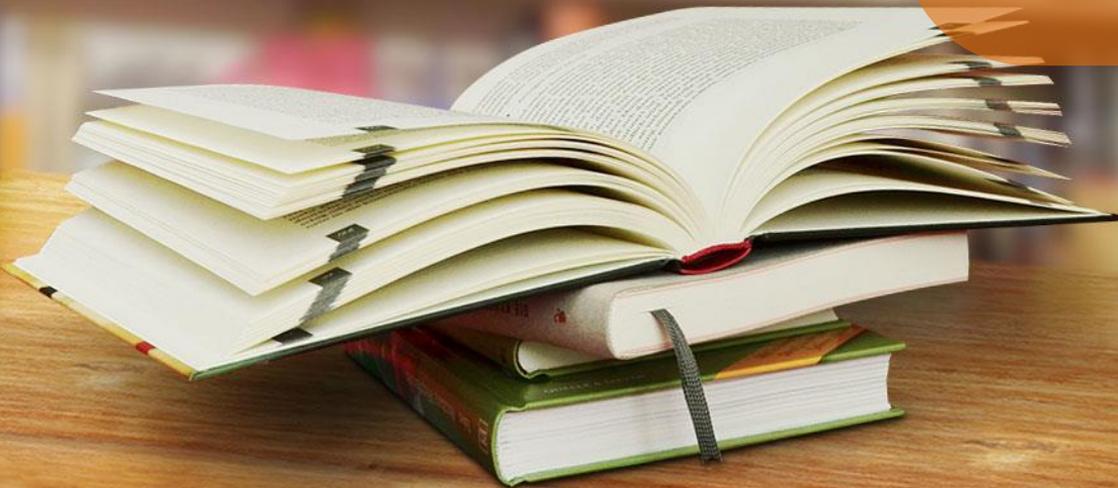


# Reading Merit Badge



Troop 344 and 9344  
Pemberville, OH



# Reading Merit Badge Requirements



1. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Take a tour of a library. Discuss with your counselor how the library is organized and what resources and/or services are offered in the library.
  - b. Learn how to search a library's card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.
  - c. In a library, search the card catalog or computerized catalog for six books of four different types, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.
  - d. With the assistance of your merit badge counselor or the librarian, see if you can locate on the shelves the six books you selected.



# Reading Merit Badge Requirements



2. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Identify a book you have enjoyed. Find out what other books the author has written.
  - b. Look at one or more "best books" lists. These can be based on year, subject, or even all time. Identify at least one book you would like to read.



# Reading Merit Badge Requirements



3. Read four different types of books, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or biographies. Do any ONE of the following for each book you have read:
  - a. Write a review of the book. Include what you liked/didn't like about the book. Include if you would recommend this book, and if so, who might enjoy reading it.
  - b. Watch a movie based on the book. What was the same between the book and movie? What was different? Which did you enjoy more? Discuss this with your merit badge counselor.
  - c. Give a "book talk" to your class, troop, or patrol.



# Reading Merit Badge Requirements



4. Read a nonfiction book or magazine that teaches you how to do something like cooking, wood-building projects, video game design, science experiments, knot-tying, etc. With your counselor's and parent's or guardian's permission, complete a project from the book. Share your experience with your merit badge counselor. Reading a merit badge pamphlet will not count toward completing this requirement.
5. Read about the world around you from any two sources: books, magazines, newspapers, the internet (with your parent's or guardian's permission), field manuals, etc. Topics may include Scouting, sports, environmental problems, politics, social issues, current events, nature, religion, etc. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.



# Reading Merit Badge Requirements



6. With your counselor's and parent's or guardian's permission, choose ONE of the following activities and devote at least four hours of service to that activity. Discuss your participation with your counselor.
  - a. Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility.
  - b. Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
  - c. Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.
  - d. Organize a book swap in your troop, school, or place of worship.
  - e. Organize a book drive to collect books. Donate them to an organization in need.



# Requirement 1



1. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Take a tour of a library. Discuss with your counselor how the library is organized and what resources and/or services are offered in the library.
  - b. Learn how to search a library's card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.
  - c. In a library, search the card catalog or computerized catalog for six books of four different types, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.
  - d. With the assistance of your merit badge counselor or the librarian, see if you can locate on the shelves the six books you selected.



# 1a. Library Organization

- Libraries use classification systems to organize the books on the shelves.
- A classification system uses letters and/or numbers (call numbers) to arrange the books so that books on the same topic are together.
- This arrangement results in "serendipitous browsing:" you find one book in the catalog, go to the shelf, and, an even better book is sitting right next to it.
- Libraries in the United States generally use either the Library of Congress Classification System (LC) or the Dewey Decimal Classification System to organize their books.
- Most academic libraries use LC, and most public libraries and K-12 school libraries use Dewey.



# 1a. Library Organization

## The Dewey Decimal System (DDC)

### *How to read call numbers in a public library*

DDC works well in smaller libraries, but it isn't specific enough for large, diverse collections.

Tips for finding books using Dewey Decimal call numbers:

- The number before the decimal point is always treated as a whole number.
- The numbers following the decimal point are treated as decimals.
- If another letter appears after the decimal number, it is also arranged first by letter and then by decimal number.

