

LIT PICKS

A curated selection of the Web's literary tidbits

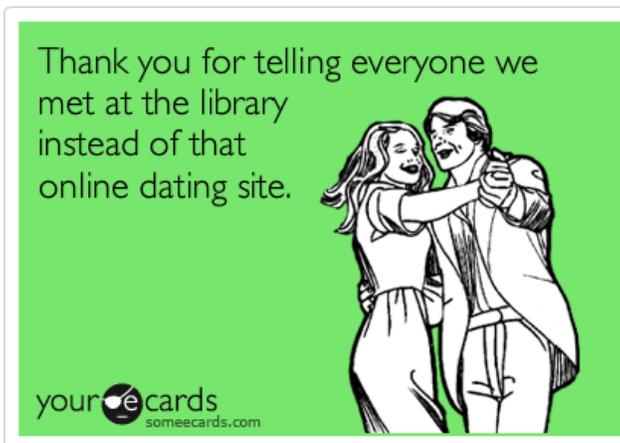
"Lit Picks" is our DC Public Library insider's guide to the literary pieces we're reading, liking and sharing. We hope you enjoy our look at some of the best and most interesting items the Web has to offer on books, reading and life.

Storybook Romance

With Valentine's day less than 48 hours away, the subject of love and relationships is hard to evade. Daniel Jones, the editor of the *Modern Love* column for the *New York Times*, recently published a piece called [How We Write About Love](#), revealing his observations after a decade of reading stories about love. Jones concludes that, while everyone writes about this emotionally charged topic using the same stock words - such as "electrifying," "amazing" and "soul mate" - men and women write about love differently.

Men feel that their greatest love exists in the past in the form of the one who got away while a woman is "...more likely to believe that her romantic ideal awaits somewhere in her future."

Whether you are already attached or patiently awaiting love's fated arrival, [Bookriot](#) wants to ensure that you have a [romantic Valentine's Day](#) with the kind of date that never disappoints. Visit your [local library](#) to select the perfect book to read with your loved one or distract you from your solitude.



Stuck on the Red Line? Read!



There is something intrinsically fascinating about observing everyday people on the Metro. We find ourselves searching for clues and insight into the lives of these familiar strangers with parallel commutes. The books we carry can say as much about our identity as our last name or the clothes we wear.

Dutch photographer Reinier Gerritsen has created an exhibit, [The Last Book](#), comprising photos of New Yorkers reading on the NYC subway. The artist documented "a beautiful phenomenon that's vanishing" as e-readers and iPhones supplant printed books. After 13 weeks of riding a variety of NYC subway lines, Gerritsen determined that the L line (to Brooklyn) appeared to be the most intellectual line based on the titles he found.

In 2014, [Brightest Young Things](#) set out to see what [Washingtonians are reading on the Metro](#). Prepare for your next ride by perusing the Top Downloads section on [dclibrary.org](#) to see what D.C. residents are reading in 2015.

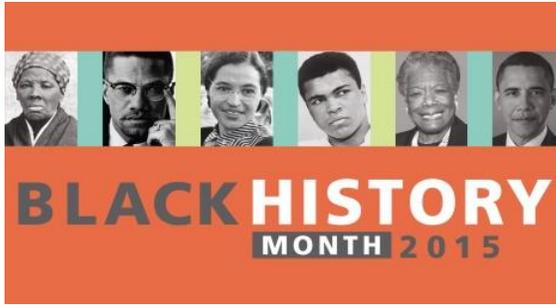
Share Your Love for the Library

As a result of [#LoveDCPLGive](#), the DC Public Library Foundation's end-of-year giving campaign, we discovered that the DC Public Library means many different things to our library users and supporters. The Library is more than a physical storage space for books - it's a center for storytelling, a democratic concept, a time capsule connecting generations of library users and authors, and so much more.



You've told us how much you love the DC Public Library, now share your sentiments with our city's leaders. Beginning on February 19, Mayor Bowser is hosting a series of Town Hall meetings where citizens will have the opportunity to voice what's important to them. You may find a list of forum dates [here](#). Please share your love of the Library with our city officials.

