



BEYOND THE DEWEY

Nonfiction Readers' Advisory for Library Staff

Jessica Curtis
June 11, 2026

What is RA?

“... a conversation where you make suggestions.” – OLC

“I don’t often know who should read what book. It’s a little bit like trying to set people up on a date — a good match is unpredictable and mysterious.”
— Kristin Cashore

“Part of the goal is to establish a connection with your readers so that they come back again and again to talk about what they are enjoying.”

– Neal Wyatt

Where does RA happen?

Direct

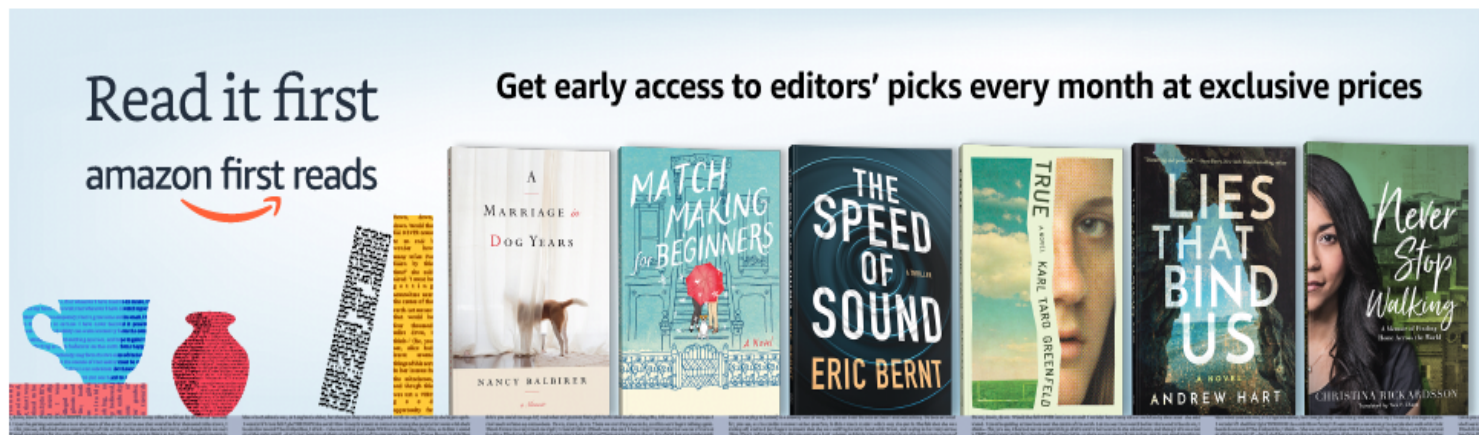
- Face to Face
- Phone
- Email
- Text
- Chat
- Social Media

Indirect / Passive

- Themed Displays
- Reading Lists
- Bookmarks
- Flyers
- Shelf-Talkers
- Website Features
- Social Media

Educate Yourself

- Read Books
- Talk to People
- RA Blogs
- Book Podcasts
- RA Literature
- RA Websites
- Read Reviews



BOOKS | BEST SELLERS

Combined Print & E-Book Nonfiction



FICTION | NONFICTION | CHILDREN'S | MONTHLY LISTS

May 13, 2018

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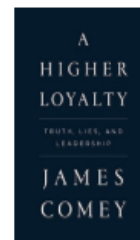
1 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST

A HIGHER LOYALTY

by James Comey | Flatiron

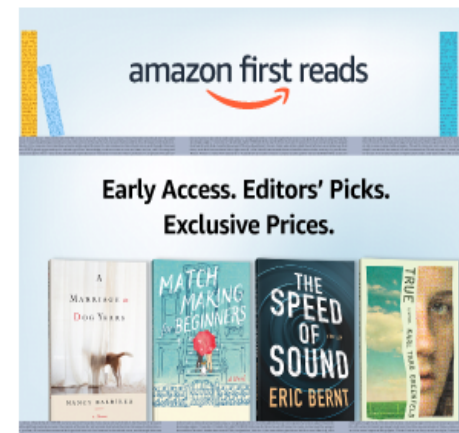
The former F.B.I. director recounts cases and personal events that shaped his outlook on justice, and analyzes the leadership styles of three presidents.

