The LITTLE BOOK BOOK

Quotations from no one in particular
(Just many good books)
WARNING

This Little Book Book has huge potential to convert anyone into a full-time reader. The National Library Board will not be held responsible for readers suffering from obsessive reading disorder, sleep deprivation, dark circles or under-eye bags resulting from reading.
Edict to the owner of this book:

1. The Little Book Book serves as a companion to the two reading lists you will receive this year.

2. Reading is not boring. You just have not found the right books.

3. Read books that make sense to you. Never mind the classics until you are ready.

4. Reading is a co-creative process, requiring you to be more than mere passive observers. In other words: don’t just read. Use this book to be creative and fill the pages with your own stories!

__________________________
Signature of Bearer
Name:

Aliases:

Hair Colour:

Eye Colour:

Height:

Weight:

Marks or Scars:

Special Powers or Characteristics:
Books which rocked my world
Books can teach YOU how to be INCREDIBLY INTERESTING AND CHARMING WITH WORDS.
Write down the most memorable phrases that you have come across in books.

“It would be a privilege to have my heart broken by you.”
- Augustus Waters, The Fault in Our Stars. (Green 176)
“It would be easy to say this battle was about revenge.”
A few cheers popped up in the crowd but I waved them quiet.
“But my father once told me that revenge was a poisonous emotion.
HE SAID, IF WE MUST FIGHT, WE MUST FIGHT BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT.”
“An intelligent force?” said Will. “Not intelligent. Intelligence. Although it does help if your intelligence force is also intelligent.”

(Page 58)
The A-HA! moment when you can identify with the author’s words – words that describe your unique, hidden and sometimes fragile inner lives!

The need to be treated like an adult!

The pressure to meet everyone’s expectations!

Or more charmingly:
“In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty.”
(Emerson and Ziff 176)
Write down three things you recently discovered about yourself...

A-HA! I love

A-HA! I found out about

A-HA! I did not realise
Fear has made this country do something she will one day regret, Mr. Kurihara, but we cannot let this terrible mistake poison our hearts. If we do, then we will be the ones to destroy ourselves and our children as well.

(Page 90)
It’s lunchtime, and Nolan suggested we take a walk rather than talk in the cafeteria. Maybe he was embarrassed to talk about this in front of the rest of the school, the *cliques* already so firmly established, but Nolan doesn’t seem like he cares about that kind of thing.

*(Page 103)*
Tata taught me to swim. Taught me to be strong. It was no good grumbling or wrinkling my nose or crying — like a girl — Tata didn’t care about that.

(Page 32)
And these are only paper walls, and each one is pinioned to the ground with “Dear Rae,” but that’s all I really need them to be because they aren’t permanent anyway. They just need to stay up long enough for me to tear them down.

(Page 269)
Reading gives you an **INTUITIVE** grasp of **GRAMMAR**
and helps you **EXPRESS YOURSELF** with greater precision.

Or would you rather study a grammar textbook?
We, the students, are often instructed on the importance of reading, and are habitually encouraged to read more. However, at best, the value of the book is vaguely articulated — it will improve our language abilities, boost creativity and promote tolerance. To top it off, only some students have a natural love for reading which affords us the opportunity to be acquainted with this multitudinous stranger called The Book; for the rest of our peers, The Book alienates them. They are then left scratching their heads, wondering: “What’s all the fuss about?”
“That’s right,” I said. “I’m lazy, misala, whatever you want to call me. But I have a plan and I know what I’m doing. Soon all of you will see.”

(Page 182)
“I’d tell you that was pretty much impossible,” Asher replied, “but you’re Tess Kendrick. **My spidey senses tell me that impossible is kind of your thing.**”

(Page 267)
We’ve become easy partners.

The conversations aren’t forced, and the silences aren’t awkward. It’s become my favourite part of the day, which used to be my lone commutes here and back in my truck.

(Page 52)
All I hear is silence. They say that silence is golden. I know that isn’t true. The real color of silence is black.
READING CURES ALL…
well, almost.

And it’s free of charge.
Step 1: Diagnose yourself.

Step 2: Self-medicate by browsing our range of bibliotherapy books located on shelf 011.6–031.

Medical History

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Fun fact: Did you know that the idea of healing through books can be traced back to the first libraries in ancient Greece?
Reading, instead of being a waste of time, helps us save time! It is like an ULTIMATE GAME GUIDE that allows you to experience what it is like to...

So, pick up a book and expand your possibilities!
Paste a photograph of your favourite reading corner here. Draw in what else you hope to have in your ideal reading corner.
I’m not perfect. Obviously. You know that as well as anyone.

But at least I’m not pretending to be someone I’m not.

(Page 190)

(Page 172)
Fiction, non-fiction, and comic books all have their merits.

