**Reading**

**I have a theory that people who are addicted to reading are trying to re-create the joy of being read to as a child by a parent or a sibling. Being read to as a child is one of the great experiences in life. (Billy Collins, poet, in Paris Review)**

**Read aloud to a child and you become a child, listening to the words as you speak. Who, then, is really doing the reading? Your mother, perhaps, or her father, or his mother. Down, down the generations and over the water and beyond, the words that create and sustain civilizations make their way back into the past. The story you tell and the story of your telling it become words spun from sugar – or thin air – into bridges. *(Roger Rosenblatt, in Family Circle)***

**An estimated 5 million Americans now actively participate in book clubs throughout the country. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 4, 2014)**

**First man: "You know, I thought if I sat here reading all evening, I might attract the attention of an intellectual woman, but so far it hasn't worked." Second man: "Maybe that's because you're reading TV Guide." (J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)**

**You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. *(James Baldwin)***

**Reading is socially accepted disassociation. You flip a switch and you're not there anymore. It's better than heroin. (Mary Karr, memoirist)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*What Do You Call Someone Who Devours Books? A bookworm, of course. But that might be the wrong term after all. It turns out that the paper-eating insects chomping their way through your favorite novel are actually beetles and moths. In the early 20th century, scientist William R. Reinicke identified more than 160 different insect species that can be destructive to books, and he found that they have discriminating tastes indeed. Mexican book beetles prefer a fiber-rich diet of paper, cardboard, and wood shelving. Book lice like a little mold. And carpet beetles prefer leather, hair -- and dried blood. (They're probably Patricia Cornwell fans.) (ScienceHistory.org, as it appeared in Reader's Digest)**

**People who love reading are often called bookworms -- but that's the wrong way around. It's not you that worms into a book; it's books that worm into you. *(Amanda Craig, novelist)***

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**Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting. *(Edmund Burke)***

**Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. *(Barbara W. Tuchman)***

**Censor my children’s reading? Never. Never! Kids are their own best censors. When my daughter Randy was 12, she picked up Portnoy’s Complaint. I didn’t say anything. I waited. She read a little bit and said to me, “Oh, I don’t want to read this. I’ll read it another time.” When parents forbid a book, they’re really saying, “There’s something in this book.” When my mother was reading A Rage to Live, I was ten and not the least interested. When she told me, “Don’t you ever look in that book!” I suddenly couldn’t wait to get my hands on it. *(Judy Blume, as told by Gita Maritzer Smith, in Atlanta Journal)***

**A room without books is like a body without a soul. *(Cicero, Roman philosopher)***

**The great classical writers Homer, Horace, Virgil, and Plato all never saw a book. Books were only produced in the Western world after the years 1400-1500. Earlier writers read scrolls. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 183)**

**As far as I can tell, a young-adult novel is a regular novel that people actually read. *(Stephen Colbert)***

[**The mark of a good book is it changes every time you read it. *(Anderson Cooper, in O magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**The Incredible Book: If books didn't exist and someone invented them and said that 6000 years of human experience could be put in your pocket and that you could take one wherever you wanted and you could select whatever you wanted to pursue -- that would be called the greatest invention of the ages. *(Dr. Norman Cousins)***

**The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries. *(Rene Descartes)***

**There is no frigate like a book / To take us lands away. *(Emily Dickinson)***

**The difference between reading a book and listening to a book is like the difference between running a marathon and watching a marathon on TV. *(Colm Toibin, in The Atlantic)***

**Did you hear about the doctor that was shipwrecked on a deserted island? He stamped out “Help” on a clear area but he was never rescued. Nobody could read his writing. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**If you don't know the exact moment when the lights will go out, you might as well read until they do. *(Clive James, critic)***

**Dolly reading to her little brother says: “Then the three wise men came to baby sit while Mary and Joseph went caroling.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A good book should leave you slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. *(William Styron)***

**Nobody wants to read about a good-looking happy person. (Carrie Fisher)**

**While working at a public library, I met a young emigrant from South America. When I explained how the library system worked, he gazed upon the shelves with an expression of awe. "You mean I can read all of these books for free?" he asked. When assured this was the case, he dropped into a nearby chair. "Well, I'm ready. Please bring me the first one." *(Patricia Wahler, in Reader's Digest)***

