

THE PLR SCHEME 1999-2000 - DID YOU KNOW?

- The PLR scheme has distributed almost £62 million to authors since its inception. In 1999-2000, the figure was £4.5 million, the highest to date.
- 12 authors clocked up 1 million or more loans during 1999-2000. Five of them are children's writers* :
 1. Catherine Cookson
 2. RL Stine (author of the "Goosebumps" series) *
 3. Danielle Steel
 4. Josephine Cox
 5. Dick Francis
 6. Janet & Allan Ahlberg *
 7. Jack Higgins
 8. Ruth Rendell
 9. Agatha Christie
 10. Roald Dahl *
 11. Lucy Daniels (author of the "Animal Ark" series) *
 12. Enid Blyton *
- Number One adult fiction author remains Catherine Cookson.
- Number One adult fiction title was *The Solace of Sin* by Catherine Cookson.
- Number One children's fiction author was RL Stine.
- Number One children's fiction title was JK Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.
- The Classics Top Ten: two children's authors, AA Milne and Beatrix Potter are at number one and two respectively, ahead of Daphne du Maurier, Jane Austen and William Shakespeare.
- Number One non-fiction title was Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Big Country*.
- Top Ten non fiction: when not reading fiction, the PLR data reveals that our most common preoccupations include our relationships, cooking and passing our driving test.

The Top Ten non-fiction includes:

Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus by John Gray (4)
 Three Delia Smith's cookery books (5, 8, 10)
The Official Theory Test for Car Drivers and Motorcyclists (9).
 (positions in brackets).

- If the following classic authors were still alive this is what they would have earned in 1999-2000

AA Milne	£6000 (maximum)
Beatrix Potter	£5229
Jane Austen	£3560
William Shakespeare	£3535

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

The South East

The most borrowed book was *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy, followed by the same author's *Evening Class*. Six books in the Top Ten were by Catherine Cookson, whilst books by Josephine Cox and Patricia Cornwell also made the Top Ten.

The South West

The most borrowed book was *The Desert Crop* by Catherine Cookson. The ten most popular books were all by Catherine Cookson, the eleventh was by Dick Francis.

The North

The most borrowed book was *The Desert Crop* by Catherine Cookson, who also wrote the next eight most popular books. The tenth was *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy.

London

In London, Catherine Cookson managed just four of the Top Ten title slots, though the most borrowed book in the capital was *Hornet's Nest* by Patricia Cornwell. The other authors in the Top Ten are Sidney Sheldon, Danielle Steel, Maeve Binchy and John Grisham.

Wales

In Wales, Catherine Cookson's *The Blind Years* was the most borrowed book, with five other Cookson novels featuring in the Top Ten. Patricia Cornwell has two books in the Top Ten, together with one each by Maeve Binchy and Danielle Steel.

Scotland

Though Catherine Cookson was still popular in Scotland with four books in the Top Ten, including *The Thursday Friend* which was the most borrowed book, books by Emma Blair, Josephine Cox, Margaret Thomson Davis, Sidney Sheldon and John Grisham also appeared in the Top Ten.

Northern Ireland

The most borrowed book was *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy. Five novels by Catherine Cookson feature, together with books by Patricia Scanlan, Danielle Steel, Josephine Cox, and another Maeve Binchy (*Evening Class*).

The PLR Registrar is happy for the information in this release to be made widely accessible, but would appreciate PLR's role in compiling it to be acknowledged in any use that it is put to.