“What’s your story, morning glory?”
(Fitzgerald)

But reading fiction books can only make you a better storyteller – be it the narratives you tell others, or yourself.
FIND OUT WHICH FICTION GENRE SUITS YOU BEST by attempting the Reading Interest Profile on www.nlb.gov.sg/discovereads.

Favourite Genre

Decorate this page with characters, backdrops, and elements commonly found in that genre!
But we understand that books can be difficult to appreciate without the proper guidance.

Phone a friend.
Remember: Good books are usually a multi-layered experience. You do not need to understand everything as long as you gain something out of it.
“So much of life is in the smallness of moments,” my mother said. “But they are harder to mark. So we need the grander celebrations and occasions. People like to feel significant.”

(Page 83)
The root, *psyche*, is Greek. It means breath, life, soul. Roots often have a certain poetry about them. Psychological coercion, it’s an elaborate way of saying that they’re stealing *my soul*. My breath. My life. That’s what my mind is to me.

(Page 63)
An ugly-looking scar or creature can represent something more—find a character who inspires you.

Sketch him or her here!
Next, approach your Literature teacher to find out his or her favourite book, and character.

1. To be is to do.
   - Socrates

2. To do is to be.
   - Jean Paul Satre

3. Do Be Do Be Do.
   - Frank Sinatra

To be, or not to be?

Find out why your teacher chose that character.
This entire time I’d been thinking about where my home was. At first it was California, then Wisconsin. But in truth, home isn’t necessarily where you sleep at night. **It’s where you feel like yourself. Where you’re most comfortable. Where you don’t have to pretend, where you can be just you.**

(Page 276)
Nearly forty climbers had died in avalanches in Denali National Park since the forest service started keeping records in 1976, but reading about that on the Internet had never felt real to me. Now, even eight miles away, hearing colossal amounts of snow and ice crashing down the mountain was staggering.

(Page 173)
And just to remind ourselves what a world without books – or without reading – could be like, pick up *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

Call No.: BRA

(This book is recommended for mature readers.)
First question of the day:

At what temperature does paper burn?

Do you take us for fools? Give us something more challenging!

Second question of the day:

To which genre does this book belong?

Er... any hints?

(It belongs to the same genre as The Hunger Games!)
WE HAVE TO BE OLD GROWN-UPS NOW. TALK TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE – IF THERE ARE ANY RIGHT PEOPLE.

(Pages 252-253)
Don’t go out tonight, boy. 
_Death’s walkin’ on two legs._

(Page 3)
Advanced Readers Alert

Why are the books and tips recommended so simple? I want something that blows my mind!

MMMppphhhhh

Then, imagination is key.
What do you think this lady should look like?

“She was dressed in rich materials – satins, and lace and silks – all of white... she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white... and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes... and that the figure had shrunk to skin and bone.”

- Description of Miss Havisham (Dickens 62-63)
Life isn’t something that happens to you. It’s something you make yourself, all the time. Life is that half minute in the morning before your cat remembers she’s kind of a grouch, when she pours out her love and doesn’t give a flying newton who sees it.

(Page 281)
You are pretending to be raised Red, but you’re Silver by blood. You are now Red in the head, Silver in the heart. A shiver of fear shoots through me. From now until the end of your days, you must lie. Your life depends on it, little lightning girl.

(Page 96)
Reading allows us to partake in the author’s creative process; it is a work in progress. The author, with his or her words, invites us to draw upon our unique memories to form vague and fragmented images. We are willing to forgo a little concreteness — on the small screen — because this experience is invariably more intimate, because it is ours.

(Mendelsund 198, 207, 403)

In other words, you are movie director, costume designer, make-up artist, stunt coordinator, and audience all at once.
1. Pick any book from the reading list and read a scene to your friends.

2. Describe the image(s) that come to mind. How is it different from what your friends had imagined?

3. Does everyone experience things the same way?

[ ] YES [ ] NO
Reading a novel requires us to break down a lot of information into bite-sized pieces, so that we can easily understand the storyline and characters (although our versions might not be as intended by the author). This act of breaking things down is something we do every day and is also how humans accord meaning in a complex, ever-changing world. **In other words, we read ourselves and people, including our loved ones, in pieces too.**

(Mendelsund 400, 415)

Could this be why we love to read: because it strangely mirrors the haze of daily life?

So new to him, so old to me, so strange to him, so familiar to me; so melancholy to both of us!

- Miss Havisham, Great Expectations.

(Dickens 64)
At least I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.

- Alice, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.

(Carroll 42-43)
To read or not to read? Now that’s a silly question!

Inspired by what you have seen so far and have other ideas on what reading means to you? Then use the next few pages to write down your musings. Don’t forget to share them with your friends.

