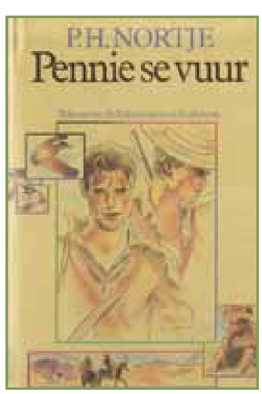
'My ma het gesê as sy as 'n plant kan terugkom aarde toe, sal dit 'n magnoliaboom wees,' het Peter gesê.

Skrywer sterf op 91

Die bekende jeugboekskrywer PH Nortje is in die ouderdom van 91 oorlede.

Nortje is in 1920 op die plaas Klipfontein naby Willowmore in die Oos-Kaap gebore.

Van sy bekendste boeke sluit in **Pennie se vuur** en **Die groen ghoen**. Hy het ook verskeie verhale vir *Huisgenoot* geskryf.



Nortje was 'n onderwyser, later dosent en ook waarnemende rektor van die Wellingtonse Onderwyskollege.

Sy seun, Dr Charl Nortje het gesê sy pa was baie lief om stories te vertel en om mense met skryf-werk te vermaak.

'Hy was 'n baie nederige mens. Skryf was vir hom harde werk, maar hy het dit altyd geniet. My pa het hom nooit as 'n skrywer beskou nie, maar eerder as 'n storieverteller met 'n sin vir humor.'

Skrywer sterf

Die skrywer, Dr Stephen R Covey (79) van die **The seven habits of highly effective people** is oorlede.

Hy het ook drie ander boeke geskryf waarvan meer as 'n miljoen eksemplare verkoop is.

Digter Gerrit Komrij oorlede

Die Nederlandse digter Gerrit Komrij (68) sal onthou word vir sy reusebydrae tot die Afrikaanse en Nederlandse poësie.

'Die digkuns was vir hom die siel van 'n taal', sê die Afrikaanse digter Daniël Hugo, wat 'n keur uit Komrij se poësie as **Die elektries gelaaide hand in Afrikaans** vertaal het.

Komrij was die belangrikste bloemleser van sy generasie, sê Arjen Fortuin, boekeredakteur van die *NRC Handelsblad*. Komrij het in 1968 gedebuteer as digter. Hy was die wenner van, onder meer, die PC Hooft Prys.

Komrij het die kollektiewe geheue in Nederland en Vlaandere verryk met sy versameling Suid-Afrikaanse poësie van die beginfase tot die einde van die 20ste eeu (in **Die Afrikaanse poësie in 'n duisend en enkele gedigte**).

Hugo meen hy het die skewe beeld wat die soms hooghartige Nederlanders van Afrikaans gehad het, help regtrek. 'Daarvoor kan ons hom nie genoeg dankbaar wees nie.'

Komrij was, saam met Henk van Woerden, die eerste Nederlandse skrywer wat op 'n Universiteit van Stellenbosch Woordfees opgetree het.

Die Burger

Erratum: In the previous **CL** we erroneously referred to Prince William as the Prince of Wales. He is indeed known as Prince William of Wales but is most commonly referred to as the Duke of Cambridge.

LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS

LITERARY AWARDS
AMABHASO WONCWADI

ATKV-Kinderboektoekennings 2012

Voorleeskategorie: 3-6 jaar

- Skrywer: Jaco Jacobs (LAPA Uitgewers) – **Haasmoles**
- Illustreerder: Zunica Joao (LAPA Uitgewers) – **Slaaptyd**, **Matilda**

Selfleeskategorie: Graad 1-3

- Skrywer: Fanie Viljoen (LAPA Uitgewers) – **Klou**
- Illustreerder: Karen Lilje (LAPA Uitgewers) – **Klou**