#### **DDC has ten major classes**

000	Generalities
100	Philosophy/Psychology
200	Religion
300	Social Sciences
400	Language
500	Natural Sciences/Mathematics
600	Technology
700	The Arts
800	Literature/Rhetoric
900	Geography/History



# 1a. Library Organization

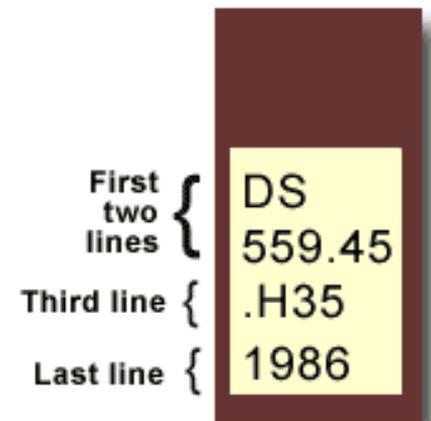
## Anatomy of a Library of Congress Call Number

**Book title:** Uncensored War: The Media and Vietnam

**Author:** Daniel C. Hallin

**Call Number:** DS559.46 .H35 1986

- The first two lines describe the subject of the book.  
DS559.45 = Vietnamese Conflict
- The third line often represents the author's last name. H = Hallin
- The last line represents the date of publication.



# 1a. Library Organization

Listed below are the letters and titles of the main classes of the Library of Congress Classification. The system divides all knowledge into twenty-one basic classes, each identified by a single letter of the alphabet.

A - GENERAL WORKS

B - PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY. RELIGION

C - AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY

D - WORLD HISTORY AND HISTORY OF EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ETC.

E - HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

F - HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

G - GEOGRAPHY. ANTHROPOLOGY. RECREATION

H - SOCIAL SCIENCES

J - POLITICAL SCIENCE

K - LAW

L - EDUCATION

M - MUSIC AND BOOKS ON MUSIC

N - FINE ARTS

P - LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Q - SCIENCE

R - MEDICINE

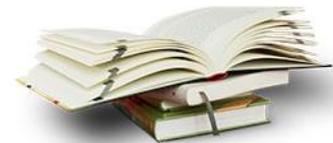
S - AGRICULTURE

T - TECHNOLOGY

U - MILITARY SCIENCE

V - NAVAL SCIENCE

Z - BIBLIOGRAPHY. LIBRARY SCIENCE. INFORMATION RESOURCES (GENERAL)



# 1a. Library Resources and Services

## Services Many Libraries Offer

1. Databases and subscriptions - Pick a topic, there's probably a database with the answer somewhere on it, and your library most likely has access to it.
2. E-books, e-mags, and audiobooks
3. Music, TV, and movie streaming
4. Computer and printer access
5. Language tools – Language learning apps.
6. Accessibility tools - Programs for people with low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from holding a book.
7. College prep, job prep, and tutoring
8. Cultural events, programs, and classes - FREE programs that take place daily: writing workshops, author visits, career counseling, movie screenings, children programming, gaming night, health resources, teen leadership opportunities...so many more!



# 1a. Library Resources and Services

## Services Many Libraries Offer

9. Archiving and digitizing - Services where you can learn how to preserve a digital archive so you won't lose all your personal information, and usually also have free equipment you can use to digitize VHS, audiocassettes, and scan old family photos and documents.
10. Library of Things - Most county libraries are building their own collections that may include karaoke machines, acoustic guitars, keyboards, food dehydrators, telescopes to see the beautiful stars, cotton candy machines, popcorn makers, kits to measure the wattage used in one's home... so many more!
11. "My Library Rewards" - If your library has it, [mylibraryrewards.com](http://mylibraryrewards.com). Everything you check out in house, you get points for, then you redeem them for local coupons.
12. Books - Finding that next read.
13. The librarians themselves! - Librarians can help you find the answers to really bizarre questions without judgment.

**And if you're interested in something that your library doesn't have, ask for it — and then *use it*.**



# 1b. Card Catalog/Computerized Catalog

- **What the Library Catalog contains:** Records for both print and online books, journals, newspapers, conference proceedings, sound recordings and scores, videos, archival collections, databases, maps, and more.
- **Basic Search:** The search is a general keyword search with all words entered needing to appear in the record for it to show in the search results. Some things you can limit your keyword search to:
  - Title
  - Author
  - Subject
  - Call Number
- **Advanced Search:** Using the dropdown in each row, select how the terms in the search box are related to each other for the search you want to do.



# 1b. Card Catalog/Computerized Catalog

## Wood County District Public Library Catalog

The Bowling Green and Walbridge library locations are offering curbside pickup. Please visit [wcdpl.org](http://wcdpl.org) for phone numbers and details.

Wood County District Public Library  
251 North Main Street  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
419.352.5104  
[wcdpl.org](http://wcdpl.org)

Log In | My Account | My Lists | Select Language |  

All Libraries | All Fields |  SEARCH | Advanced Search

NEW blu-rays | NEW large print | NEW music | NEW picture books | NEW audio books | NEW non fiction | NEW fiction | NEW movies

Click here for more lists - NY Times - Hardcover Fiction

Sign Up For A Temporary Library Card

KIDS Catalog & Search

The Reading Room  
Browse or Search by Lexile or Accelerated Reader Levels

Title: **THE VANISHING HALF**  
Author: Brit Bennett  
ISBN: 9780525536291  
Rank (Last Week): 12 (17)

Find in My Library

Visit Library Website

WCDPL DIGITAL COLLECTION  
Providing eBooks  
digital audiobooks  
digital magazines  
to Wood County patrons

THE OHIO DIGITAL LIBRARY  
Providing eBooks  
digital audiobooks  
digital magazines  
and video to Ohio citizens

WORLD BOOK | EBSCOhost

HERITAGE QUEST | CHILTON Library | SANBORN

WORLD BOOK TIMELINES



# 1c. Search the Library Catalog

In a library, search the card catalog or computerized catalog for six books of four different types, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.

The screenshot displays a library catalog search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Biographies' entered. To the right of the search bar is a 'SEARCH' button and a link to 'Advanced Search'. Below the search bar, there are several 'NEW' tags for different media types: NEW blu-rays, NEW large print, NEW music, NEW picture books, NEW audio books, NEW non fiction, NEW fiction, and NEW movies.

