

Entry 5: On Reading

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| Quotations | Circle the idea(s) you agree with most: "A man ought to read just as his inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good." <i>Samuel Johnson, 1763</i> "Reading a great book causes jolts and frights." <i>Mason Cooley, 1986</i> "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." <i>Mason Cooley, 1989</i> "Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself.... You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms." <i>Angela Carter, 1985</i> "Like dreaming, reading performs the prodigious task of carrying us off to other worlds. But reading is not dreaming because books, unlike dreams, are subject to our will: they envelop us in alternative realities only because we give them explicit permission to do so." <i>Victor Null, 1988</i> "Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all." <i>Henry David Thoreau, 1849</i> "Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations." <i>Henry David Thoreau, 1854</i> "The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull, and dry; The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy; The books that people talk about we never can recall; And the books that people give us, oh, they're the worst of all." <i>Carolyn Wells (1870–1942)</i> "In books one finds golden mansions and women as beautiful as jewels." <i>Chinese proverb</i> |
| Explanation ½ to ¾ page | Choose one of the quotations you selected and explain why you agree with it. Talk about how it relates to your own ideas about reading. |
| Great Books | List some great books that you have read. |
| Book Interview ½ to ¾ page | Ask someone you know – a friend, a parent, a sibling – to tell you about his or her favorite book(s). Find out what he or she liked about the book(s). Write down a summary of your conversation. If the person you talk with doesn't have any favorite books, ask someone else. |