


Ink & Willow

**SNEAK
PEEK**

**UNCORRECTED
PROOF**



TO READ OR NOT TO READ



This journal belongs to



UNCORRECTED PROOF

SNEAK PEEK



SAMPLE ONLY



TO READ OR ~~NOT~~ TO READ

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Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.

—FREDERICK DOUGLASS

As all book lovers know, few things in life are as enjoyable as getting lost in a good book. Even more thrilling is the prospect of new books to discover and enjoy. Thus, we have created *To Read or Not to Read: A Literary Journal for the Book Lover's Soul* so you can log and review your current reads as well as discover new books and authors to add to your TBR pile. In addition, there are many other fun features, including quizzes, space to jot down quotes, a list of book-related holidays, and more. Other special features include:

MY TOP PICKS—*record your favorite authors, characters, literary crushes, and more*

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS—*learn about six lesser-known authors who have influenced the Christian faith*

LITERARY MATCHUPS—*select your personal preferences from several fun lists*

A DIY TABLE OF CONTENTS—*write in the books you review for easy reference*

No matter your preferred genre, you'll find countless suggestions for your reading pleasure. We hope this journal becomes a treasured keepsake that allows you to remember the books that have influenced you.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

SNEAK PEEK  SAMPLE ONLY

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◆ DATE PUBLISHED ◆

◆ DATE READ ◆

◆ MY RATING ◆



WHY I READ
THIS BOOK



IT INSPIRED ME TO
(READ/LEARN/VISIT)



I WILL RECOMMEND
IT TO

BOOK TITLE

AUTHOR

☐ FICTION GENRE

☐ NONFICTION TOPIC

NOTES

MY REVIEW

FINAL TAKEAWAY



*Fill your house with stacks of books,
in all the crannies and all the nooks.*

—DR. SEUSS



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*The original name Charles Dickens used
for Tiny Tim was “Little Fred.”*



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*Once you have read a book you care about,
some part of it is always with you.*

—LOUIS L'AMOUR



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*The word for loving the smell of
old books is bibliosmia.*



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*If you only read the books that everyone
else is reading, you can only think what
everyone else is thinking.*

—HARUKI MURAKAMI



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*The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947
by a Bedouin boy searching for a lost goat, are the
oldest copies of Jewish text in existence.*



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*She read books as one would breathe air,
to fill up and live.*

—ANNIE DILLARD



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*Paperback books were introduced by
Penguin in the 1930s, revolutionizing books as
something other than a luxury item.*



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A room without books is like a body without a soul.

—MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO



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☐ NONFICTION

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*The phrase “a sight for sore eyes”
originated in 1738 in A Complete Collection of Genteel
and Ingenious Conversation by Jonathan Swift,
author of Gulliver’s Travels.*



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*Keep reading. It's one of the most marvelous
adventures anyone can have.*

—LLOYD ALEXANDER



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GENRE _____

☐ NONFICTION

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*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's 1943 book
The Little Prince has been read by more than 400 million
children and adults worldwide and is still
considered a bestseller today.*



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A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.

—NEIL GAIMAN



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*In 1810, the Scoville Memorial Library in
Salisbury, Connecticut, opened as the first publicly
funded library in the United States and the
first to offer its services free of charge.*



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*The story is truly finished—and meaning
is made—not when the author adds the last period,
but when the reader enters.*

—CELESTE NG





AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

FLANNERY
O'CONNOR

BIRTH

*March 25, 1925
Savannah, Georgia*

DEATH

*August 3, 1964
Milledgeville, Georgia*

GENRE

American fiction

POPULAR WORKS

*A Good Man Is Hard
to Find (and Other
Stories), Wise Blood, The
Violent Bear It Away*

AWARDS

*National Book Award
for fiction*

“PLEASE HELP me dear God to be a good writer and to get something else accepted” was the simple prayer penned by a young University of Iowa student during the mid-1940s. With the subsequent publication of two novels, more than thirty short stories, and dozens of essays and reviews, the prayer of Flannery O'Connor was answered. She is now widely considered to be one of the most gifted writers in the sphere of American literature.

A devout believer all her life, O'Connor was intentional in making sure her art always pointed to God. “Don’t let me ever think, dear God,” she wrote, “that I was anything but the instrument for Your story.” Even though violence, suffering, and darkness of the soul often appeared in her work, a closer analysis of her writing reveals her determination to depict the world and humanity as they are—fallen and in desperate need of grace. Drawing from the belief that God can be found even in the darkest circumstances, O'Connor took it upon herself to seek out joy wherever it was least expected. “Please help me to get down under things and find where You are,” she prayed.

“Stalking joy” became a daily reality for the young writer when at the age of twenty-five she began what would become a fourteen-year struggle with lupus. Though the disease tragically cut her life short at thirty-nine, her conviction to her faith both in her writing and her personal life stands as a testament to the message that grace triumphs over suffering.

HOW BOOKISH ARE YOU?

Mark the statements below that describe your relationship with books.
Then calculate your score to discover how bookish you really are.