Stay tuned for December’s Reading List...
YOU ARE PROBABLY RIGHT. BUT SOMETIMES, A FIGHT YOU CANNOT WIN IS STILL WORTH FIGHTING.

(Page 84)
‘Your company is now bankrupt, our economy is in crisis, but you get to keep $480 million. I have a very basic question for you, is this fair?’

– US Representative for California Henry Waxman (Democrat), to Lehman CEO Richard Fuld.

(Page 23)
“GOD MAY NOT PLAY DICE WITH THE UNIVERSE, BUT SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON WITH THE PRIME NUMBERS.”
– PAUL ERDŐS

(Page 155)
“Things are about to become very difficult for all of us, Lottie,” Meg pressed.

“STORM CLOUDS BUILD ON THE HORIZON. BEFORE LONG, THEY’LL BE UPON US. IT’S NOT A TIME TO LET ANGER TOWARD THOSE WE LOVE FESTER.”

(Page 335)
“WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?”

“NOTHING. I JUST GOT A LITTLE SPOOKED, I GUESS. I DIDN’T EXPECT TO FIND A RUINED FORT WAY OUT HERE ON THIS ISLAND.”

(Page 45)
You can’t summit on your own. We’re a team, even if some of us are PSYCHO!

(Page 101)
Mike closed his eyes. He could still see Granny standing in Pennyweather’s office with a nurse at her side. Withered and trembling, she had hugged them one last time. Her voice had wavered. **BE MY SWEET BOYS AND PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER. THE RIGHT PERSON WILL COME AND WANT TWO FINE BOYS. I KNOW IT IN MY SOUL.**

(Page 221)
Look at all the time you’ve been wasting! On what? **On a computer-induced dream experience, that’s all.** You haven’t really *been* anywhere. You haven’t really *seen* anything. You’ve been lying on couches with electrodes attached to your stupid skulls.

*(Page 93)*
THE NAZI HUNTERS

Author: Neal Bascomb
Call no.: Y 364.151092 BAS

(This book is also available on eReads at www.nlb.gov.sg.)

NOTES

“Justice should not only be done, but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done.”
– Lord Chief Justice Gordon Hewart, 1924

(Page ix)
Buster’s not really such a bad ghost. Like a puppy, he just gets a little crazy sometimes if we’re not strict enough with him. **In his own ghostly way, I think he loves us.**

(Page 15)
Think of egg and spoon. If there is an egg, well, fine. You eat. Unless you use your spoon to hold the egg out of my reach. Does being in possession of a spoon give you more right to the egg? How about a knife? A throne? A purse full of cash?

(Page 188)
She scrambled in her bag and brought out his book. ‘Haunted London,’ she said. ‘It has a list of all the haunted places in the city.’ ‘Jodie, this isn’t Scooby Doo.’

(Page 188)
I believe this is the key to our freedom. Reading and writing, which mean the ability to learn and express oneself freely, will help Chile heal from our past and create a happy future.

(Page 417)
After breakfast, all the girls stood to recite, with religious solemnity, the school motto – *ut acerbus terminus* – three times over. “What does it mean?” Sophronia wanted to know. “‘To the bitter end,’ imbecile,” said Monique de Pelouse.

(Page 122)
“You have to have faith in me, Raine,” she chokes out. “I’m really doing my best to be here for you. To make Yielding the fresh start you deserve. Sure, I’ll make mistakes. You’ll make mistakes, too. Your grandmother would’ve made mistakes. But I have your best interests at heart. I’m coming from a place of love. That’s what you have to trust.”

(Page 226)
“His name’s Blinky,” he said. “Trolls have a sense of humor about their names.”

(Page 77)
No longer in the raft, no longer fifteen, no longer in command of my world, I was but five. A little kid of five and I’d awoken from a heinous nightmare and wanted my mother, wanted her to take away everything that was bad.

(Page 85)
You stand at the crossroads, on the verge of prowling the moonlit paths of the werewolf – wild, free, and untethered by human restraints. If you dare to face your inner beast, an awe-inspiring transformation awaits.

(Page 10)
“SHE’S SMALL, BUT SHE’S STRONG,” I SAID. MY MOTHER TURNED HER FACE AWAY. “CALL HER PHAEDRA,” SHE SAID.

(Page 165)
He’s told us straight out that he’s planning to destroy her, to take away who she is and make her something else. That’s not love, and that can’t be okay. It just can’t. Sometimes people are wrong. Sometimes they want bad things. **Sometimes, if you care about them, you have to try to save them from themselves.**

(Page 283)
Let us periodically remember to celebrate good books. Hail these books three times daily:


(The book covers are the copyright of the respective publishing companies.)
GETTING STARTED

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