The main search results area shows '9609 Results Found' and a 'Sort By:' dropdown menu. On the left side, there is a 'Limit Search Results' section with various filters:

- Format:** Book, Book on CD, DVD, Genealogical Society, Large Print. Buttons: Include, Exclude.
- Digital Format:** Adobe EPUB (17), Read in Browser (17), Kindle (10), MP3 Audiobook (1), Listen in Browser (1). Buttons: Include, Exclude.
- Audience:** Adult, Juvenile. Buttons: Include, Exclude.

The search results list two items:

- 1. African American biographies.**  
Author: Scholastic Library Publishing  
Pub.Date: 2006  
Format: Book  
Available or on Order: 19  
Holds: 0  
Copies: 20  
No Copies available at WOOD CO DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY. Click on the title for additional availability or to place a hold.
- 2. Hispanic American biographies.**  
Author: Grolier Publishing Company  
Pub.Date: 2006  
Format: Book  
Available or on Order: 7  
Holds: 0  
Copies: 8



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

## **Find a computer in the library.**

Today, most libraries have electronic catalogues available on computer terminals throughout the library. Find a computer and access the library's homepage. On the homepage there should be a search option for books, articles, magazines, newspapers and editorials. It is usually located at the top of the web page.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

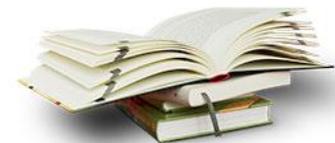
**Do a search using the computer catalog.** Once you have found a book, click on the book's title. You will be redirected to a new page that contains specific information about your book, like the book's status and where it is located.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves



**Write down the book's location, call number and status.** These are the three most important pieces of information that you need to write down. This information tells you where the book is located in the library and if it is available.

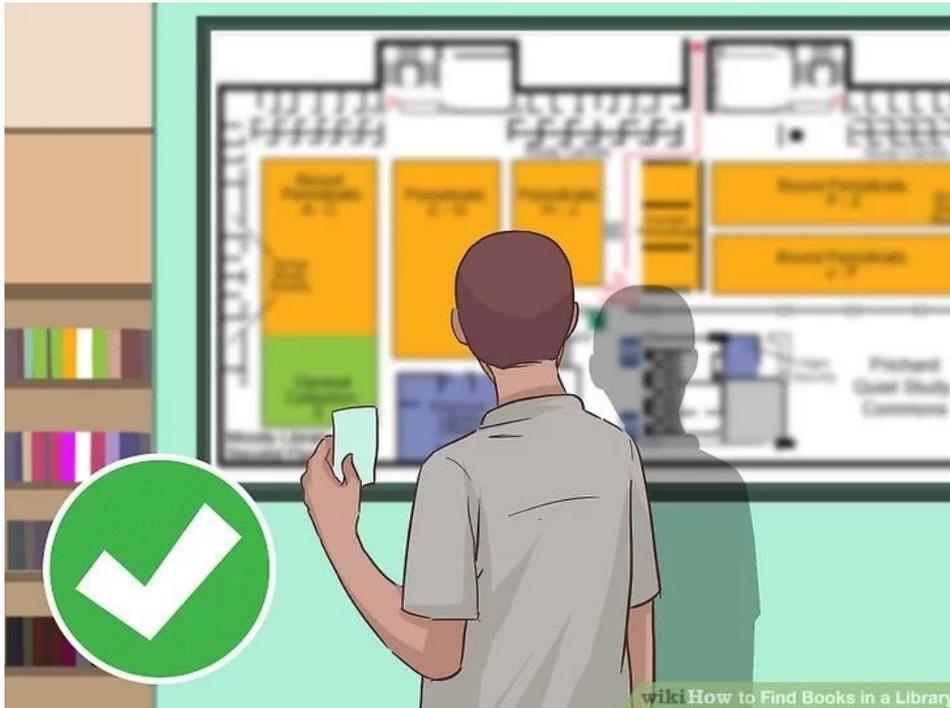


# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

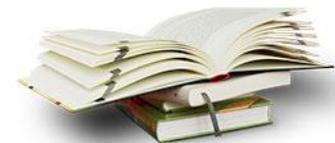
**Use the call number guide.** Do this if your book is available (not checked out or missing). Identify the first two letters of the call number. Then find them on the guide. The guide will tell you which wing of the library the book is in and on what floor. For example, a book starting with QA may be in the blue wing on the fourth floor. Look for call number guides around the computers, or at the library's main desk.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

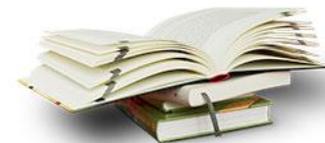


**Look at the library's map.** Do this if you are unsure where the blue wing is, for example. You can find maps at the main desk of the library. The map will outline how to get to the different wings of the library, using the main desk as the reference point. Alternatively, you can ask a staff member to direct you to the wing.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

**Look at the labels at the end of the bookshelf.** The bookshelf labels are organized alphabetically. Use these labels to locate which bookshelf your book is on. The labels typically contain a range of letters and numbers, for example, QA 100.74.B50 to QA 300.70.A30. If your book's call number falls within the range, then begin looking through that bookshelf.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves



**Look at the numbers on the books' spine.** The books are also organized alphabetically, so use the call number to locate the book. The call number is typically located at the bottom of the book's spine. The book's call number should match the call number in the system identically. Since books are organized by topic using the Library of Congress Classification System, try browsing the other books in the section you found your book in if you want more books on your topic.