**Two goats in the desert found a tin of film. One of them nuzzled it until the lid came off. The film leader loosened around the spool, and the goat ate a few frames. The second goat ate some, too. Soon, they pulled all the film off the reel and consumed the whole of it. When nothing was left but the can and the spool, the first goat said, "Wasn't that great?" "Oh, I don't know," replied the second goat. "I thought the book was better." *(Len Deighton, in Close-Up)***

**To be a good reader doesn't mean being a discriminating reader. It means being an omnivorous reader. (Adam Gopnik, critic)**

**Book, like babies, are easy to conceive but hard to deliver. (Andrew Greeley, writer)**

**He has only half learned the art of reading who has not added to it the more refined art of skipping and skimming. (Arthur Balfour)**

**More than 450,000 people have joined a Facebook group called “I Hate Reading.” A rival group, “I Love Reading,” has attracted fewer than 45,000 members. *(LATimes.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 9, 2011)***

**In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you. *(M. J. Adler, author)***

**There's a new book called "The Hypochondriac's Handbook" -- it's for the man who has everything. *(Stuart L. Spiegel, in Reader's Digest)***

**Reading makes immigrants of us all -- it takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere. *(Hazel Rochman, journalist and editor, in Against Borders)***

**Mom: “Why don’t you turn off the TV and read a book, Teddy? Books are your friends!” Teddy: “Sorry, Mother, but I don’t have inanimate objects for friends.” Mom: “Are you kidding? I’ve met some of your friends.” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)***

**Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body*. (Sir Richard Steele)***

**All too often, what readers do is judge profound what they have failed to grasp. *(Dan Sperber, cognitive scientist)***

**A book must be an ice ax to break the frozen sea within us. *(Franz Kafka)***

**You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend. *(Paul Sweeney, in The Quarterly)***

**A great book should leave you with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. *(William Styron)***

**We read to know we are not alone. (C. S. Lewis)**

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**When Abraham Lincoln was a boy, his family owned but a handful of books. To read and improve himself, Lincoln had to walk many miles to borrow books from friends and neighbors. After his day's work on the farm was done, he would put a fresh log in the fireplace, take out a book, and read by the flickering firelight, late into the night, until he fell asleep and dreamed of greater days to come. *(The Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, p. 161)***

**Abraham Lincoln attributed his excellent memory to a lifelong habit of reading out loud. “When I read aloud two senses catch the idea: first, I see what I read; second, I hear it, and therefore I can remember it better.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all. (Abraham Lincoln)**

**The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who’ll get me a book I ain’t read. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

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**A good book listens as well. *(Mark Haddon, novelist)***

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**It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish. (S. I. Hayakawa, American educator and politician, 20th century)**

**A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one. (George R. R. Martin, author)**

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**If people say they just love the smell of books, I always want to pull them aside and ask, "To be clear, do you know how reading works?" (Bridger Winegar, in Reader's Digest)**

**A well-composed book is a magic carpet on which we are wafted to a world that we cannot enter in any other way. (Caroline Gordon, in How to Read a Novel)**

**Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it. (Rocky Mountain News)**

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**When I picked up your book I was so convulsed with laughter that I had to set it down, but one day I intend to read it. (Groucho Marx)**

**I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book. (Groucho Marx) 423987**

**Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend; inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read. *(Groucho Marx)***

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**To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life. *(W. Somerset Maugham)***

**The Department of Agriculture is encouraging grandparents to read their grandchildren bedtime stories about nutrition. Stories like "Goodnight Kale," "James and the Giant Organic Peach," and "The Little Engine That Could, Thanks to His High-Fiber Diet." *(Seth Meyers)***

