

GIFT PICKS

A curated selection of holiday gift ideas for bibliophiles

This winter season marks DC Public Library Foundation's third annual "Gift Picks," the holiday edition of "Lit Picks," our curated, quarterly e-newsletter.

The purpose of "Gift Picks" is to guide you on your holiday gift hunt for the bookworms in your life. What do you buy for the person who has already read all of the classics and best sellers? Read on for some novel picks for your favorite book lover.

And, if you are looking for the perfect book for someone on your list, don't forget - your neighborhood librarian would be happy to provide book recommendations! Here's a list of your [neighborhood libraries](#).

The Resurrection of the Typewriter

Although less efficient and certainly less portable than our iPhones and iPads, there is something glamorous and romantic about documenting words via typewriter. While we love our high tech 3-D printers at the [Digital Commons](#), we'll always embrace the artifacts of yesteryear - especially when it helps us channel our favorite literary icons.

The Guardian's "Books Blog" recently published [a photo gallery](#) of some of our favorite literary figures, such as Sylvia Plath (pictured at right), George Orwell, Susan Sontag, William Faulkner and more, with their accompanying typewriters.

For the traditionalist in your life, Etsy has a [variety](#) of vintage typewriters ([including this stunning pink option](#)) that could serve as the perfect holiday gift. For those who love the idea but can't fully commit, this [typewriter laptop sleeve](#) serves as a less expensive and more contemporary gift option.



Light a Literary Fire



Despite the misleading title, this post is NOT about burning books (remember [UNCENSORED?](#)). Instead, authenticate your at-home library with this "[Old Books](#)" soy candle inspired by...the smell of old books. For an even older, mustier scent, try the "[Book Cellar](#)" candle, which is sadly evocative of odors found in the MLK Library basement. If your personal library is lacking sex appeal, perhaps the hot pink "[Trashy Romance Novel](#)" candle is best for you with its tropical "sex on the beach" fragrance. An additional perk, these candles are eco-friendly! This is a great gift for bibliophiles, and an easy way to add character to your reading room.

Of course, safety comes first. Remember to burn your candle at arm's length from your favorite books.

Man Up With William Shakespeare's Mustache

Warning: may induce false sense of literary genius (Also, choking hazard).

Though Movember is almost over, keep showing your support of the movement through the holiday season while also enhancing your holiday photos. This set of [Great Literary Moustaches](#) allows you to try on the signature 'staches of William Shakespeare, Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Conan Doyle and George Orwell. Whether in support of men's health awareness, or merely a prop at your holiday party photo booth, any of these are sure to spark stimulating conversation.



For more mustache, [Reader's Digest](#) has a great list of literary mustaches and their owner's best works.

Book-Inspired Looks for Library Lovers

The Christmas Carol



Marley's Chains

Not sure what to get your fashion-forward, fiction-obsessed friend for the holidays?

At [Fiction to Fashion](#), you'll find a shopping guide featuring modern interpretations of literary wardrobes. For your favorite friend who wishes she were born in the 1920's, unleash the flapper within by gifting the pieces inspired by [The Great Gatsby](#). The Charles Dickens' [The Christmas Carol](#) ensemble is sure to inspire holiday style suitable for any Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa celebration.

For your casual friend, take fashion cues from [Corduroy](#) the teddy bear (overalls are back). Arthur the Aardvark knows when it comes to having fun, "it's not hard when you've got a library card!" With the help of sophisticated pieces such as a Michael Kors bag and Warby Parker eyeglasses, the [Arthur](#) inspired look is surprisingly appropriate for any grown woman heading to the library.

To complete the look or gift, pair these outfits with the works that inspired them. Stop by [Politics & Prose](#), [Kramerbooks](#) or Petworth newcomer [Upshur Street Books](#) to pick up a copy of the corresponding book.

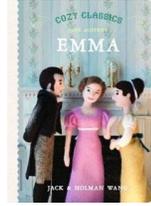
Quick Picks

Words Are a Girl's Best Friend - Because no holiday gift guide is complete without a little bling, [Literary Emporium](#) offers a selection of literary inspired jewelry, such as the *Wuthering Heights* heart earrings (pictured left). For a more personalized jewelry gift, attend one of DC Public Library's [3-D printing classes](#) at the Digital Commons to design and print your own accessories.



Spell It Out - Who can resist the convergence of art and books? Spread holiday cheer with these colorful [Library Letters](#) crafted from repurposed, vintage books. They make for the perfect compliment to any bookshelf, and at \$20 a letter there is no need to stop at just one. Grab your parents' initials and call it a (shopping) day.

Introduce the Kids to Jane Austen - You're never too young to absorb Jane Austen's wisdom. This [Cozy Classics board book version of Emma](#) is kid friendly and features needle-felted illustrations. Other Cozy Classics include *War & Peace*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Les Miserables* and more. [Proper Topper](#) in Dupont Circle has a great selection of these titles, plus more literary-themed gift ideas.



Nourishing Words - Give the sweetest gift of all. Indulge your loved ones with a [lemon cake with lemon buttercream recipe](#) inspired by Margaret Atwood's *Edible Woman*. Sated appetites and feminism debates are bound to ensue. Another delightfully delicious recipe worth testing this holiday is the [coconut cake](#) inspired by Emily Dickinson's poetry. These recipes hail from [Yummy Books](#), an incredible blog that explores the connection between eating and reading.

Again, thanks for supporting the DC Public Library - if you haven't already, please give again this year! Visit dcplfoundation.org to contribute today.

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