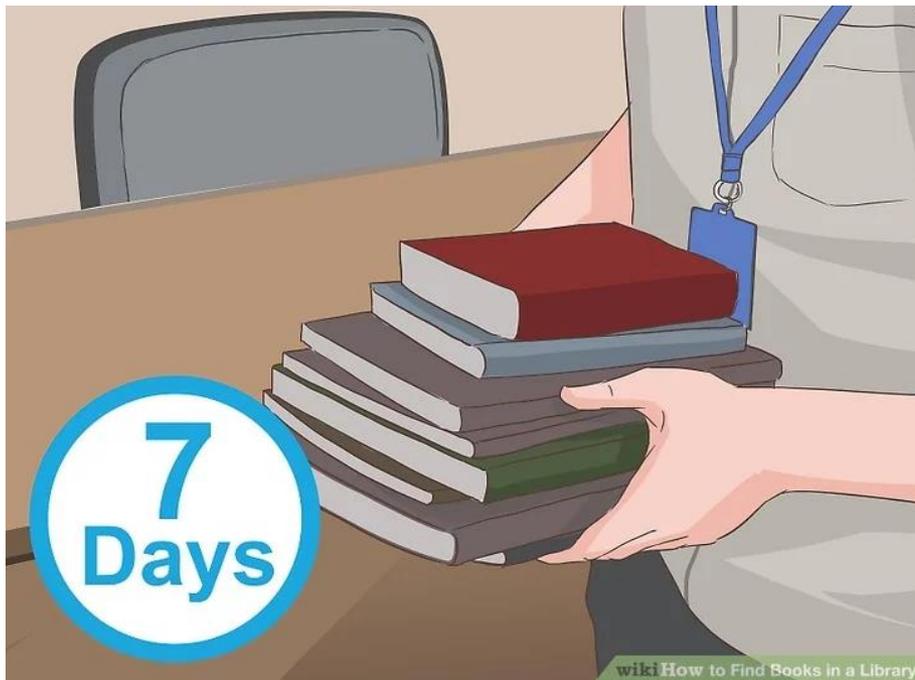


# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves

**Ask a staff member.** Do this if you cannot find the book, but the system says it is available. The book may be misplaced, or perhaps you are looking in the wrong place. After all, most libraries are huge and it is easy to get confused. The staff member will go and look for the book for you.



# 1d. Locating Books on the Shelves



**Request an interlibrary loan.** If the librarian confirms that the book is missing or unavailable, then request an interlibrary loan. You or the librarian will need to fill out a request form detailing the name of the book, author and year it was published, as well as your contact information. It usually takes five to seven days for a book to arrive. An interlibrary loan allows you to check out a book from another library where the book is available.



# Requirement 2



2. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Identify a book you have enjoyed. Find out what other books the author has written.
  - b. Look at one or more "best books" lists. These can be based on year, subject, or even all time. Identify at least one book you would like to read.



# 2a. Locating Books by Authors

When you find that perfect book, you might like to explore the author's other work, to see if he or she wrote more books you would like to read.

Begin by doing an Author search using the library catalog.

The screenshot shows a library catalog search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon, a dropdown menu for "All Libraries", another dropdown for "Author", a search input field containing "Weber, David", a "SEARCH" button, and a link for "Advanced Search". Below the navigation bar is a row of colorful buttons for different media types: "NEW blu-rays", "NEW large print", "NEW music", "NEW picture books", "NEW audio books", "NEW non fiction", "NEW fiction", and "NEW movies".

The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left is a dark red button that says "Sign Up For A Temporary Library Card" above a graphic with the word "KIDS" in large, colorful letters. In the center, there is a search result for the book "DAYLIGHT" by David Baldacci. Above the book cover is a link that says "Click here for more lists - NY Times - Hardcover Fiction". The book cover itself features the author's name "DAVID BALDACCI" and the title "DAYLIGHT" in large, bold letters. To the right of the cover, the following information is displayed: "Title: DAYLIGHT", "Author: David Baldacci", "ISBN: 9781538761694", and "Rank (Last Week): 2 (Not Ranked)".

On the right side of the main content area is a dark red button that says "Visit Library Website" above the text "WCDPL DIGITAL COLLECTION". Below this text, it says "Providing eBooks", "digital audiobooks", and "digital magazines to Wood County patrons". There are two logos for digital services: "tibby" and "OverDrive".



# 2a. Locating Books by Authors

Click the title of the book by the author that interests you.

Library Catalog Search Articles & Journals

Limit Search Results

Only Show Available or On Order

248 Results Found

1 2 3 4 5 .. 21

Select an Action

Sort By:

**Format** Include Exclude

- Blu-Ray
- Book
- Book On CD/MP3
- Book on CD
- CD
- More
- View All

**Audience** Include Exclude

- Adult
- Juvenile
- Teen
- Young Adult

**Author** Include Exclude

- Weber, David, 1952- (103)
- Lloyd Webber, Andre... (22)
- Weber, David, 1952- a... (16)
- Ringo, John, 1963- (10)
- Paramount Home Ent... (9)
- More
- View All

**Publication Date** Include Exclude

- 2009 (21)
- 2013 (19)

1.   **In fury born / David Weber.** [Place A Hold](#) [Google Preview](#)  
**Author** Weber, David, 1952-  
**Pub.Date** 2006  
**Format** Book  
**Available or on Order:** 9  
**Holds:** 0  
**Copies:** 9  
No Copies available at WOOD CO DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY. Click on the title for additional availability or to place a hold.

2.   **Throne of stars / by David Weber and John Ringo.** [Place A Hold](#)  
**Author** Weber, David, 1952-  
**Pub.Date** 2014  
**Excerpt** "March to the Stars and We Few in one volume. Prince Roger MacClintock was an heir to the galaxy's T  
**Format** Book  
**Available or on Order:** 2  
**Holds:** 0  
**Copies:** 2  
No Copies available at WOOD CO DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY. Click on the title for additional availability or to place a hold.

3.   **Empire of man / David Weber, John Ringo** [Place A Hold](#)  
**Author** Weber, David, 1952-  
**Pub.Date** 2014



# 2a. Locating Books by Authors

Use the information provided to locate the book in the library. If your library does not have it, you can borrow it from another library.

Details for At the sign of triumph / David Weber.