Selfleeskategorie: Graad 4-5

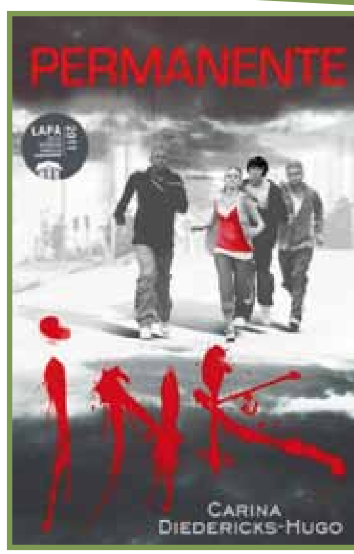
- Skrywer: Fanie Viljoen (Human & Rousseau) – **Grilbrigade**
- Illustreerder: Astrid Castle (Tafelberg) – **Spookskip**

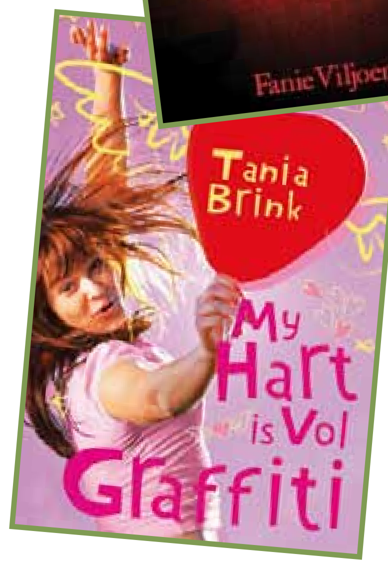
Selfleeskategorie: Graad 6-7

- Skrywer: Jaco Jacobs (Tania Brink) (LAPA Uitgewers) – **My hart is vol graffiti**

Selfleeskategorie: Graad 8-10

- Skrywer: Carina Diedericks-Hugo (LAPA Uitgewers) – **Permanente ink**

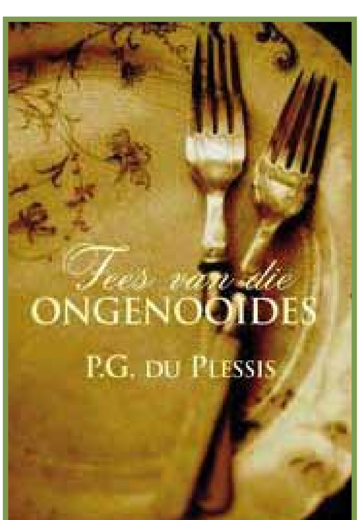




Du Plessis wen Helgaard Steyn Prys

Die skrywer en dramaturg PG du Plessis het die Helgaard Steyn Prys vir Letterkunde ontvang vir sy Anglo-Boereoorlog-roman, **Fees van die ongenooides**.

Dit is die grootste letterkundige prys in Suid-Afrika en beloop R450,000.



Die prys word toegeken aan die skrywer van die beste werk van enige aard in die Afrikaanse taal die afgelope vier jaar en is moontlik gemaak deur 'n testamentêre bemarking van JH Steyn ter nagedagtenis aan sy vader, Helgaard Steyn.

Die beoordelaars, proff Hennie van Coller, Heilna du Plooy en Godfrey Meintjies bestempel die roman as 'geen tipiese verhaal oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog nie omdat die aandag juis gevestig word op ongewone en onbekende fasette van die oorlogsgeskiedenis'.

Tans is reeds ongeveer 27,000 eksemplare van **Fees van die ongenooides** verkoop, 'n buitengewone prestasie vir 'n gekompliseerde 'literêre' teks. Die roman is ten diepste gemoeid met die kompleksiteite van die betekenis van die geskiedenis vir die hede en die toekoms.

Dié roman is Du Plessis se tweede. Sy debuutroman, **A married man's guide to adultery**, het in 1997 verskyn. Hy is bekend om, onder meer, die dramas **Die nag van legio** (1969), **Siener in die suburbs** (1972) en **Plaston: DNS-kin**d (1973). In 1973 het hy die Hertzog Prys vir **Siener in die suburbs** en **Plaston: DNS-kind** ontvang.

Die ATKV Prosa Prys is in 2009 aan Du Plessis toegeken.

Die Burger

'Dit is 'n grondwaarheid dat ons vryheid net in die hande van die volk self veilig kan wees.'

