BEST NOVELS OF OUR TIME (1945-1983)
A jury commissioned by the British Book Marketing Council in 1983 picked these as the dozen best novels written in English since 1945.

Animal Farm / George Orwell PR 6029 .R8 .A74
Sword of Honour / Evelyn Waugh PR 6003 .E264 .S96 also individual titles in trilogy
Lord of the Flies / William Golding 823.91 .G61931o
Angel / Elizabeth Taylor PR 6039 .A928 .A5
Take a Girl Like You / Kingsley Amis PR 6001 .M6 .T35
Herzog / Saul Bellow PS 3503 .E4488 .H4
Raj Quartet / Paul Scott PR 6069 .C596 .R35 also individual volumes in series
A Dance to the Music of Time / Anthony Powell PR 6031 .074 .D36 also twelve individual volumes in series
The Honorary Consul / Graham Greene PR 6013 .R44 .H6
The Sea, the Sea / Iris Murdoch PR 6063 .U7 .S4
Lolita / Vladimir Nabokov PS 3527 .A15 .L6
Manservant, Maidservant / Ivy Compton-Burnett PR 6005 .03895 .M36

Alternative lists were proposed at once. The literary editor of the Sunday Times, characterizing the Council list as "very English... backwards-looking", accepted only Bellow, Powell, and Waugh. She added:

The War Between the Tates / Alison Lurie PS 3562 .U7 .W3
The History Man / Malcolm Bradbury PR 6003 .R118 .H57
No Laughing Matter / Angus Wilson PR 6045 .I577 N6
The Prime of Miss Jean Brody / Muriel Spark PR 6037 .P29 .P7
Troubles / J.G. Farrell PR 6056 .A75 .T76
A House for Mr. Biswas / V.S. Naipul PR 9272.9 .N32 .H68
Portnoy's Complaint / Philip Roth PS 3568 .O855 P6
The Mosquito Coast / Paul Theroux PS 3570 .H4 .M6

Novelist Anthony Burgess ("I execrate the taste of the judges and challenge their competence") agreed only on Waugh. He added:

The Mansion / William Faulkner PS 3511 .A86 .M3
V / Thomas Pynchon 813.54 .P9973 v
The Natural / Bernard Malamud PS 3563 .A4 .N3
The Image Men / J.B. Priestly PR 6031 R6 14
The Naked and the Dead / Norman Mailer PS 3525 .A4125 .N3
Pale Fire / Vladimir Nabokov PC 3527 .A15 .F59
The Sot-weed Factor / John Barth PS 3552 .A75 .S6
The French Lieutenant's Woman / John Fowles PR 6056 .085 .F7
The Balkan trilogy / Olivia Manning PR 6063 .A384 .B27
The Rabbit trilogy / John Updike PS 3571 .P4 .R...

An expanded list, with useful annotations, can be found in his book 99 Novels: the Best in English since 1939 PR 881 .B85 1984 All these books are shelved on Level Two. Remember to read all parts of the call number after the first number as decimals.