## At the sign of triumph / David Weber.

**Personal Author:** Weber, David, 1952-

**Edition:** First edition.

**Publication Date:** 2016

**Physical Description:** 764 pages : map ; 25 cm.

**Series:** Safehold series  
Safehold series.

**Summary:** "When the leaders and soldiers of the tiny island of Charis rise up behind cybernetic avatar Merlin to defend their home, a powerful Church of God Awaiting, pushed to the brink of defeat, draws on its formidable resources and forbidden technologies in an ultimate battle between freedom and oppression." -- From Novelist.

**Subject:** Space warfare -- Fiction.  
Life on other planets -- Fiction.

**Genre:** Science fiction.

**Language:** English

**ISBN:** 9780765325587

Select an Action

Place A Hold

Google Preview

Library View

Click here for Item Availability :

More About This Title

Library	Call Number	Shelf Location	Material Type	Audience	Item Note	Status
WOOD CO. DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY	WEBER D, At	Sci-Fi Fiction	Book	Adult		Sci-Fi Fiction



# 2b. Best Books Lists

Look at one or more "best books" lists. These can be based on year, subject, or even all time. Identify at least one book you would like to read.

The screenshot shows the Goodreads website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Goodreads logo, links for Home, My Books, Browse, and Community, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "Listopia > Best Book Lists".

There are four main book list sections, each with a grid of book covers:

- Best Books Ever:** 51,761 books – 203,639 voters. Covers include The Hunger Games, Harry Potter, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Twilight.
- Best Books of the 20th Century:** 7,561 books – 49,458 voters. Covers include To Kill a Mockingbird, 1984, Harry Potter, and The Great Gatsby.
- Best Books of the Decade: 2000s:** 6,822 books – 28,246 voters. Covers include Harry Potter, The Hunger Games, and other popular titles from the early 2000s.
- Best Historical Fiction:** 6,513 books – 26,147 voters. Covers include Geisha, Gone with the Wind, and The Book Thief.

On the right side of the page, there is a "BROWSE BY TAG" section with a search bar and a list of tags with their respective book counts:

- romance (6147)
- fiction (5491)
- young-adult (5122)
- fantasy (3764)
- science-fiction (2873)
- non-fiction (2507)
- children (1955)
- history (1827)
- covers (1644)
- best (1619)
- mystery (1590)
- horror (1391)
- historical-fiction (1371)
- gay (1292)
- paranormal (1260)
- love (1241)
- historical-romance (1064)
- middle-grade (968)
- biography (961)
- thriller (943)
- women (915)
- titles (915)
- series (883)
- contemporary (869)
- classics (849)
- graphic-novels (847)
- lgbt (780)
- memoir (774)
- suspense (751)
- queer (734)



# 2b. Best Books Lists

## BOOKS

# The New York Times Best Sellers

Authoritatively ranked lists of books sold in the United States, sorted by format and genre.

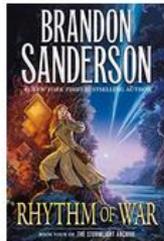


FICTION ▾ | NONFICTION ▾ | CHILDREN'S ▾ | MONTHLY LISTS ▾

< December 6, 2020 >

### Combined Print & E-Book Fiction >

1



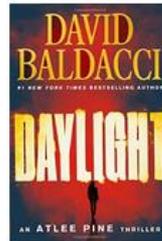
NEW THIS WEEK

#### **RHYTHM OF WAR**

by Brandon Sanderson

The fourth book in the Stormlight Archive series. Technological discoveries and an ensuing arms race change how a war is fought.

2



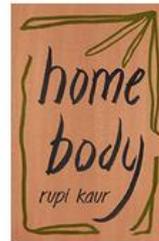
NEW THIS WEEK

#### **DAYLIGHT**

by David Baldacci

The F.B.I. agent Atlee Pine's search for her twin sister overlaps with a military investigator's hunt for someone involved in a global conspiracy.

3



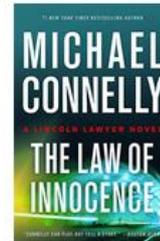
NEW THIS WEEK

#### **HOME BODY**

by Rupi Kaur

Poems and illustrations by the author of "Milk and Honey" and "The Sun and Her Flowers."

4



2 WEEKS ON THE LIST

#### **THE LAW OF INNOCENCE**

by Michael Connelly

The sixth book in the Mickey Haller series. Haller defends himself when police find the body of a former client in his car's trunk.

5



6 WEEKS ON THE LIST

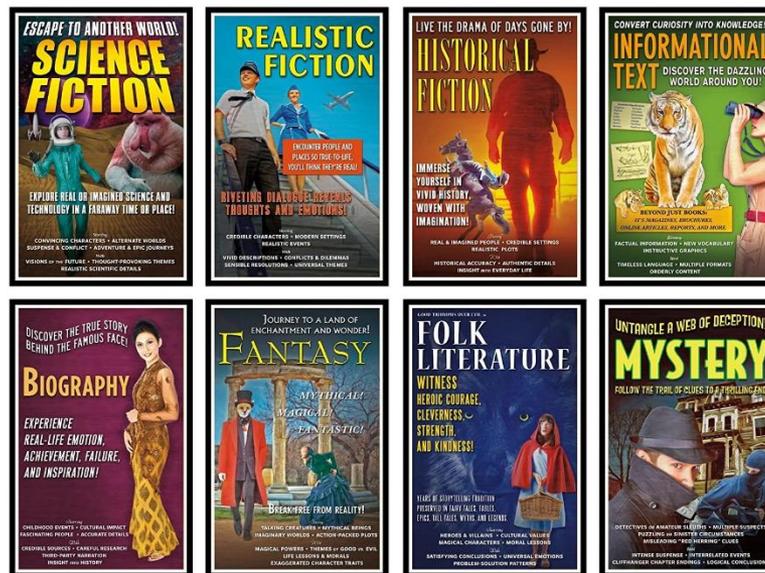
#### **A TIME FOR MERCY**

by John Grisham

The third book in the Jake Brigance series. A 16-year-old is accused of killing a deputy in Clanton, Miss., in 1990.



