

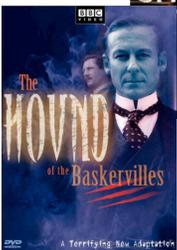
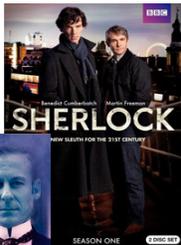
MASTERPIECE Mash-up

Since its rebranding in 2008 as MASTERPIECE (formerly MASTERPIECE THEATRE), the series has continued to attract the devotion—and praise—of critics and fans alike. The broad range of MASTERPIECE programs offers many opportunities to mix and match titles, themes, and topics. The possibilities are endless! Here are some ideas to get you started. (You'll find each specific book & film club guide mentioned below at pbs.org/masterpiecebookclub.)



Super Sleuths

You may want to focus on the “cozy” Miss Marple mysteries, the upper-crust detective Inspector Lynley, the world-weary Swedish detective Kurt Wallander, the young Cordelia Grey in *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* (based on books by P. D. James), tough private investigator Jackson Brodie (in *Case Histories*, based on stories by Kate Atkinson), or the granddaddy of them all, *Woman in White* (based on the book by Wilkie Collins). You could also select one of each and compare and contrast them. (See the *Agatha Christie Book & Film Club Guide*, *Inspector Lynley Book & Film Club Guide*, and *Wallander Book & Film Club Guide*.)



Sherlock: Past and Present

Compare the brilliant reimagining of *Sherlock* (see *Sherlock Book & Film Club Guide*) for a 21st-century audience (smartphone and all) with the more traditional Arthur Conan Doyle tale *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (see *The Hound of the Baskervilles Book & Film Club Guide*). The pairing allows for a thought-provoking exploration of issues, including modernizing classics, novel-to-film adaptation, and literary legacy.

English Society

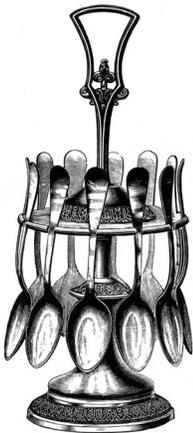
Compare and contrast the elegant Regency world of Jane Austen (see the *Jane Austen Book & Film Club Guide*), whose sharp observations and heartfelt romances take place in a genteel, early-19th-century England, with Dickens's exciting, bustling, grimy Victorian London, transformed by the late-19th-century Industrial Revolution (see the *Dickens Book & Film Club Guide*, as well as the *Bleak House Book & Film Guide*). For another look at mid-19th-century rural English society, read and watch Thomas Hardy's *Under the Greenwood Tree* (see the *Under the Greenwood Tree Book & Film Guide*).



Cook the Books!

Many book & film clubs pair refreshments with the theme or setting of the book they are reading or watching. Here are some ways you can enhance your MASTERPIECE Book & Film Club. (As always, be aware of food allergies and sensitivities. Clearly mark food and drink ingredients.)

- ***Dickens Delight:*** Choose one or several Dickens titles. Invite members to bring food mentioned in the books and/or films. You can also download and distribute “[Recipes from the Brass Sisters](#),” part of the *Charles Dickens Book & Film Club Guide*, which features four recipes that Dickens’s characters would have enjoyed: Meat Pie, Shepherd’s Pie, Currant Cream Scones, and Irish Sponge Cake. Ask for volunteers to make one or more of the dishes. (Note: A recipe for Hot Rum Punch, as mentioned in the book *David Copperfield*, is also provided. Note that the ingredients include—you guessed it—rum.)
- ***Tea with Jane Austen:*** *The Jane Austen Book & Film Club Guide* features six recipes (one from each Austen book) culled directly from the novels. Club members can try their hand at one of these recipes (note that the recipe for “Negus” includes ruby port), or put together a homemade or store-bought English “tea” with sandwiches, crumpets, and jams.
- ***Try It, You’ll Like It!:*** There are many different versions of the beet soup called borscht commonly made in several Eastern European countries, including Russia. Hold a “borscht bar” and encourage members to make their favorite version. Sip it hot or cold as you discuss the famous Russian book *Doctor Zhivago* and its film adaptation. (See the *Doctor Zhivago Book & Film Guide*.)
- ***Smörgåsbord:*** Although the characters in the Wallander novels and films seem to exist solely on black coffee, try creating a Swedish smörgåsbord to go along with your exploration of the books by Henning Mankell and the *Wallander* series (see the *Wallander Book & Film Club Guide*).
- ***Ice Cream Social:*** *Our Town* celebrates small-town life. Another American classic, *Pollyanna*, is set in a small town in Vermont. Hold an old-fashioned ice cream social to get into the early-20th-century New England mood while watching and discussing these two MASTERPIECE titles. (See the *Our Town Book & Film Guide* and the *Pollyanna Book & Film Guide*.)



- **Delicious Death:** The recipe for Delicious Death, a “decadent” chocolate cake, was created to celebrate Agatha Christie’s 120th anniversary, and was inspired by her 50th novel, *A Murder Is Announced*. A local bakery might be willing to undertake the recipe, or you can invite library patrons or group members to contribute their own culinary creation to honor Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, or Agatha Christie. (See the *Agatha Christie Book & Film Club Guide*.)

Themes & Motifs

Matching two or more MASTERPIECE titles, or comparing a MASTERPIECE title with a related classic or contemporary book or film, can yield some interesting comparisons. Mix and match these themes and titles.

Trust & Betrayal

Anna Karenina
Daniel Deronda
Doctor Zhivago
Far from the Madding Crowd
Jane Eyre
King Lear (starring Ian Holm)
Rebecca
The Way We Live Now
Wuthering Heights

Coming of Age

David Copperfield
The Diary of Anne Frank
Framed
Goodbye, Mr. Chips
Great Expectations
Oliver Twist
Our Town
Pollyanna

Romantic Entanglements

Anna Karenina
Any Human Heart
Austen (any of the 6 novels)
Jane Eyre
Wuthering Heights



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Closed captioned for viewers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

