

Match the titles of the books with the corresponding review.

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer

Earth In The Balance by Al Gore

THE TWITS BY ROALD DAHL **Gridlock by Ben Elton**

Animal Farm by George Orwell

The Life Of Pi by Yann Martel

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

Green Eggs And Ham by Dr Seuss

Obelix And Co. by Goscinny & Uderzo

Congo by Michael Crichton

This short book for children aged 6-10 is full of mischievous tricks, cruel practical jokes and abuse that goes on between the revolting Mr and Mrs Twit. Mr Twit has a beard full of disgusting scraps of food and Mrs Twit has a glass eye that she takes out to scare Mr Twit with. This appalling couple delight in catching birds to make pies with and abusing a family of monkeys. Eventually, the Mugglewump monkey family gets its own back on the Twits.

This is one of Dahl most hilarious books and must have been written when he was in a particularly mischievous mood. Although it is aimed at young children, I would highly recommend it to adults who haven't yet read it. The illustrations add enormously to this story and really capture the vile character of the Twits. **TITLE:**

This is a fantastic story with a very obvious and relevant message about a group of animals that stage a revolution in a farm, ousting the farmer, his family and the workers in the name of equal rights for all the animals. Unfortunately, the pigs take charge of running the farm and power corrupts them, eventually treating the other animals with contempt.

This novel works on two levels; it is an interesting and amusing tale about animals taking over a farm but the underlying satire of governmental arrogance is excellent and as valid for democratically elected governments with their spin-doctors and manipulation of statistics as for the more obvious comparison with dictatorial regimes. **TITLE:**

This is one of the best in the Asterix series with its satirical look at marketing, capitalism and greed. The Romans are determined to rid themselves of their Gaulish problem and employ Caius Preposterus to corrupt the Gauls by creating huge demand for the useless menhir. Demand causes large numbers of Gauls to become menhir merchants and the competition leads to infighting and the breaking up of the village. This is a very funny book with discipline in the Roman camp becoming lax as they get used to a procession of flamboyant Gauls entering their garrison and the absurd clothes the Gauls wear when they become rich are hilarious. **TITLE:**

The hilarious tale of Geoffrey Spazmo and friends attempting to save his invention of a clean engine from the destructive clutches of Oil and Automobile companies who will do anything to get their oily hands on it.

This is one of Elton's earliest and funniest novels, satirizing governmental and industrial reluctance to investigate clean energy and the inability to cope with traffic congestion. In addition to this are some superbly amusing characters and the author makes the bold move of making a paraplegic the hero of the story and the butt of many jokes. **TITLE:**

This American writer's grail quest has become a most talked about book and consists of a trail of clues stretching from Paris to Scotland that eventually unravel an inconvenient secret about Jesus' life.

Whilst the pace of this novel makes it a real page-turner, the intricate puzzles are all too easily solved by the main characters and the conspiracy theory is far too quickly accepted. The writing style employed is quite formulaic and by the end, I was tiring of the overuse of a number of phrases. **TITLE:**

Credited as the first work of fiction to be written in the English language this is a collection of stories told by pilgrims on the road to Canterbury. Written in prose form and in an ancient form of English this is no easy read but for good readers some of the tales here are complex farces and quite hilarious.

The Miller's tale and the Reeve's tale are particularly funny and there is a surprising amount of sex, swearing and general bawdiness here. My favorite moment is in the Miller's tale when one serenading lover puckers up for a kiss and finds himself embracing something unexpected: "a woman hath no beard. He felt a thing all rough, and long y-hair'd". **TITLE:**

Archaeologists unearthing an ancient ruin in the Congo are stalked by a previously undiscovered species of gorilla. A weak beginning is followed by a weaker middle and anyone who bothers to get to the end will find this the weakest part of all. With a severely restricted vocabulary Crichton tries to keep readers interested in a hackneyed plot but after a few chapters readers will feel as if they are marking a sixteen year-old's exam paper - and a poor one at that. **TITLE:**

This is the superb story of Piscine Patel who is stranded on a lifeboat with a Bengal Tiger named Richard Parker. The events which happen upon the lifeboat and, for a period, upon a floating island inhabited by meerkats are gripping and wonderfully described. Surviving this dreadful situation is an ordeal for Pi and a brilliant twist at the end suggests that the whole story is an allegory for something much more sinister. **TITLE:**

This is one of my favorite of this famous Doctor's books along with The Sneetches. In this brilliantly illustrated tale the annoying Sam-I-am tempts his victim with the offer of a meal of Green Eggs and Ham. The skeptical diner refuses this invitation but Sam-I-am employs a variety of marketing techniques to force the Green Eggs and Ham upon the sceptic.

The poetry in this story is simple but amusing and the situations in which the Green Eggs and Ham are offered get ever more bizarre as the story progresses. This is a great book and the expressions of the characters as the Green Eggs and Ham are finally tried are brilliant. **TITLE:**

This is a superb book which deals, in a holistic fashion, topics such as climate change, pollution, third world debt, agriculture and oil and other related topics. Published in 1992 Gore showed an understanding of environmental and economic issues that few politicians demonstrate and this well written book is an excellent choice for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge of the environmental challenges and possible solutions that we face. **TITLE:**