

Our End of Year Poetry and Room to Read Groups Meeting Report by Annie Clouston

As has become our practice, we combined our two groups to offer our favourite reading of 2025. Some of the books were highly unconventional, notably *Annie Bot*, the story of a robotic sex-toy who breaks out, and *The Safekeep*, very skilfully written by an author whose first language is not English. A new discovery this year was Mary Lawson, whose novels richly describe small-town life in the Canadian Shield with great emotional intelligence and intensity.

Here are our favourites

BOOKS

Fiction

<i>Annie Bot</i>	Sierra Greer
<i>The Offing</i>	Benjamin Myers
<i>The Other Side of the Bridge</i>	Mary Lawson
<i>Long Island</i>	Colm Toibin
<i>Guilty by Definition</i>	Susie Dent
<i>The Enchanted April</i>	Elisabeth von Arnim
<i>The Safekeep</i>	Yael van der Wouden

Non-Fiction

<i>The Living Mountain</i>	Nan Shepherd
<i>H is for Hawk</i>	Helen MacDonald
<i>The Winners</i>	Fredrick Bachman
<i>The Secret Lives of Colour</i>	Kassia St Clair
<i>My Dear Kabul</i>	Untold Narratives
<i>Raising Hare</i>	Chloe Dalton

Poems

<i>The Lake Isle of Innisfree</i>	W B Yeats
<i>Friendship</i>	Elizabeth Jennings
<i>Peacetalk</i>	Ray Lee
<i>The Evacuee</i>	R S Thomas
<i>Satsumas are not the Only Fruit</i>	Brian Bilston

I have included one of our member's offerings to our one-time limerick competition, to make you smile.

A Limerick Peter Lind-Jackson

A middle-aged playboy called Scacht
Enticed a young girl to his yacht.
What happened below,
We're unlikely to know,
Or if it pleased her, or nacht.