

20 Personal Reading Challenges for Adults

Get inspired to discover new books while nudging yourself out of your comfort zone with these book challenges.

1. Go to a park or nature preserve to read.
2. Read nonfiction related to your heritage.
3. Read a book with a cover that elicits a sense of foreboding.
4. Ask your librarian for a recommendation and read that book, no matter what it may be.
5. Read a biography of someone who shares your first or last name.
6. Read a book on your commute.
7. Reread your favorite book from college.
8. Read about a hobby that interests you. Then try it for yourself.
9. Read a nonfiction book from before 1969. Then compare and contrast the ideas and cultural norms of that time with today's.
10. Read a work of dystopian fiction. How did the dystopia come about, and could it have been avoided?
11. Find a movie or show that was not executed well. Read the source material book. Was the book better? If so, what was lost in translation?
12. Read a nonfiction book pertaining to life in cultures outside your own. How do the subjects' daily lives compare with yours?
13. Choose a Dewey Decimal number between 100 and 999 to find your next read in the realms of philosophy, social science, religion, languages, natural science, applied science, arts/recreation, literature and geography/history.
14. Read a famous politician's autobiography. How do the subject's opinions compare with your own?
15. Learn a new dish from a foreign cuisine book. Make it for your family or friends.
16. Choose a piece of realist literature from France, Russia or the Czech Republic. How does the story reflect the author's daily life, worldview and geopolitical situation?
17. Find an author from near your hometown and read something this person has written.
18. Read a nonfiction book where someone of a different gender is the focus of the story or biography.
19. Start a book club with one or more friends and meet regularly.
20. Read your dad's favorite book from college.



20 Personal Reading Challenges for Teens

Get inspired to discover new books while nudging yourself out of your comfort zone with these book challenges.

1. Read a short story outside during lunch.
2. Read historical fiction set in your family's ancestral homeland.
3. Read a book with cover art that draws your attention.
4. Go to your library with friends and pick out some books. Spend the night reading together and don't forget to bring snacks.
5. Read a nonfiction book about an event during which someone with your first or last name played an integral part.
6. Read a book or magazine in the back seat during a trip.
7. Read a book you once had to read for class without the academic expectations.
8. Learn how to build something by reading a DIY book.
9. Read contemporary fiction that's more than half a century old. How have things changed?
10. Read an older science fiction book set in the early 21st century. Then compare the author's vision of the future with the present. What did the writer get right or wrong?
11. Read a fantasy series that was turned into a movie or show. What are the differences between the book and the screen?
12. Read contemporary fiction from Africa or Asia. What cultural differences do you detect?
13. Choose a Dewey Decimal number between 500 and 999. This will lead you to a book in the areas of natural science, applied science, arts/recreation, literature and geography/history.
14. Read an autobiography of a respected artist or musician. Try to emulate this person's style in your own art or music.
15. Learn to make an appetizer and surprise your siblings with it after school.
16. Read a magical realism book from Spain or Latin America. How does the author use symbolism and allegory to present issues?
17. Read a book set in or near your hometown.
18. Read a work of contemporary fiction with a main character of a different gender.
19. Find a book that interests you and your friends; read it together.
20. Read a book one of your parents was assigned, and liked, during high school.



20 Personal Reading Challenges for Kids

Get inspired to discover new books while nudging yourself out of your comfort zone with these book challenges.

1. Read during recess.
2. Read an interactive history or geography book.
3. Read a comic book with a cover that tells part of the story.
4. Go with your parents to pick out a book from your library. Inquire about kids' reading programs while you're there.
5. Read a fiction book in which a main character shares your first name.
6. Read a train-themed book while taking a train with your parents.
7. Reread the first book you ever read by yourself.
8. Read a book on plants; then collect and identify leaves to make a plant scrapbook.
9. Read a children's book from more than 50 years ago. How does it compare with the last book you read?
10. Read a children's science fiction short story. Share with your parents what you think is better or worse about the story's vision of the future.
11. Find books with characters from your favorite movie. Do they look and behave the same as they appeared on the screen?
12. Read historical children's fiction that takes place in Europe. What cultural traditions and institutions do you recognize?
13. Choose a Dewey Decimal number between 700 and 899. Discover books in the domains of arts/recreation and literature. If the book you select is too difficult, feel free to pick a different number.
14. Read an autobiography of an athlete you admire. How was this person's childhood similar to yours?
15. Learn to make a fun dessert with your parents' help.
16. Act out a kids' version of an ancient Greek play (such as *Antigone* or *Medea*) with your family or friends.
17. Choose a book that is set in a town similar to yours.
18. Read a work of historical fiction written in first person by someone of a different gender.
19. Choose a book to read with your parents and alternate who reads each page out loud.
20. Read your mom's favorite book when she was a kid.