# Requirement 3



3. Read four different types of books, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or biographies. Do any ONE of the following for each book you have read:
  - a. Write a review of the book. Include what you liked/didn't like about the book. Include if you would recommend this book, and if so, who might enjoy reading it.
  - b. Watch a movie based on the book. What was the same between the book and movie? What was different? Which did you enjoy more? Discuss this with your merit badge counselor.
  - c. Give a "book talk" to your class, troop, or patrol.



# Book Genres

## Fiction Genres

**Fantasy** — The fantasy genre involves world-building and characters who are supernatural, mythological, magical, or a combination of these.

**Science Fiction** — Similar to fantasy, this genre explores futuristic or technological themes and ideas to address scientific “what if” questions.

**Dystopian** — Sometimes considered a subgenre of fantasy or of science fiction, this genre is usually set in a bleak future (near or distant) to explore cultural or social issues.

**Adventure** — Any novel that focuses on an adventure undertaken by the main character (with or without help) falls under the adventure genre. This genre can easily be combined with others.

**Romance** — Any novel where the main storyline centers on a romantic relationship falls into this category, which has several subgenres.



# Book Genres

## Fiction Genres

**Detective & Mystery** — One of the toughest genres to write, this one centers on a mystery and involves either a professional or amateur sleuth.

**Horror** — The goal of this genre is to scare your readers and keep them that way until the hero vanquishes the threat.

**Thriller** — This genre also has scary elements, but its main objective is to keep your reader in a state of suspense until the story's resolution.

**Historical Fiction** — This genre covers fiction set in a specific time period and providing historically accurate detail relevant to the period and its characters.

**Young Adult (YA)** — This is fiction for readers aged 13 to 17 years.

**Children's Fiction** — Fiction in this genre is written for kids aged up to 13 and is further divided into smaller subgenres.



# Book Genres

## Nonfiction Genres

**Memoir & Autobiography** — Each of the books in this genre is a true account of the author's own life. Memoirs are typically related to a specific time in the author's life or to a specific theme of the author's choosing.

**Biography** — Biographies are books written on someone other than the author — generally someone well known or someone whose life and or death can teach the world something worth learning.

**Cooking** — In this genre, you'll find books on every kind of cooking someone in the world took the time to write about, as well as cooking for different diets and nutritional needs.

**Art & Photography** — This genre includes books on artists of all kinds, as well as on each type of art and its history.

**Self-Help / Personal Development** — This genre is all about helping the reader realize their potential, develop their gifts, and live fulfilling lives.



# Book Genres

## Nonfiction Genres

**Motivational / Inspirational** — This genre's main purpose is to get you to do something, to inspire you, or to challenge your perspective.

**Health & Fitness** — Here you'll find books on both mental and physical health concerns as well as diets and weight loss.

**History** — This genre focuses on a specific time period or covers a broad span of time, often describing specific historical characters.

**Crafts, Hobbies & Home** — Look to this genre for topics related to creating a home and developing specific hobbies or crafts.

**Families & Relationships** — If it deals with family life, marriage, or any kind of interpersonal relationship, your book belongs in this genre.

**Humor & Entertainment** — Books in this genre are supposed to make you laugh or at least keep you entertained. Many also belong to the memoir genre.



# Book Genres

## Nonfiction Genres

**Business & Money** — If you're writing a nonfiction book on business topics, wealth building, or managing your money, it probably belongs to this genre.

**Law & Criminology** — Books on the legal system, on laws, criminal justice, and related topics belong in this genre.

**Politics & Social Sciences** — Books in this genre discuss politics or issues related to one or more of the social sciences (psychology, sociology, social work, etc.).

**Religion & Spirituality** — From personal guides to spiritual memoirs to histories, this genre covers religions of all kinds along with spiritual practices.

**Education & Teaching** — Any book that proposes to teach the reader how to do something — or how to do it better — belongs to this genre.

**Travel** — This genre includes travel guides and travel-heavy memoirs.

**True Crime** — These often read like well-crafted crime fiction but are true stories that chronicle real crimes, typically with exacting detail.



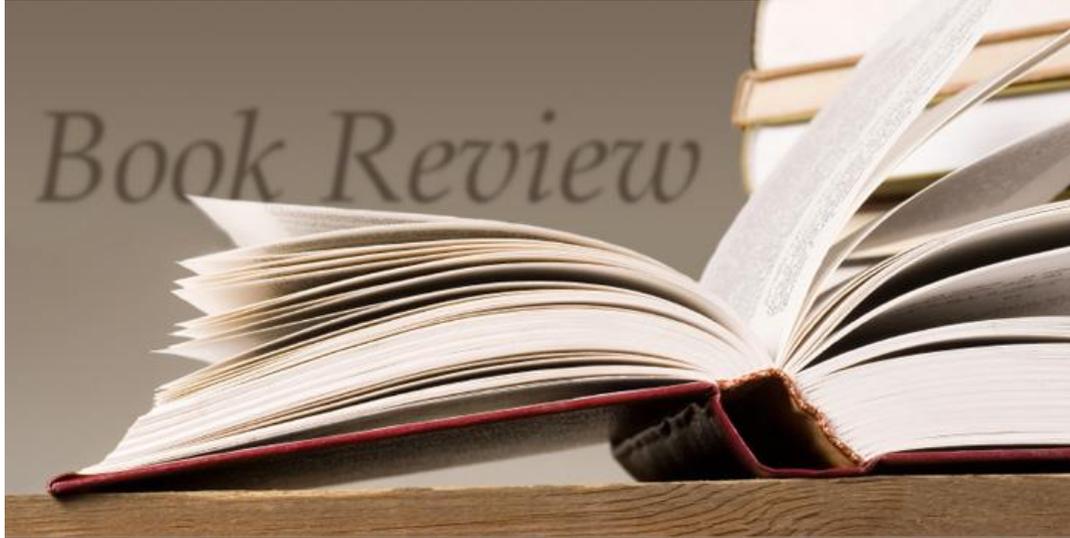
# 3a. Writing a Book Review

**Step 1: Read the book and take notes.** If possible, read the book multiple times, as repeat reads tend to lead a reader (or reviewer) to view aspects of the story, the setting and the character(s) in a new or different way.