Buy Read Review



2 9 WEEKS ON THE LIST

I'LL BE GONE



Audio Nonfiction

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

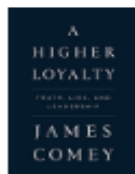
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1 A HIGHER LOYALTY

by James Comey | Macmillan Audio

The former F.B.I. director recounts cases and personal events that shaped his outlook on justice. 9 hours, 4 minutes unabridged. Read by the author.

[Buy ▾](#) [Read Review](#)



2 I'LL BE GONE IN THE DARK

by Michelle McNamara | HarperAudio

The late true-crime journalist's search for the serial murderer and rapist known as "the Golden State Killer." 9 hours, 45 minutes unabridged. Read by Gabra Zackman, Gillian Flynn and Patton Oswalt.

[Buy ▾](#)

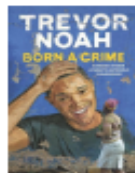


3 BORN A CRIME

↑ by Trevor Noah | Audible Studios

A memoir about growing up in South Africa by the host of "The Daily Show" 8 hours, 50 minutes unabridged. Read by the author.

[Buy ▾](#)



4 THE POWER OF HABIT

↑ by Charles Duhigg | Random House Audio

An examination of the science behind habits — how we form them and break them. 10 hours, 57 minutes unabridged. Read by Mike Chamberlain.

[Buy ▾](#) [Read Review](#)



5 EDUCATED

↑ by Tara Westover | Random House Audio

The daughter of survivalists, who is kept out of school, educates herself enough to leave home for university. 12 hours, 10 minutes unabridged. Read by Julia Whelan.

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Business

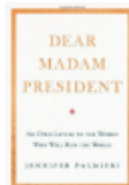
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1 DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT

by Jennifer Palmieri | Grand Central

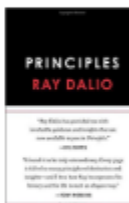
[Buy ▾](#) [Read Review](#)



2 PRINCIPLES

by Ray Dalio | Simon & Schuster

[Buy ▾](#)



3 YOU ARE A BADASS AT MAKING MONEY

by Jen Sincero | Viking

[Buy ▾](#)



4 GRIT

by Angela Duckworth | Scribner

[Buy ▾](#) [Read Review](#)



The RA Interview

- The patron asks for help/suggestions or the librarian initiates.
- Ask questions and listen to their responses and watch their body language.
- Listen for appeal terms

What's the last book you read that you liked?

What are you in the mood for?

What do you like about Hillbilly Elegy?

*Do you like a particular genre?
What do you like about it?*

Why didn't you like about that book?