**Sign posted in a public library: "A Book Never Interrupts With a Commercial." (Lane Olinghouse, in Reader's Digest)**

**No two persons ever read the same book. (Edmund Wilson)**

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**There’s nothing to match curling up with a good book when there’s a repair job to be done around the house. (Joe Ryan)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Why novels make you nicer: To become a nicer, more empathetic person, pick up a good novel. New research proves what any English literature teacher could tell you: Reading fiction enables people to better understand other people's feelings and perspectives. Psychologists at the New School for Social Research asked people between the ages of 18 and 75 to read 10 to 15 pages of either literary fiction, including short stories by Anton Chekhov and Don DeLillo; popular fiction, including a potboiler by Danielle Steele; or nonfiction articles from Smithsonian magazine. Then they tested the subjects' ability to look at pictures of people's eyes and faces and tell what emotions those pictured were feeling. The researchers found that the subjects who read the literary works scored much higher on the texts than the other readers, suggesting that within just a few minutes, the stories had heightened their emotional intelligence. That's likely because literary fiction "forces you as a reader to contribute your own interpretations, to reconstruct the mind of the character," study author Emanuele Castano tells USA Today. That, in turn, may make readers better at emphasizing with others and navigating complex social situations in real life. (The Week magazine, October 25, 2013)**

**Online reading helped U.S. newspapers avoid a steep decline in circulation this year. Average daily circulation at the country’s 613 dailies fell 0.2 percent for the six months ending in September from a year earlier, but digital readers accounted for 15.3 percent of the total, up from 9.8 percent last year. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 9, 2012)**

**The person who won’t read has no advantage over the person who can’t. (Bits & Pieces)**

**The child walks up to his parents and says: “Now that I’m learning to read, I have some questions about all that stuff you’ve been spelling out.” *(Bunnt Hoest and John Reiner, in Parade Magazine comic strip)***

**Rare book: One that comes back after you've lent it. *(A. Braithwaite, in Reader's Digest)***

**There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you can enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page. *(St. Augustine)***

**There are books in which the footnotes or comments scrawled by some reader's hand in the margin are more interesting than the text. The world is one of these books. *(George Santayana)***

**A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking. *(Jerry Seinfeld)***

**Every book is a self-help book. *(Marc Maron, comedian*)**

**A baffling sign on a school: “Learn to read. Classes starting soon.” (Catholic Digest)**

**Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul. (Joyce Carol Oates)**

**How fast you read depends on quick thinking, not on nifty eye movement, researchers contend. If those speed-reading lessons don't teach you to think more rapidly, they won't do you much good. (L. M. Boyd)**

**During a visit to my mother’s home, I joined her in the living room to talk, read and watch television. Facing a bookcase that has been in the same spot since I was a child, I let my eyes wander over the familiar volumes, many of which now have faded covers and frayed bindings. “These books look so sad,” I remarked. “Maybe we should go through them and toss some.” My mother stood up and went over to the shelves. She took down several books, turned a few pages and replaced them. Then she returned to the chair and quietly said, “They are just fine. The stories are still in them.” *(Fran Upshaw, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Billy says to his Mom, as she walks into his bedroom: “You talk to your plants, so I’m reading a cowboy story to my cactus.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**I had been a teacher for 42 years, and had spent most of that time teaching first-graders to read. When I retired, my colleagues honored me with a dinner dance. During the evening, I received many special awards and expensive gifts. The present that touched me the most, however, was a T-shirt. On the front was printed: "I Taught 1256 Children to Read." On the back, under a hand-painted picture of a familiar black-and-white dog, was the message: "Run, Spot, Run." (Mary Fernan, in Reader's Digest)**

**Tell me what you read and I’ll tell you who you are. (Francois Mauriac, author)**

**Books are like people, in that they'll turn up in your life when you most need them. *(Emma Thompson)***

**If you read a lot of books, you are considered well read. But if you watch a lot of TV, you’re not considered well viewed. (Lily Tomlin)**

**Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock. *(Ben Hecht)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. *(Mark Twain)***

**Classic: a book which people praise and don't read. *(Mark Twain)***

**The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them*. (Mark Twain)***

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**Peter Ustinov explains why he reads so much: "If you're going to be the prisoner of your own mind, the least you can do is make sure it's well furnished." *(Leonard Lyons, in Reader's Digest)***

**The most well-read city in the United States is Washington, D.C., Seattle, Washington, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Atlanta, Georgia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania round out the top five. (America’s Almanac – 2013, p. 56)**

**There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all. The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame. *(Oscar Wilde)***

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