

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Fiction – 小说

Andrea: We all love a good book.

Jean: Yes. I love horror novels by Stephen King.

Andrea: And a good romance is always entertaining.

Jean: 那么英国著名的小说作家都有谁呢?

Andrea: And what books do British people like to read? Hello, I'm Andrea.

Jean: 大家好,我是董征。

Andrea: We've had a question from Benjamin who is working in Singapore. He wants to know more about popular British novels and writers.

Jean: 为此,我们专门采访了伦敦南部一家叫做 **The Bookshop on the Heath** 书店的店主 **Richard Platt**, 请他给我们先讲一讲他书店的顾客们都最喜欢读什么样的小说。

Insert

We always get asked for the evergreens as I call them, of British fiction. By that I mean Agatha Christie, PG Wodehouse, Ian Fleming best known for his James Bond stories, Grahame Greene. Those are just four that trip off the tongue.

Andrea: Richard talks about the evergreens of British fiction. By that he means books that stay popular forever – even if they're old.

Jean: **Evergreen** 这个词就是“常青”的意思,和我们中文使用的方法是一样的,既可以用它来赞颂那些长盛不衰的人物或事物,也可以用它来形容冬天不落叶的常青植物。

Andrea: Did you hear some of the authors Richard talked about?

Jean: **Richard** 刚才给我们说到了阿加莎·克里斯蒂的著名侦探小说系列,还有英国作家 **PG 伍德豪斯**, 还有写 **007 詹姆士·邦德** 系列的 **依恩·弗莱明**, 还说到了 **格莱姆·格林**。

Andrea: Richard uses the expression 'to trip off the tongue'. He says that these British authors are just a few of the many great British writers who he can think of. He thought of their names quickly. Their names trip off the tongue.



Jean: 还有一种相类似的说法是 **to spring to mind** 就是首先跃入脑海的。就是首先就能想到的意思。

Andrea: **So why does Richard think that these authors are evergreen – or everlasting?**

Insert

They've stood the test of time. Our parents read them, our grandparents in many cases read them, and they are so quintessentially British that they will go on as long as I can think.

Jean: **Richard** 他认为这些著名作家和他们的小说经受住了时间的考验 **They stood the test of time.**

Andrea: **They've been read by people's parents and grandparents. And the reason is that they are quintessentially British novels.**

Jean: **Quintessentially British.** 最典型的、最精华的英国小说。

Andrea: **Ok – so you walk into a bookshop in Britain, like Richard's – and you want to buy something good to read. Here's what Richard would recommend to read.**

Insert

*My favourite book that I think I read in the last few years is a novel by Sebastian Faulks called **Birdsong**, which is about a love story set in the First World War in France. And it's such a page-turner. It's so beautifully written, it really is a work of art.*

Jean: **Richard** 给我们推荐了一本叫做 **Birdsong** 《鸟之歌》的小说，这本书讲述的是一个爱情故事，故事的发生是在第一次世界大战期间。 **It's set in the First World War.**

Andrea: **The book was so interesting and so easy to read, Richard says it is a page-turner.**

Jean: **A page-turner.** 就是看了就让人爱不释手，一定要一篇一篇看下去停不下来的书。

Andrea: **So what kinds of books are British people buying?**

Insert

Well we've got a lot of crime fiction that we sell. Authors such as Ian Rankin that your listeners may have heard of. He's a Scottish writer; very, very popular. Other crime fiction – I've mentioned Agatha Christie of course. She always sells well.

Jean: 看来侦探小说是深受读者喜爱的。**Richard** 说像阿加莎·克里斯蒂这样作家的书是很畅销的 **they sell well.**

Andrea: He also mentions Ian Rankin who also writes crime novels. He's Scottish. These are the kinds of books that fly off the shelves.

Jean: **Books that fly off the shelves.** 并不是说这些书从书架上都飞走了，而是形容书的畅销，在书架上都呆不长，一本一本的马上都被人买走了。

Andrea: What would you recommend Jean?

Jean: Well Andrea I think I would recommend... 那我肯定第一要推荐 Jane Austin 的几部小说。

Andrea: Until the next time, happy reading Benjamin in Singapore and all you other bookworms.

Jean: 还有我和 Andrea 这两位是 BBC Learning English 的读书虫，也要和大家说再见了。Bye!

Andrea: Bye!

Glossary

evergreen - 常青的	To trip off the tongue - 可以随口道来的
To spring to mind 马上跃入脑海的	Stood the test of time 经受住了时间考验的
Quintessentially British 纯正的英国东西	A page-turner 引人入胜、令人爱不释手的书