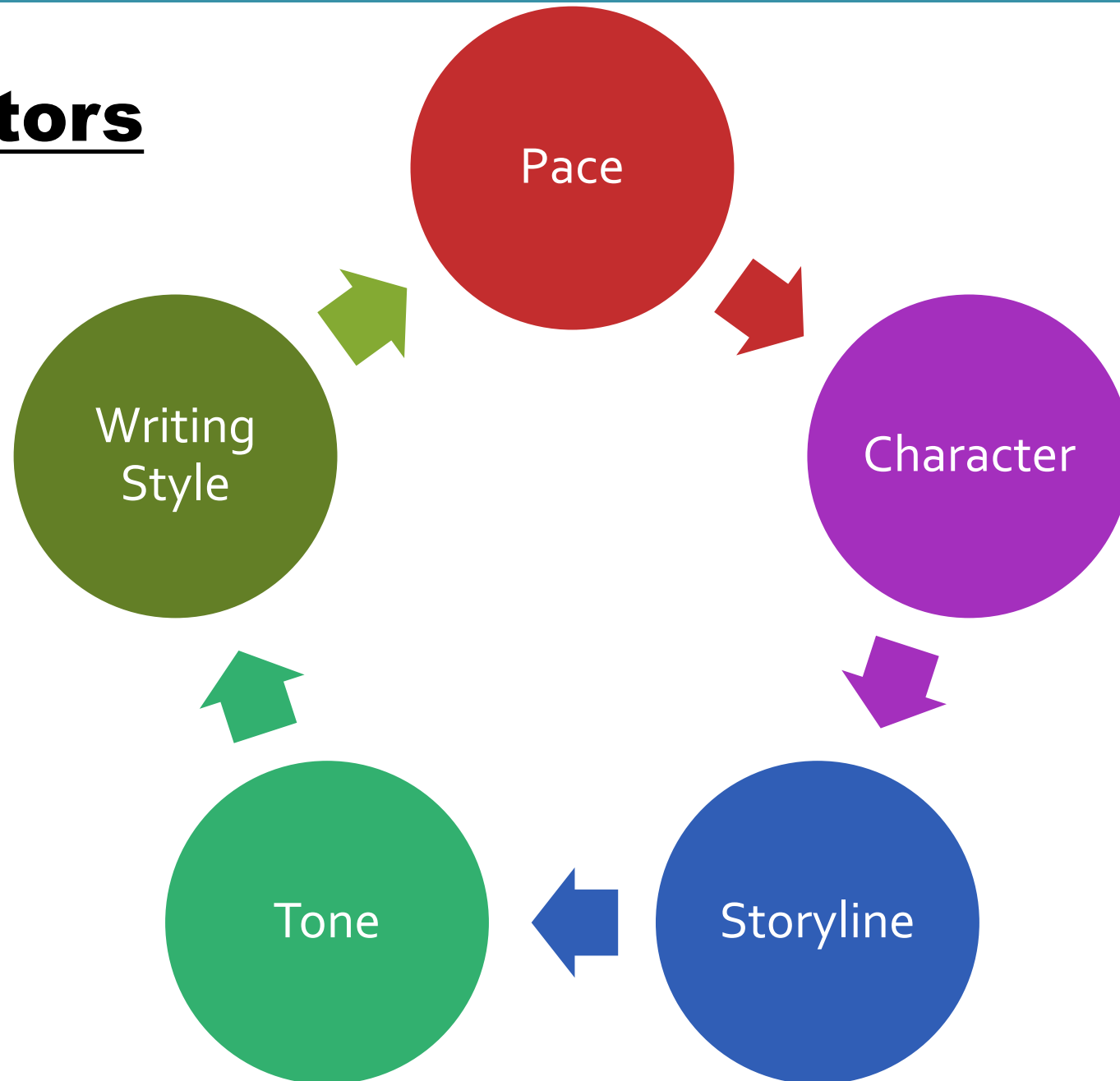
RA Tools

- Novelist
- Goodreads
- Amazon
- Your Catalog
- Google it
- What Do I Read next
- NPR
- AI Generated