Thomas Jefferson

MISCELLANY

ALLERLEI
IINCWADI EZAHLUKENEYO

Our service to libraries

Although we have always in the past featured publications produced by the Publications and Promotion section of the Western Cape Library Service, we have also, for very many years now, served as a 'conduit-post office' for several organisations such as the Artscape Theatre, Archives, Centre for the Book and many more. In future we will thus also be featuring the various publications that we distribute to the 345 libraries in the Western Cape on behalf of other organisations. This is a free service provided by the Library Service.

Produced by Western Cape Library Service

Yearplanner

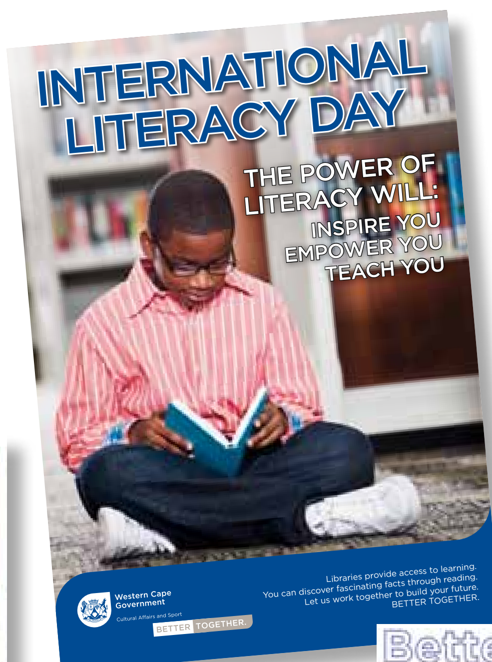
Literacy poster

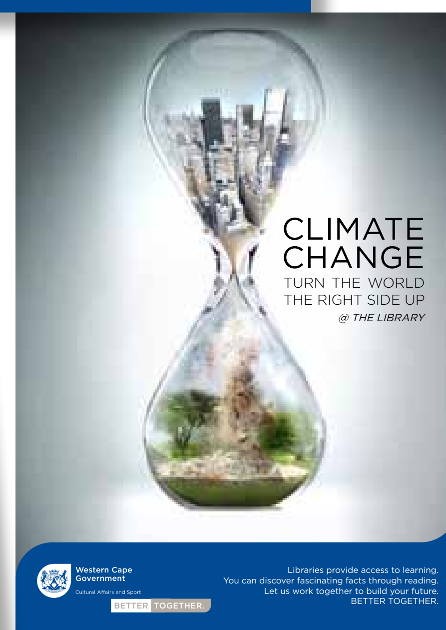
Climate change poster

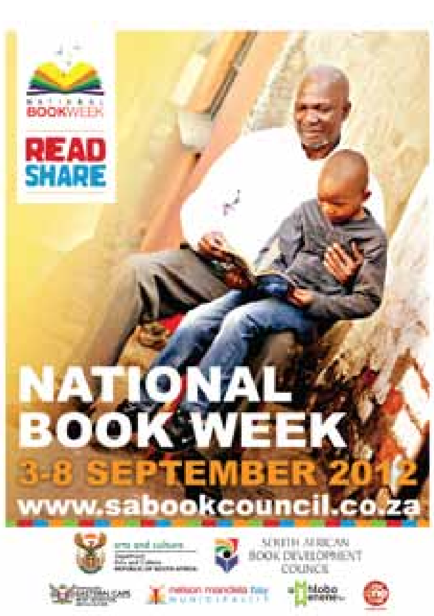
Other

National Book Week poster (South African Book Development Council)

Better together magazine (Official magazine of the Western Cape Government).







ON WRITING

SKRYFGEDAGTES EZABABHALI

Crime fiction: commentary and catharsis

On 12 May 2012 I attended the Franschhoek Literary Festival for the first time, and only having time to pop in for about an hour, I chose one item, an interesting debate about why crime novels are so popular in South Africa. In fact, the title of the talk was *Is crime fiction the new political novel?*, but the three writers, Margie Orford, Leon de Kock and Imraan Coovadia, and their host Lynda Gilfillian, also discussed a number of other subjects.