- Write down notes in a notebook to document any thoughts or impressions you have of the book as you are reading. They don't have to be organized or perfect, the idea is to brainstorm any impressions you may have of the book.
- Try summarizing the major sections of the book you're reviewing to help understand how it's structured.



# 3a. Writing a Book Review



## Step 2. Provide a summary

- Have you ever watched a movie only to realize that all the good bits were already in the trailer? You don't want the review to do that. What you do want the summary to do is reveal the genre, theme, main conflict, and main characters in the story without giving away spoilers or revealing how the story ends.
- A good rule of thumb is not to mention anything that happens beyond the midpoint. Set the stage and give readers a sense of the book without explaining how the central issue is resolved.



# 3a. Writing a Book Review

## Step 3. Present your evaluation

- While you should absolutely weave your own personal take of a book into the review, your evaluation shouldn't only be based on your subjective opinion.
- Along with presenting how you reacted to the story and how it affected you, you should also try to objectively critique the stronger and weaker elements of the story, and provide examples from the text to back up your points.



# 3a. Writing a Book Review

## Step 3. Present your evaluation (continued)

To help you write your evaluation, you should record your reactions and thoughts as you work your way through a novel you're planning on reviewing. Here are some questions about the book to keep in mind as you do:

- Which genres does it fit into? How does it match up to your expectations of that genre?
- Which point of view does it use? How does that contribute to the story?
- What is the **theme**? What elements underscore the theme or make it apparent to the reader?
- How would you describe the author's writing style?
- Does the story start with action? With exposition? Which elements are introduced to the reader in the first chapter?
- Does the story have a **satisfying ending**? Which loose ends are tied up, and which questions are left unanswered?
- Is it well-edited or are there frequent instances of spelling or grammatical errors? What about plot holes or inconsistencies within the story itself?
- What emotions were you left with upon finishing the book? Does it feel well-developed or like it needs more work?
- How does this book compare to other works by this author? Or to other relevant titles in the same genre/with the same themes?



# 3a. Writing a Book Review



## Step 4. Give your recommendation

At the end of the day, your critique needs to answer this question: is this a book you would (or wouldn't) recommend to other readers? You might wrap up by comparing it to other books in the same genre, or authors with similar styles, such as: "Fans of so-and-so will enjoy this book."



# 3a. Writing a Book Review

## Bonus tips for writing a book review

**Remember, this isn't a book *report*.** If someone wants the summary of a novel, they can read the synopsis. People want book reviews for a fellow reader's *take* on the book. And for that reason...

**Have an opinion.** Even if your opinion is totally middle-of-the-line — you didn't hate the book but you didn't love it either — state that clearly, and explain why.

**Make your stance clear from the outset.** Don't save your opinion just for the evaluation. Weave your thoughts about the book into your summary as well, so that readers have an idea of your opinion from the outset.

**Back up your points.** Instead of just saying, "the prose was evocative" — *show* readers by providing an actual passage that displays this. Same goes for negative points — don't simply tell readers you found the character unbelievable, share a certain (non-spoiler) scene that backs this up.

**Provide the details.** Don't forget to weave the book's information into the review: Is this one in stallment of a series? What types of works has the author written before? What is their background? How many pages does the book have? Who published the book? What is the book's price?

**Learn from others.** One of the best ways to learn how to write a great review is to read other reviews!

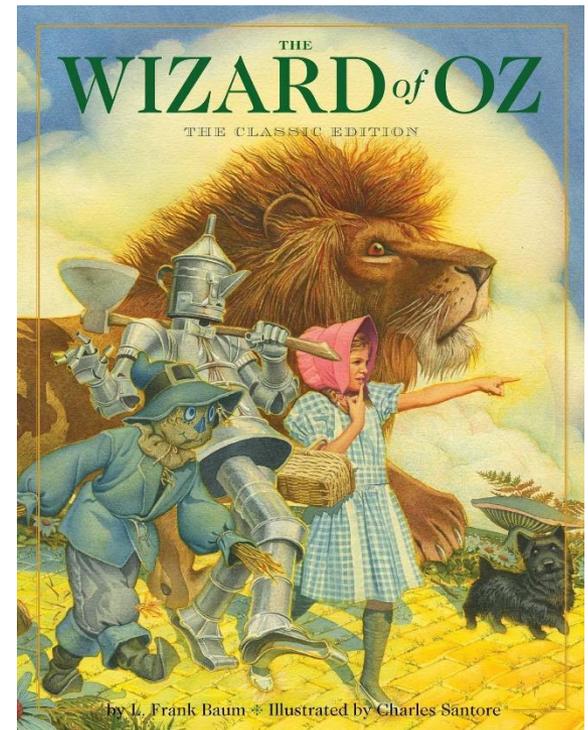


# 3b. Watch a Movie Based on a Book

What was the same between the book and movie? What was different? Which did you enjoy more?

