

CALCUTTA READ-O-GRAPH: HERE'S A LIST OF ALL-TIME BESTSELLERS IN THE CITY ACROSS 14 CATEGORIES. PICK ONE FAVE FROM EACH CATEGORY AND TELL t2@abp.in

What does Calcutta like to read? We asked three bookstores — Starmark, Story and Oxford — to share with us their top sellers across a number of genres, from classics to romance, children's lit to sports. From the data provided by the bookshops, we have compiled titles that sell the most in Calcutta across 14 categories, listed in no particular order. While this list is not exhaustive, nor is it all-encompassing, it does provide us with an insight into our reading habits. While some names were no surprise at all, we did discover new authors through this exercise. And we were shocked to see no mention of some favourite authors. Case in MIA point? *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee!

AUTOBIOGRAPHY, MEMOIR & BIOGRAPHY

- *Wings of Fire* by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Dongri to Dubai* by S. Hussain Zaidi
- *The Monk as Man: The Unknown Life of Swami Vivekananda* by Sankar
- *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, with Jeffrey Zaslow
- *Mother Teresa: The Authorized Biography* by Navin Chawla
- *I Dare!* Kiran Bedi; A Biography by Parmesh Dangwal
- *Swami Vivekananda: The Living Vedanta* by Chaturvedi Badrinath
- *Autobiography of A Yogi* by Paramahansa Yogananda
- *The Story of my Experiments with Truth: An Autobiography* by M.K. Gandhi
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb
- *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking
- *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler
- *To Sir, With Love* by E.R. Braithwaite
- *Barack Obama — The making of the man* by David Maraniss
- *Narendra Modi — The Man, The Times* by Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay
- *Alibaba: The House That Jack Ma Built* by Duncan Clark
- *The Kalam Effect* by P.M. Nair
- *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

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■ *To Sir, With Love*: Because we could do with going back to the lessons learnt in this book in today's day and age — turn hate into love and do it by garnering respect. The book instils old-fashioned values, fast disappearing in an increasingly violent climate.

■ *The Diary of a Young Girl*: Because it's a haunting account of a girl's coming of age, of friendship, love, heartbreak and discovery, all made very real by the need of a Jewish family to go into hiding in Nazi Germany.



CLASSICS

- *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K. Jerome
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Treasure Island* by R.L. Stevenson
- *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand
- *The Outsider* by Albert Camus

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■ *Three Men in a Boat*: Because this humorous monologue by a man on vacation with his friends will have you weeping with laughter. The antics of the author with his two friends and pet dog unfold with unintentional humour, rendered more comic by the author's pained narrative voice.

■ *The Little Prince*: Because this story of friendship and loneliness, love and loss is timeless and hides many layers. As a child it is a simple tale of talking foxes and asteroids that are houses. As a grown-up you understand the allegory and read into its critique of the modern world and its ills.



INDIAN TRANSLATIONS

- *The Complete Adventures of Feluda* by Satyajit Ray (Gopa Majumdar)
- *Chokher Bali* by Rabindranath Tagore (Sukhendu Ray)
- *Chowringhee* by Sankar (Arunava Sinha)
- *Mother of 1084* by Mahasweta Devi (Samik Bandyopadhyay)
- *My Name is Radha* by Saadat Hasan Manto (Muhammad Umar Memon)
- *Gitanjali: Song Offerings* by Rabindranath Tagore (W.B. Yeats)
- *Those Days* by Sunil Gangopadhyay (Aruna Chakravarti)
- *First Light* by Sunil Gangopadhyay (Aruna Chakravarti)
- *Pather Panchali* by Bhibhuti Bhushan Bandopadhyay (T.W. Clark and Tarapada Mukherji)
- *Picture Imperfect and other Byomkesh Bakshi Mysteries* by Saradindu Bandopadhyay (Sreejata Guha)
- *Breast Stories* by Mahesweta Devi (Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak)
- *Godan* by Munshi Premchand (Jai Ratan and P. Lal)
- *Naked Voices: Stories & Sketches* by Saadat Hasan Manto (Rakhshanda Jalil)



Javier Bardem and Julia Roberts in *Eat Pray Love*

Q: Being played by Julia Roberts [in *Eat Pray Love*]... how did you cope with that?

Elizabeth Gilbert: Well, it's not a difficult thing to cope with (laughs). It's not a punishment, it's a blessing. She's extraordinary, and beautiful and magnificent and it's a little bit overwhelming to be played by somebody like her. But she was so gracious and warm and welcoming of me... I knew that she cared deeply about the book.

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS

- *Famous Five, Secret Seven and Noddy* series by Enid Blyton
- *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
- *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* by Jules Verne
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Shonku* by Satyajit Ray
- *Malgudi Days* by R.K. Narayan
- *My Boyhood Days* by Rabindranath Tagore
- *Goopy Gynne Bagha Byne and other Stories* by Upendrakishore Roychoudhury
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
- *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
- *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
- *The Room on the Roof* by Ruskin Bond

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■ *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Here's what RUSKIN BOND wrote in t2 when the iconic book turned 150 last year:

"*Alice in Wonderland* was the first book that I read — with a little help from my father, as I was only five years old at the time....

Seventy-five years have passed since I first read *Alice*, and this year we celebrate 150 years of its existence as the greatest children's book ever written. Yes, far and away the greatest...."



CHILDREN'S CONTEMPORARY (1980 onwards)

- *The Room of Many Colours* by Ruskin Bond
- *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling
- *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- *The Magic of the Lost Temple* by Sudha Murty
- *The Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories* by Sudha Murty
- *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories* by Sudha Murty
- *Geronimo Stilton* by Elisabetta Dami
- *Nancy Drew Mystery Stories* by Carolyn Keene
- *The Hardy Boys* by Franklin W. Dixon
- *The Village By The Sea* by Anita Desai
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell

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Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: Because it is the first time that the magical world of *Harry Potter* takes on a darker and edgier tone and the darkness



comes from regular people, not just the threat of a long-gone Dark Lord. It feels much more real, much more identifiable. And Harry, Ron and Hermione are no longer kids, but individuals who are taking a stand.

