

# Bunbury Libraries Library Guides 2018

## *What do I read next?*



What do I read next? This is the perennial question that confronts all book lovers at some time during their reading journey. At best this question stimulates the discovery of new authors and unimagined creative vistas. At its worst it leads to a feeling of starving in the midst of a veritable, literary feast. There is nothing worse than walking (or scrolling) aimlessly through rows upon rows of printed (or digital) media and feeling like none of it is for you.

We'll take heart and do not despair. We have heard your cries of frustration and are here to help.

### **What do I read when I have no clue what I want to read?**

This question is asked of library staff at least once per day. It is a wonderful question (and we love hearing it), because it gives us the opportunity to initiate readers into a world of literature that they have never encountered before.

The first thing you need to do is ascertain if you want to be **educated** or **entertained**.

If you want to be **educated** then order the following book from the SLWA catalogue:

**The Well-Educated Mind: A Guide to the Classical Education You Never Had** by Susan Wise Bauer.

This is a book about books. It lists the six major literary genres, and has exhaustive reading lists for each of them. The best place to start is the section on fiction (and you can order the first book on that list from **us**).

If the rigour of a classical style education (which occurred primarily through reading; just ask **Thomas Jefferson**) is not for you then the staff members from the New York Public Library (NYPL) are here to help. They have compiled a fantastic resource of over 100 books that you are sure to love (just click **here** and explore). Or if you prefer to judge books solely by their covers then **Olmenta** might be for you.

### **What do I read when I like (insert genre/author)?**

This one is easy because having an author and/or genre to start with cuts down on a great deal of the initial floundering. The following website is highly recommended if you are after one specific author:

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/>

On Fantastic Fiction you can search the complete bibliographies of over 40,000 authors (including over 500,000 books). This makes it perfect for ensuring that you have read every word from the pen of your favourite writers. (Fans of romantic novels: we challenge you to make your way through the collected works of **Barbara Cartland**).

Once you have exhausted your favourite author (**Kathleen Lindsay** anyone?) you will need to visit the following website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

It is highly likely that you have heard of Goodreads before, but it is also unlikely that you have taken advantage of its full potential. Yes, this will require you to subscribe (which is free) but it will be worth it. Trust us.

Finally, because the internet is riddled with websites listing book recommendations, we thought you would appreciate one that you have probably never heard of. It also showcases a book selecting method that is, as far as we can ascertain, entirely unique to itself. Enter, and get ready to slide with, *Whichbook*:

<http://www.openingthebook.com/whichbook/>

Enjoy.