New Reads for Black History Month 2015



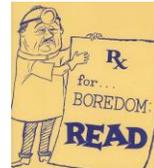
Celebrate Black history, literature and culture with the new titles featured in *The Guardian's* [Black History Month Reading List](#). *March: Book Two* is part of a graphical [trilogy](#), as told by Congressman and civil rights activist John Lewis, portraying a behind-the-scenes look at the Civil Rights Movement. Although the story is told in comic book form, *March: Book 2* includes

harrowing depictions of the violent reaction to non-violent protests. Issa Rae's new novel, *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, is also included in the list. Join us at the MLK Library for an [author talk](#) with Issa on February 25th.

Of course, the DC Public Library has extensive programming throughout Black History Month including [film screenings in the Black Studies Center](#), an [artist talk](#) with Holly Bass about her [Black Space](#) exhibition at the MLK Library, [music performances](#) and [so much more](#).

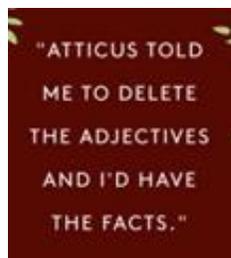
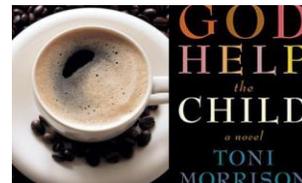
Quick Picks

Vintage Library Ads - Today, boredom is typically treated with *Candy Crush* and *Netflix*. However, reading will always be the recommended cure. Browse these [vintage posters](#) intended to promote reading and libraries.



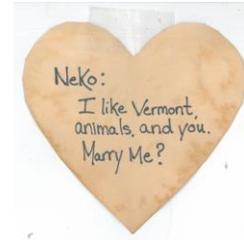
Author Trivia - Despite authoring [On the Road](#), Jack Kerouac never learned to drive. Toni Morrison didn't write until her mid-30's when she joined a writing group for leisure. Learn more [surprising facts about great authors](#) via *Mental_floss*.

Cold Days, Hot Pairings - What could be more comforting on a cold day than a blanket, a book and some tea? *Bookr.io* has provided a list of [tea and book pairing recommendations](#). Requiring more caffeine? Browse the [coffee and book pairings](#) instead.



• **Mocking To Kill a Mockingbird** - Unless you have been living off the grid, you have probably heard that Harper Lee will be publishing her second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*. Click [here](#) to see a selection of (good and bad) twitter jokes about the sequel. For those more interested in honoring the author's classic novel, revisit the [quotes](#) from *To Kill a Mockingbird* that continue to resonate with readers today.

Second-Hand Swoon - Whether a Valentine's cynic or enthusiast, these [love notes](#) found in used books from NYC's Strand Bookstore will strike a sentimental chord. The selection includes a marriage proposal, a doodle, song lyrics and more.



Upcoming Library Events

Please join us at the DC Public Library for any of these wonderful upcoming events, and check out the [calendar](#) for even more fantastic programming at your local library:

- [Fringe Music in the Library: Ethiopian Jazz Quartet with Araya Woldemichael](#)
 - MLK Library, Friday, Feb. 13 at 12 PM
- [Celebrate Historic U St. with D.C. Legendary Musicians](#)
 - MLK Library, Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 PM
- [Library Basement Punk Show with Laughing Man, Maloso and Peoples Drug](#)
 - MLK Library, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 PM
- [The Other Blacklist: The African American Literary and Cultural Left of the 1950's](#)
 - MLK Library, Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 PM
- [Fringe Music in the Library: George Smallwood](#)
 - Anacostia Library, Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 PM
- [Author Talk with Issa Rae: The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl](#)
 - MLK Library, Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 PM
- [Black Space Artist Talk and Closing Reception](#)
 - MLK Library, Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6 PM

The DC Public Library Foundation thanks you for your support! Now is a very exciting time to invest in the future of the DC Public Library. If you haven't already, please give this year! Click [here](#) to learn more about the Literati and the Ex Libris Society giving memberships, and donate today!