- ☐ You often stay up late to finish a book—eating and sleeping are just inconveniences to what *really* matters!
- ☐ Sometimes you're late to appointments because you need to finish a chapter.
- ☐ You watch every movie adaptation of your favorite books—and *of course* the book was better.
- ☐ Your favorite pastime is browsing the shelves at your local bookstore.
- ☐ You complete the book you're reading even if you're not loving it. Gotta meet that Goodreads goal!
- ☐ You always have a book with you so you can read whenever there's a free moment.
- ☐ Your weekend plans always include curling up with a good book.
- ☐ You don't have a to-be-read pile—you have *piles*...upon piles upon piles.
- ☐ During your nine-to-five, you often think about diving back into your current read *right* when you get home.
- ☐ You spend hours organizing your bookshelf by color, author, or genre.
- ☐ You own book-themed clothes, mugs, prints, and/or stickers.
- ☐ You're truly sad when you finish a book. It's *literally* like closing a chapter on part of your life.
- ☐ You read or listen to an audiobook during your commute to work.
- ☐ One of your New Year's resolutions is the number of books you plan to read.
- ☐ You often begin conversations by asking, "What are you reading?"
- ☐ Your friends consider you the go-to person for book recommendations—they know they can always trust you to introduce them to their next favorite read.
- ☐ You pack multiple books in your suitcase when traveling, even if you know you won't get to all of them.
- ☐ You buy additional copies of your favorite book to make sure your friends and family members also fall in love with it.
- ☐ Every payday, you calculate how many books you can buy after rent, utilities, food, and all of the other "essentials."
- ☐ You equate free time with reading time. What else would you possibly be doing?
- ☐ Your birthday and Christmas wish lists are made up almost entirely of books.

- ☐ You consider naming your children or pets after your favorite authors and/or characters, if you haven't already.
- ☐ When you decide to socialize, you suggest hanging out in a bookstore, getting together for a book club, or going to a local author event.
- ☐ You text your friends when your favorite author likes your Instagram post.
- ☐ You don't mind when someone is running late for a get-together. Extra reading time!
- ☐ After finishing a book, you often jump online to see what other readers thought of the ending—and if they didn't like it as much as you, they're obviously wrong!
- ☐ You immediately get excited when you wake up and realize you still have several chapters left in your current read.
- ☐ You find yourself talking about characters as if they're your real friends—and when people ask who that is, you sigh in disappointment before explaining.
- ☐ After finishing a book, you immediately update your progress on Goodreads so you're closer to completing your annual reading challenge.
- ☐ You regularly experience mild levels of *abibliophobia*, the fear of running out of reading material.
- ☐ You've been known to set Google alerts or obsessively follow your favorite author's social posts when you're waiting for the next book in the series. After all, what could they possibly be doing that's more important than finishing their next book!

SCORING

1-11 REASONABLY BOOKISH

You may love reading, but it hasn't taken over your life—yet. You're not afraid to admit that you love a good book or to make recommendations to your friends. However, you also value your sleep and your human friendships, so you make sure those are higher up on your list of priorities.

12-21 UNDOUBTEDLY BOOKISH

No one would mistake you for a non-reader. You spend your free time at your local library or with your book club, and there's no hiding the stacks of books in your home when guests come over. But you're proud to be a book nerd and love sharing in the joy of reading with others.

22-31 TIME-FOR-AN- INTERVENTION BOOKISH

You live and breathe books. You wouldn't be caught dead without a good read in your backpack or purse, and you dream of a life that allows you to read all day, every day. When your friends call to make sure you're alive, you have to assure them you're just consumed by your latest read.

MY TOP PICKS

MY FAVORITE AUTHOR

CHARACTERS I'D MOST WANT TO BE

BOOKS I LEARNED THE MOST FROM

MOST ROMANTIC LITERARY COUPLES

PLACES IN BOOKS I MOST WANT TO VISIT

CHARACTERS I'D MOST WANT AS FRIENDS

BOOKS THAT IMPACTED MY FAITH THE MOST

MY LITERARY CRUSHES

CHARACTERS' HOMES I MOST WANT TO OWN

BEST LITERARY HEROES

MOST QUOTABLE AUTHOR / CHARACTER

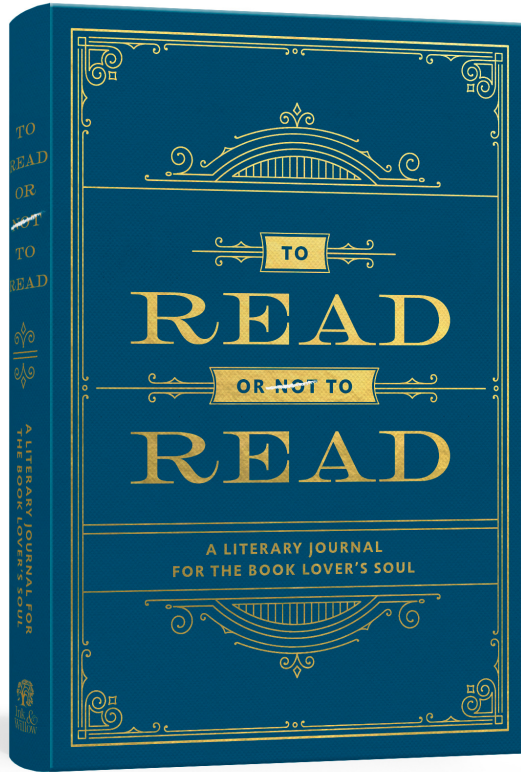
AUTHOR I'VE READ THE MOST

CHARACTERS MOST LIKE ME

BEST LITERARY VILLAINS

FUNNIEST CHARACTER

AUTHORS I MOST WANT TO MEET



Order Today!

BUY NOW

