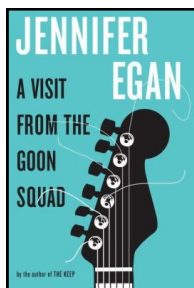
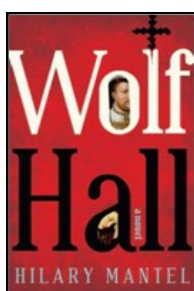


The National Book Critics Circle is a non-profit organization of almost 700 book editors and critics whose purpose is to encourage and raise the quality of book criticism in all media. Their centerpiece has been annual awards for the best book in five categories: fiction, general nonfiction, biography, autobiography, poetry, and criticism. The winners are announced in March of the year following publication. For more information please visit: www.bookcritics.org Here are the Fiction winners:



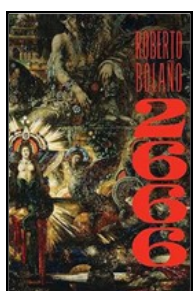
2010 A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan

Bennie is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman he employs. Here Jennifer Egan brilliantly reveals their pasts, along with the inner lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs. With music pulsing on every page, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* is a startling, exhilarating novel of self-destruction and redemption.



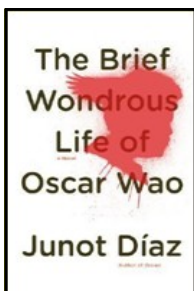
2009 Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

In Putney, England, in the year 1500, a young man is beaten, almost to death, by his drunken father. "Felled, dazed, silent, he has fallen" in a yard that "smells of beer and blood." It is not the first beating, but it will be the last -- of this kind at least. The youth is Thomas Cromwell, who will become Cromwell, Earl of Essex, Master Secretary and "Viceregent of Spirituals" to King Henry VIII, and the chief architect of the Protestant Reformation. Soldier, politician, and power broker, he will be a gentle father himself. And a killer.



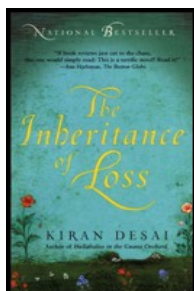
2008 2666 by Roberto Bolaño

Comprising five almost autonomous books, the novel is a chronicle of the 20th century, unafraid to confront its more gruesome turns in its sweep across history. The binding link is the Mexican border town of Santa Teresa, modeled on Ciudad Juárez, where for the better part of the 1990s there were hundreds of brutal murders, with the bodies of young women turning up in dumps and deserts at the city's margin. The fourth, and longest, of the books takes up the matter of the murders directly, taking readers sequentially through each of the killings, along with the sexual abuse, mutilation, and police incompetence that accompanied them.



2007 The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey, where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, Oscar dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But he may never get what he wants, thanks to the fukú – the curse that has haunted the Oscar's family for generations, dooming them to prison, torture, tragic accidents, and, above all, ill-starred love. Oscar, still waiting for his first kiss, is just its most recent victim. A long-awaited debut novel by Mr. Díaz.



2006 The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai

Desai takes us to the northeastern Himalayas where a rising insurgency challenges the old way of life. In a crumbling, isolated house at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga lives an embittered old judge who wants to retire in peace when his orphaned granddaughter Sai arrives on his doorstep. The judge's chatty cook watches over her, but his thoughts are mostly with his son, Biju, hopscotching from one New York restaurant job to another, trying to stay a step ahead of the INS, forced to consider his country's place in the world. Then, a Nepalese insurgency in the mountains threatens Sai's new-sprung romance with her handsome Nepali tutor and causes their lives to descend into chaos.



* = Wake County does not own this book; it may available via [Inter-Library Loan](#).

- 2005 The March by E.L. Doctorow
- 2004 Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
- 2003 The Known World by Edward P. Jones
- 2002 Atonement by Ian McEwan
- 2001 Austerlitz by W.G. Sebald
- 2000 Being Dead by Jim Crace
- 1999 Motherless Brooklyn by Jonathan Lethem
- 1998 The Love of a Good Woman by Alice Munro
- 1997 The Blue Flower by Penelope Fitzgerald
- 1996 Women in Their Beds by Gina Berriault *
- 1995 Mrs. Ted Bliss by Stanley Elkin *
- 1994 The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields
- 1993 A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
- 1992 All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy
- 1991 A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley
- 1990 Rabbit at Rest by John Updike
- 1989 Billy Bathgate by E.L. Doctorow
- 1988 The Middleman and Other Stories by Bharati Mukherjee
- 1987 The Counterlife by Philip Roth
- 1986 Kate Vaiden by Reynolds Price
- 1985 The Accidental Tourist by Anne Tyler
- 1984 Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich
- 1983 Ironweed by William Kennedy
- 1982 George Mills by Stanley Elkin *
- 1981 Rabbit Is Rich by John Updike
- 1980 The Transit of Venus by Shirley Hazzard
- 1979 The Year of the French by Thomas Flanagan
- 1978 The Stories of John Cheever by John Cheever
- 1977 Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
- 1976 October Light by John C. Gardner *