Coovadia, clearly playing devil's advocate, wanted to know why there is such a thing as literary genres? What do crime writers really want – money or a Nobel Prize? De Kock said novelists hate prizes and Orford interjected, 'No, we only hate to lose.' De Kock then qualified that prizes do play an important part in marketing and even protect writers (he calls it 'reputational protection'); that they operate within the boundaries of a 'prestige economy' – if they earn a reputation, they are relatively safe. And the way to acquire a reputation is to win literary awards.

Getting back to the question of why crime novels are so popular, Orford ventured an opinion, namely that while only 10% of murder cases are solved in South Africa, people need reassurance in some way – so writers need to at least symbolically punish wrongdoers by meting out justice in their novels, providing closure that is so typical of crime novels, while for her, writing about crime also drives out devils. In other words; her personal attempt at catharsis. This seems to be a paradox, because crime writers are supposed to write about how the country is, not how it should be – according to Orford. She seems to contradict herself, but I see no reason why crime writers have to portray the country realistically – this is fiction, after all. Orford did explain that she stays as closely to the facts as possible, except for the usual exaggeration which aims at making fiction more interesting than facts. She jokingly added that our political situation is too absurd to be believable as a plot for fiction.

Orford also stressed the fact that crime novelists leave out anything which could hamper the tempo of their stories. This is the reason why there is little evidence of character development and detailed description of settings. Crime writers should not muck with the conventions of the genre, but focus on murder and mayhem, not expound on the human condition, like people who write literature with a capital 'L'.

De Kock believes the current popularity of crime fiction is because it acts as 'mediator of our socio-political discourse'. People are looking for answers, especially the middle and lower classes. They require a route map to get them out of the crime swamp we are floundering in. De Kock added that current crime novels are much better than the local examples of the genre which, according to Gilfillian, only started out in the early 1970s. According to de Kock even political novels, like the work of Nadine Gordimer, are 'mesmerizingly unreadable'. This statement shocked the audience, which he obviously intended. Orford answered Coovadia's question regarding the worth of genres by declaring that some genres leave her cold – and that poetry for instance could just vanish for all she cared. She added that she 'writes crime novels to entertain and to make a buck'.

In conclusion it seems that crime has a lot to do with politics, or at least with our current predicament, and that the police are losing the battle, so writers are at least evening the score in imaginary tales and theoretically showing how society should react to this scourge ravaging South Africa. One can only imagine a better reality – and I can imagine that this will be the case at least for the foreseeable future.

Dr Francois Verster
Correspondent

Please also refer to page 18, Investigating crime in South Africa. ED

Cape Librarian 40 YEARS AGO ...

Stefan Wehmeyer *Deputy Director: Regions*

- Mary Kleinschmidt interviewed the well-known authors Theo Aronson and his partner Brian Roberts at their home in Kommetjie. Both regarded themselves more as historical biographers than authors. Kleinschmidt wrote that 'they work next door to each other in Kommetjie and have few demanding interests outside their writing other than an appreciation of good food, which they cook themselves'. According to Wikipedia, they moved to England in 1979 after becoming disenchanted with the political regime in South Africa.
- An article by the head of cataloguing, Shaen Hinchliff on Dewey 18, appears in the **CL**. One of the changes is a new code for extra-terrestrial worlds. (I suppose back in 1972 they expected trips to other galaxies to happen soon?) 40 years on, and according to Riana Fourie from cataloguing, they have recently received Dewey 23.
- Back in 1972, posters were churned out at a prolific rate, and in a three-month period posters were produced on *Cars, Vikings, Creative Arts, Gardening, Hobbies, Christmas, and Giants and Dwarfs. (We should perhaps mention, however, that the staff complement has changed dramatically since those days . . . ED)*
- In the seventies the news column in the **CL** was called *Near and Far / Wyd en Syd*. Featuring in the August 1972 edition were:
  - The opening of the Grassy Park Library. Mr George Fredericks who was later to become professor in Library Science at the University of the Western Cape, was the librarian-in-charge.
  - Wie onthou nog die **Saakindeks**? In 1972 verskyn dié publikasie wat deur Wouna Rabe, voormalige streekbibliotekaris van Tygerbergstreek, in Afrikaans vertaal is.
  - PG Du Plessis wen die Hertzog Prys vir sy drama **Siener in die Suburbs**
  - Frederick Forsyth won a prize for thriller of the year for **The day of the jackal**
  - 1972 marked the formation of the first two branches of the Library League of South Africa. The first meeting of the Western Cape branch was held in the Elsies River Library hall and miss Fransman and miss Setlogelo of Head Office were elected as secretary and additional member respectively.

