

Entertainment in the 1930s Britain

The two columns below show the most popular books and films in Britain in the 1930s. The 1930s was a difficult decade for many people in this country and around the world. Look through the books and films lists. Are they the kinds of book or film that you would expect to people in the 1930s to watch or read?

Top films of the 1930s

1930

Animal Crackers

1931

City Lights

Frankenstein

The Public Enemy

1932

Tarzan, the Ape Man

1933

Duck Soup

King Kong

1934

Cleopatra

The Scarlet Pimpernel

1935

Bride of Frankenstein

Mutiny on the Bounty

A Night at the Opera

The 39 Steps

Top Hat

1936

Modern Times

Mr. Deeds Goes to Town

Swing Time

1937

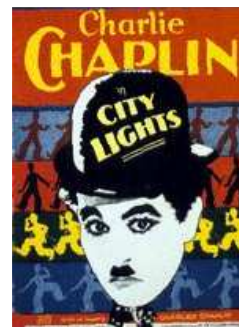
A Day at the Races

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

1938

Angels with Dirty Faces

Bringing Up Baby



City Lights



The 39 Steps



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

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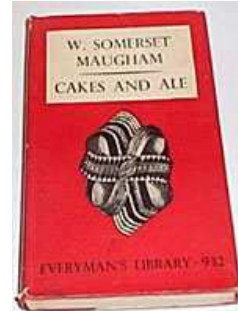
1939

Gone with the Wind
Hunchback of Notre Dame
The Wizard of Oz
Wuthering Heights

Top books of the 1930s

1930

Dashiell Hammett *The Maltese Falcon*
Somerset Maugham *Cakes and Ale*



Cakes and Ale

1931

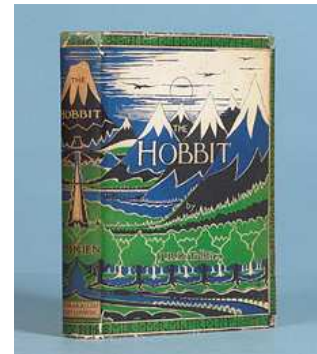
Georges Simenon *Pietr-le-Letton*
Pearl S. Buck *The Good Earth*

1932

Aldous Huxley *Brave New World*
Evelyn Waugh *Black Mischief*

1933

Helen Wadell *Peter Abelard*
H.G. Wells *The Shape of Things to Come*



The Hobbit

1934

Evelyn Waugh *A Handful of Dust*
Agatha Christie *Murder on the Orient Express*

1935

George Orwell *Burmese Days*
A.J. Cronin *The Stars Look Down*

1936

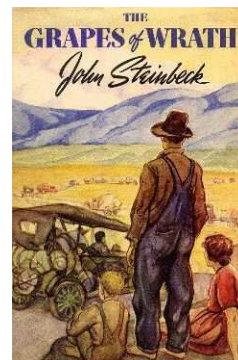
Daphne Du Maurier *Jamaica Inn*
Margaret Mitchell *Gone with the Wind*

1937

J.R.R. Tolkien *The Hobbit*
Agatha Christie *Death on the Nile*

1938

Graham Greene *Brighton Rock*
George Orwell *Homage to Catalonia*



The Grapes of Wrath

1939

Raymond Chandler *The Big Sleep*
John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath*

Now that you have looked through the list can you see what kinds of film and book people preferred? Answer the questions below.

What type of films were popular in the 1930s? Fill in the table below.

Type of film	Titles of films
Comedy	
Thrillers	
Musicals	
Children's	
Horror	
Historical	

If there are any films that you don't know about then you can either use a film dictionary like 'Halliwell's Film, Video and DVD Guide' or an online source like the Internet Movie Database. You can find this at <http://us.imdb.com/>.

Which kind of film seems to be most popular in 1930s Britain?

Why do you think people wanted to see this kind of film in the 1930s?

Now have a look at the list of books. Fill in the table below.

Type of book	Titles of books
Comedy	
Thrillers/Detective	
Fantasy	
Historical	
Political/Social	
Science Fiction	

Again if there are any books that you are not familiar with then check in your school library. There are books like the 'Oxford Dictionary of English Literature' and the 'Oxford Encyclopaedia of American Literature'. There are also websites such as the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia. You can find this at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page.

How many of the books were actually set in the 1930s?

There were _____ books a set in the 1930s.

Does this figure surprise you? Explain your answer.
