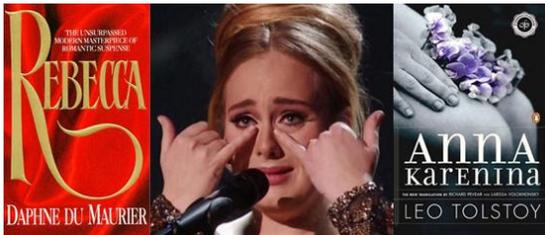


## LIT PICKS

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.

### Adele Teams Up with Famous Authors to Make You Cry



In case the February cold isn't reason enough to feel blue, *Book Riot* has paired Adele songs from her latest album with thematically corresponding novels - and these potent combinations are bound to activate tear ducts. Adele's poetic, soul-bearing lyrics speak to the heavy subjects at the center of works by authors such as Jane Austen, Leo

Tolstoy, Emily Brontë and more.

For instance, Adele's lyrics from her song "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)" could double as sentiments from Daphne Du Maurier's classic novel, *Rebecca*. *Book Riot* envisions Rebecca's ghost saying the words "send my love to your new lover, treat her better, we've gotta let go of all our ghosts" to her former husband (and murderer!), Maxim. Another pairing combines Adele's song exploring romantic love and shame, "Love in the Dark," with Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. Grab a box of tissues, shut the blinds, and [peruse the rest of the pairings](#).

### Public Libraries: The Heart and Soul of American Cities



Despite being old institutions, public libraries are very new again. A wonderful piece from the March edition of *The Atlantic*, titled "[The Library Card](#)," highlights the "three areas - education, technology, and community - where public libraries are becoming integral to the social and civic health of towns."

The article evolved from the March cover story "Can America Put Itself Back Together?," in which journalists James and Deborah Fallows traveled across the U.S. to research the revival of towns and cities. They explain that visits to the public libraries revealed the "heart and soul" of their destinations.

Public libraries help bridge the digital divide by providing free computer and internet access to low-income groups (often minorities). Fallows even references DC Public Library's MLK Library for leading the Makerspace Movement as places where new knowledge is created on sophisticated software and technology. Deborah Fallows also explains how public libraries impact education by bringing history to life through archives and special collections. Across the country, libraries are investing resources into early literacy initiatives to prepare children for reading readiness when school starts. DC Public Library is referenced again for its community programs such as tango lessons, yoga, and free language classes. These programs aim to teach new skills and enrich the lives of those in the community. Our conversation series, [District of Change](#), is another prime example of how the DC Public Library engages the community via programs and events.



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## The Power of a Poem



Even in 2016, diverse perspectives and narratives are still underrepresented in the arts (see [#OscarsSoWhite](#)). When *The New York Times* asked celebrated authors like Lena Dunham, Gillian Flynn and Steven King to [share their favorite poem](#), L.A. based artist and curator, Tabia Alexine, was disappointed in the lack of diversity on display. As a reaction, Ms. Alexine decided to reach out to 20 new authors/artists/activists of color to compile [a list of poems representing more diverse points of view and experiences](#).

The intrinsically raw quality of poetry makes it a powerful medium for marginalized voices. Those who contributed to the list share intimate accounts of finding inspiration or solace in their favorite poem. The poems put forth speak to an array of experiences, ranging from sexual assault (*Star Gazing* by Dominique Christina) to the reality of growing up as a child of color (*How Come Black Folks Can't Just Write About Flowers* by Aziza Barnes).

In honor of Black History Month, D.C.-based painter [David Ibata](#) curated an artist takeover of the DC Public Library Foundation's Instagram account. Throughout the week of February 15th, Ibata shared a variety of photos commemorating historic Black leaders as well as contemporary District residents making waves in the community. [Click here](#) to browse these compelling photos.

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## Drop the Pick-Up Lines and Pick Up a Book

Valentine's Day has passed, but there is no time like the present to test-drive new pick-up tactics. If your go-to library pick-up lines - like the classic "good thing I brought my library card because I'm checking you out" - are greeted with slaps instead of digits, try **READING ALOUD** instead!



In an age where entertainment feels infinite and screens feel omnipresent, it can be refreshing to revert to simpler times, specifically, Victorian times. Back in more conservative days, reading together was an excuse to get close. Cara Giaimo recently [wrote a piece for \*Atlas Obscura\*](#) in which she asked several couples, all at varying points in their relationships, to test this outdated practice. While the method proved difficult for a first date at a noisy NYC bar, it was fun and different for couples who had been together longer and could make the text their own. The activity also proved to be more successful when partners took turns reading passages.

Take a cue from this couple (pictured above) reading together at the 2016 Uncensored: Opening Night Party at the MLK Library. Plan a date at your local library to rekindle the romance and strengthen your attention span!

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## SAVE THESE DATES!



Story Time  
Gala Reception  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016  
6:30 PM

Please join us as leading chefs, mixologists and performers reinterpret classic children's stories. All proceeds will support critical children's programs at DC Public Library. [Click here](#) to learn more and/or purchase a ticket.

Wednesday, March 16  
6:30 p.m.  
MLK Library

- **District of Change: Immigrants Wanted?**

- Wednesday, **March 9**, 7 p.m. at MLK Library
  - Moderator Hanna Rosin and panelists Andy Shallal,

José Alberto Uclés and Mayra Canizales will lead a discussion examining the impact of legal and illegal immigrants on our city.

- **Fringe: Music in the Library with Rogue Collective**

- Friday, **March 11**, 12 p.m. at MLK Library
  - Join us for a free concert during your lunch break with this modern group of classically trained musicians.

- **Fringe: Music in the Library with Meche Korrect**
    - Thursday, **March 17**, 7 p.m. at Deanwood Library
      - Join us for an evening of live Afro Soul music with a neighborhood edition of Music in the Library.
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