

20 Personal Reading Challenges for Teens

Get inspired to discover new books while nudging yourself out of your comfort zone with these book challenges.

1. Read a short story outside during lunch.
2. Read historical fiction set in your family's ancestral homeland.
3. Read a book with cover art that draws your attention.
4. Go to your library with friends and pick out some books. Spend the night reading together and don't forget to bring snacks.
5. Read a nonfiction book about an event during which someone with your first or last name played an integral part.
6. Read a book or magazine in the back seat during a trip.
7. Read a book you once had to read for class without the academic expectations.
8. Learn how to build something by reading a DIY book.
9. Read contemporary fiction that's more than half a century old. How have things changed?
10. Read an older science fiction book set in the early 21st century. Then compare the author's vision of the future with the present. What did the writer get right or wrong?
11. Read a fantasy series that was turned into a movie or show. What are the differences between the book and the screen?
12. Read contemporary fiction from Africa or Asia. What cultural differences do you detect?
13. Choose a Dewey Decimal number between 500 and 999. This will lead you to a book in the areas of natural science, applied science, arts/recreation, literature and geography/history.
14. Read an autobiography of a respected artist or musician. Try to emulate this person's style in your own art or music.
15. Learn to make an appetizer and surprise your siblings with it after school.
16. Read a magical realism book from Spain or Latin America. How does the author use symbolism and allegory to present issues?
17. Read a book set in or near your hometown.
18. Read a work of contemporary fiction with a main character of a different gender.
19. Find a book that interests you and your friends; read it together.
20. Read a book one of your parents was assigned, and liked, during high school.
21. Read recyclable materials.
22. Read about composting with cardboard.
23. Read a book about sustainability.
24. Read somewhere outdoors.