Examples of movies based on books:

- The Wizard of Oz (1939)
- The Princess Bride (1987)
- Jurassic Park (1993)
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)
- Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002)
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)
- Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005)
- Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007)
- Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009)
- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012)
- The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug (2013)
- The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies (2014)
- The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring (2001)
- The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers (2002)
- The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King (2003)



# 3c. How to Give a Book Talk

1. **Opening: Hook your audience!**
  - a. Give the title and author of the book.
  - b. Read a quote from the book, ask a question of your audience, introduce the main character, vividly set the scene, or do a combination of a few of these techniques.
2. **Summary: Briefly summarize the plot of the book.**
  - a. Be sure that your summary introduces the main character, identifies the problem, and leads us toward the solution (without giving away the ending.)
3. **Impression: Share your opinion.**
  - a. How did you feel about the book?
  - b. What did you think of the author?
  - c. Would you recommend it to others?
  - d. What would you rate it?
4. **Closing: Entice your audience.**
  - a. Ask a rhetorical question, read a quote from the book, use a cliffhanger, or do a combination of these techniques.



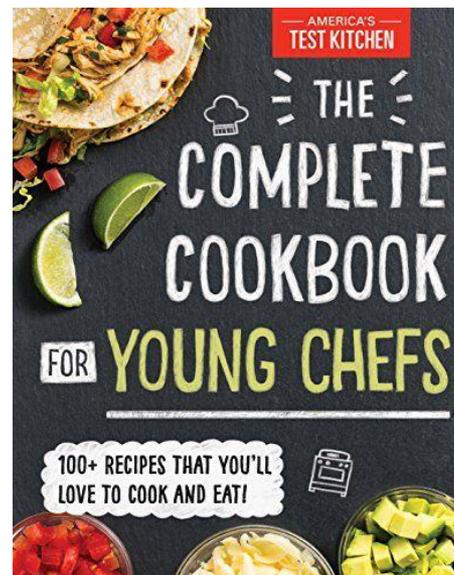
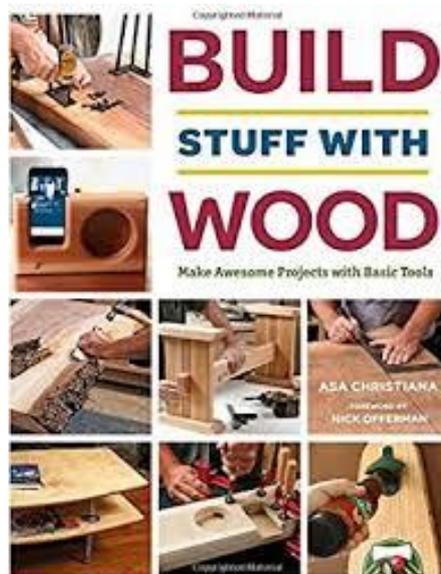
Remember, your book talk should flow nicely, like a commercial. It should not be a giant list answering these questions.



# Requirement 4



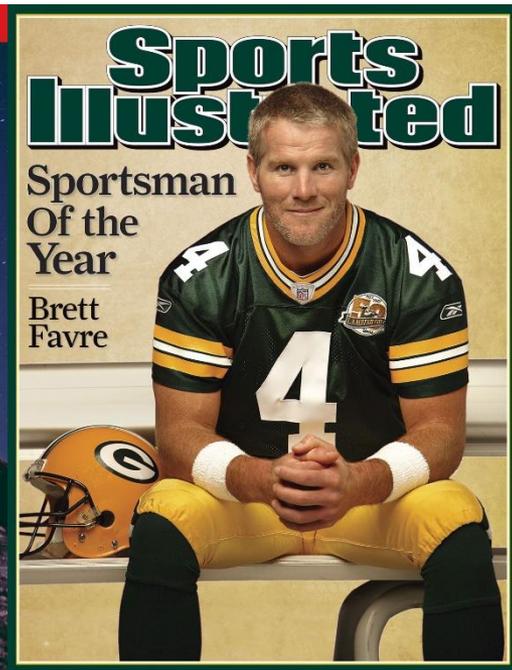
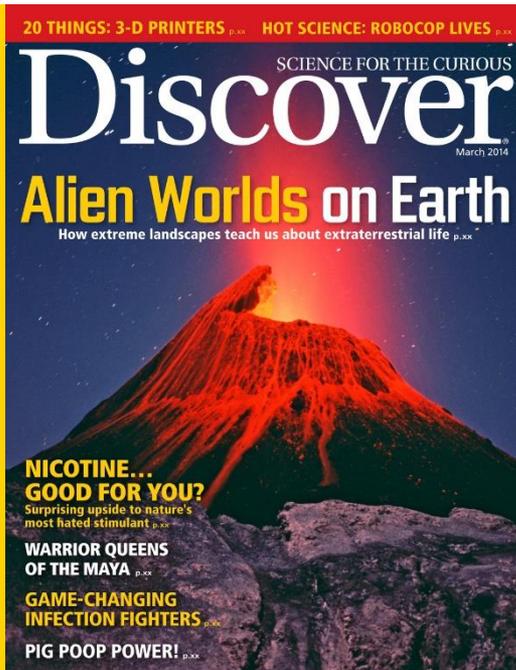
4. Read a nonfiction book or magazine that teaches you how to do something like cooking, wood-building projects, video game design, science experiments, knot-tying, etc. With your counselor's and parent's or guardian's permission, complete a project from the book. Share your experience with your merit badge counselor. Reading a merit badge pamphlet will not count toward completing this requirement.



# Requirement 5



5. Read about the world around you from any two sources: books, magazines, newspapers, the internet (with your parent's or guardian's permission), field manuals, etc. Topics may include Scouting, sports, environmental problems, politics, social issues, current events, nature, religion, etc. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.



# Requirement 6



6. With your counselor's and parent's or guardian's permission, choose ONE of the following activities and devote at least four hours of service to that activity. Discuss your participation with your counselor.
  - a. Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility.
  - b. Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
  - c. Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.
  - d. Organize a book swap in your troop, school, or place of worship.
  - e. Organize a book drive to collect books. Donate them to an organization in need.