Our best-sellers from Kalahari.com, Protea Boekwinkel and The Book Lounge for the months July/August 2012.

Kalahari.com

www.kalahari.com

Fiction / Fiksie

1. James, EL. **Fifty shades of grey**.- Arrow Bks., 2012.
2. Patterson, James. **I, Michael Bennett**.- Random House, 2012.
3. Deaver, Jeffery. **XO**.- Hodder & Stoughton, 2012.
4. Slaughter, Karin. **Criminal**.- Century, 2012.
5. Van de Ruit, John. **Spud: exit – pursued by a bear**.- Penguin, 2012.

Non-fiction / Nie-fiksie

1. De Villiers, Peter and Rich, Gavin. **Politically incorrect**.- Zebra P., 2012.
2. Anthony, Lawrence and Spence, Graham. **The last rhinos**.- Sidgwick & Jackson, 2012.
3. Raphaely, Jane. **Jane Raphaely: unedited**.- Associated Media Publ., 2012.
4. Oliver, Jamie. **Jamie's 30-minute meals**.- Michael Joseph, 2010.
5. Chikane, Frank. **Eight days in September**.- Picador Africa, 2012.

Protea Boekwinkel (Stellenbosch)

www.proteaboekhuis.com

Fiction / Fiksie

1. Esterhuizen, Louis. **Amper elders**.- Protea Boekhuis, 2012.
2. Adriaanse, Wilna. **'n Klein lewe**.- Tafelberg, 2012.
3. De Lestrade, Agnés en Docampo, Valeria. **Die land van die groot woordfabriek** / uit Frans vertaal deur Nicol Stassen.- Protea Boekhuis, 2012.
4. Van Rooyen, Nanette. **Ek was hier**.- Lapa, 2012.
5. **Bloots** / Karin Eloff en Peter van Noord, samestellers.- Tafelberg, 2012.

Non-fiction / Nie-fiksie

1. **Geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika: van voortye tot vandag** / Fransjohan Pretorius, redakteur.- Tafelberg, 2012.
2. **Die Afrikaanse skryfgids** / Riana Scheepers en Leti Kleyn, samestellers.- Penguin Bks., 2012.
3. De Beer, Hannes. **'n Storie oor Boesmanland**.- Selfpublikasie, 2012.
4. Esterhuyse, Willie. **Eindstryd: geheime gesprekke en die einde van apartheid**.- Tafelberg, 2012.
5. Spaarwater, Maritz. **A spook's progress**.- Zebra P., 2012

The Book Lounge

www.booklounge.co.za

Fiksie / Fiction

1. Safari, Jamala. **The great agony and pure laughter of the Gods**.- Umuzi, 2012.
2. Kilgore, James. **Freedom never rests**.- Jacana Media, 2011.
3. James, EL. **Fifty shades of grey**.- Arrow Bks., 2012.
4. Carey, Peter. **Chemistry of tears**.- Faber, 2012.
5. Mantel, Hilary. **Bring up the bodies**.- Fourth Estate, 2012.

Non-fiction / Nie-fiksie

1. Yach, Theodore. **In my element**.- Theodore Yach, 2012.
2. Beevor, Antony. **Second World War**.- Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2012.
3. Bundy, Colin. **Govan Mbeki**.- Jacana Media, 2012.
4. Davison, Sean. **Before we say goodbye**.- Cape Catley Books, 2009.
5. Esterhuyse, Willie. **Endgame: secret talks at the end of apartheid**.- Tafelberg, 2012.

Poetry / Gedigte

1. Kozain, Rustum. **Groundwork**.- Kwela, 2012.
2. Muller, Petra. **Om die gedagte van geel**.- Tafelberg, 2012.

(Source: Pennar, D. The rights of the reader)