

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.

Throwing Hardbacks and a Celebratory Steak Dinner: The Quirky Habits of Readers



For bibliophiles, reading rituals are often personal, deliberate and sometimes idiosyncratic. Whether you customarily curl up in your coziest lounge chair or mark your favorite book pages with a folded corner, we all have our preferred styles of reading. *Washington Post* columnist John Kelly invited readers across the DMV to [divulge their reading habits](#).

Some habits, such as starting a book by reading the last page first, were more common, while other habits were much more unique to the individual reader. Clarksburg, MD reader Steven Seymour marks the cathartic completion of a read by throwing the completed book across the room.

Richard Showalter of Purcellville, VA (pictured above), keeps a running list of every single book he has ever read in his 71 years. Through his dated notes of each read, he is able to associate the books with special moments in his life. He even celebrated his one-millionth page with a much deserved steak dinner. If you are feeling inspired by Mr. Showalter, sign up for [DC Public Library's Adult Summer Reading](#) for the chance to win a free Kindle Fire and Washington Nationals on-field experience. We hope Steven Seymour's reading ritual does not apply to e-books.

Read More, Earn More, Remember More. It's Science!

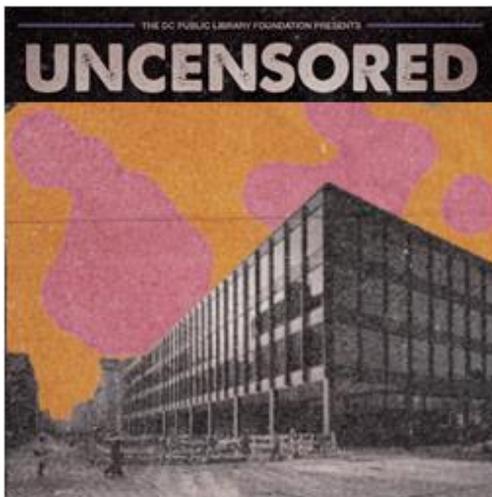
Once again, science is on our side, endorsing the many benefits of reading and frequenting libraries. New research shows that a correlation exists between childhood reading and higher income, and reading and improved memory.



Not so surprisingly, a new study sampling men from various European countries has discovered the [long-term financial payoff from childhood reading](#). The results reveal that men who had direct access to books and read at least ten books outside of school were earning 21% more than those who read fewer non-required books. DC Public Library wants to set children up for future success with the [Books from Birth program](#), which introduces reading to all registered kids in DC by sending them one free book each month starting at birth up until age five.

The benefits from reading don't stop after childhood. [The Guardian](#) recently published an article about how UK retirement homes with libraries are experiencing happier, more engaged residents. The library is a communal space that encourages conversation and mental stimulation through book clubs/shared reading groups. Another research study found that "almost 90% of participants [in retirement home reading groups] reported uplifted mood, better concentration and better long- and short-term memory." Other findings reveal that poetry can be a powerful tool for those living with dementia, as it engages emotions that trigger memory. Strengthen your memory by joining one of [DC Public Library's many book clubs](#).

UNCENSORED 2016: Celebrating "Filthy, Trashy Sex Novels"



"Having the freedom to read...is one of the best gifts my parents ever gave me" - Judy Blume.

The best party of the year is back again. Join us at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library on **Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m.** for **UNCENSORED 2016**, the DC Public Library Foundation's celebration of challenged literature and the freedom to read.

Expect creative book-inspired cocktails, a selection of local live music, and an unrecognizable Great Hall, which will be transformed by the same designers

responsible for the [Miracle on Seventh Street pop-up](#) during last Christmas. This will be our last **UNCENSORED** party in the MLK building before the modernization and we plan

to cover the space with quotes from our favorite classics, as well as the reasons some of our favorite books were banned. Did you know [A Separate Peace](#) by John Knowles was once banned for being a "filthy, trashy sex novel"?

An official save the date is coming soon!

Quick Picks: Summer Reading Edition

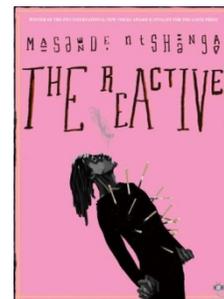
The internet is inundated with summer reading lists but we only have a few months of summer! To help you identify the best beach picks, we have provided our favorite summer suggestions below. The top selections across all lists include [Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi, a novel exploring the far reaching effects of slavery, and [The Girls](#) by Emma Cline, a fictional re-imagining of the world of Charles Manson's female followers.

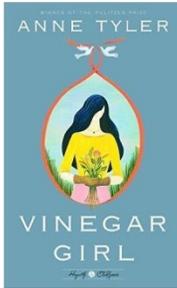
The *New York Times*'s book critics and staff members share the [12 New Books \(and 6 not so new books\)](#) they're reading this summer. Emma Straub of 2014's popular summer read, *The Vacationers*, is back with her latest novel, [Modern Lovers](#). Another beach-set recommendation includes Nicole Dennis-Benn's *Here Comes The Sun*, a novel about the hidden lives behind a Montego Bay resort resembling paradise.



Fashion site *Refinery29* offers a list of [20 delectable reads for your beach bag](#), including [The Hopefuls](#) by Jennifer Close - a story that hits close to home about a young couple with big political aspirations who move to Washington, DC.

The culture connoisseurs at *Flavorwire* share [10-Must Read Books for June](#), offering up suggestions for those looking beyond a light, "trashy" read. Their list includes *The Reactive*, a novel about life, love, illness and death in Cape Town by British author Masande Ntshanga.





Huffington Post Arts and Culture also offers a list of [22 Summer Books You Won't Want to Miss](#), which includes Anne Tyler's [Vinegar Girl](#), a contemporary twist on one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *The Taming of the Shrew*.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- [Author Jane Mayer in Conversation with Hanna Rosin](#)

- Thursday, **July 7**, 6:30 p.m. at MLK Library

- Author Jane Mayer will discuss her latest political novel, *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Political Right*, with Hanna Rosin of *The Atlantic* and NPR's *Invisibilia*.

- [Click HERE to RSVP.](#)

- [RACE: Talc & Ash - A Performance with Artist Holly Bass](#)

- Sunday, **July 10**, 3:00 p.m. at MLK Library

- Holly Bass and Christopher K. Morgan will perform a movement duet about gentrification, race and class in Washington, DC. The performance is set up like a sporting event, complete with a pre-show tailgate party and live commentators. The performance will highlight the divide between old and new DC.

- [District of Change: DC's Changing Merchant Class](#)

- Thursday, **July 21**, 7:00 p.m. at MLK Library

- The latest *District of Change* conversation, a collaboration with Folger Shakespeare Library, is inspired by the new play [District Merchants](#) - Aaron Posner's adaptation of the Shakespeare classic, *Merchant of Venice*. The conversation will include a panel of old and new small-business leaders in DC and explore the experience of starting and running a local business as the city continues to undergo dramatic change.