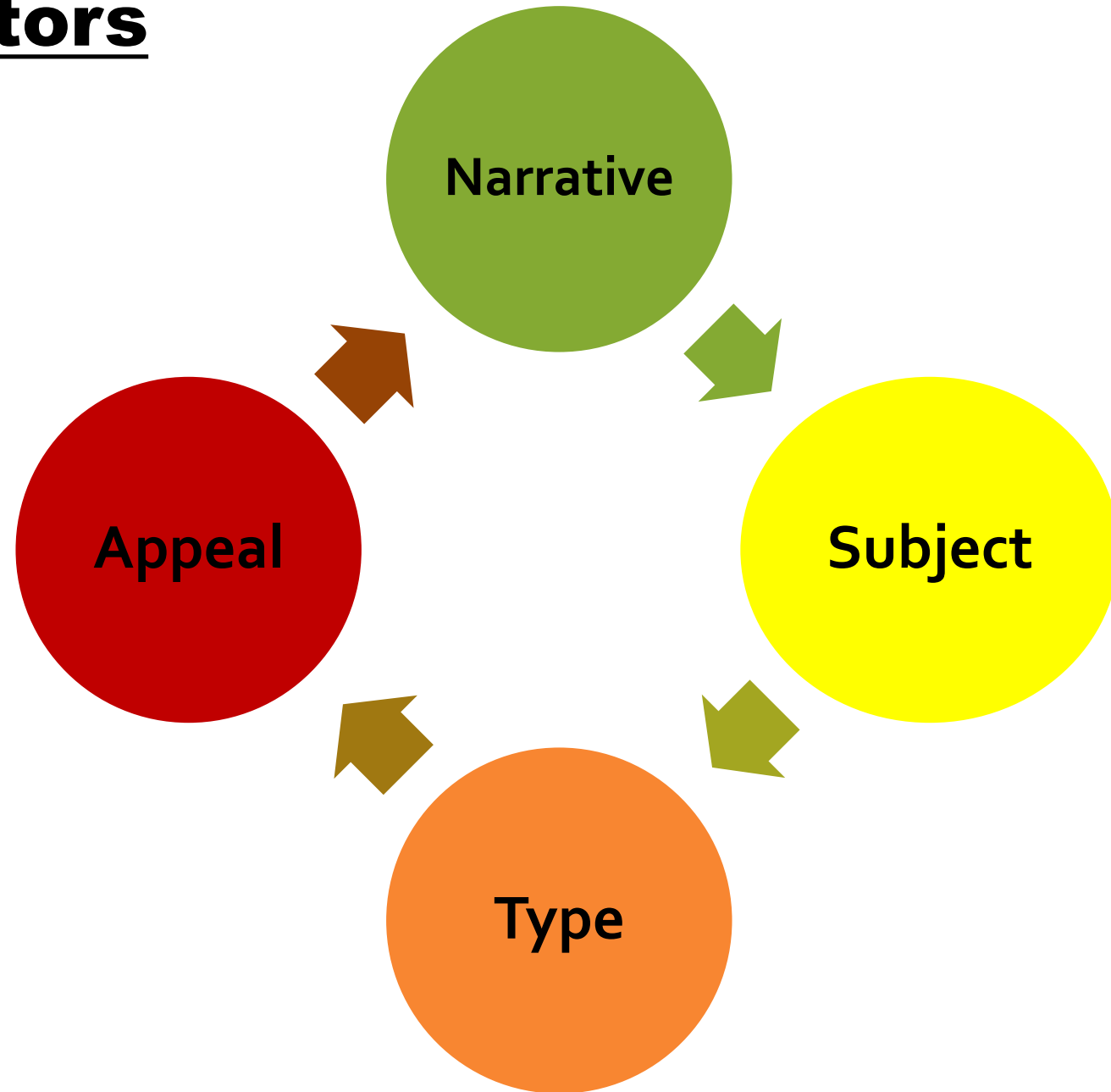
Religion Technology
Language
Geography Philosophy Literature
Sports Biographies Arts
Travel Computers
Finance Poetry
Memoirs sciences
Social Science
History

NON-FICTION

Appeal Factors



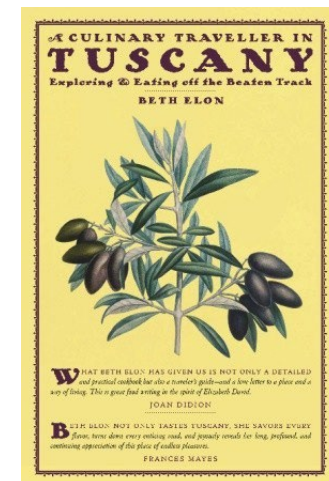
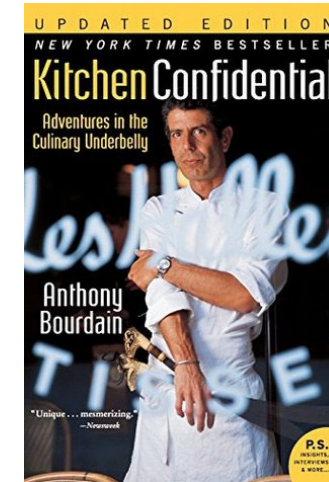
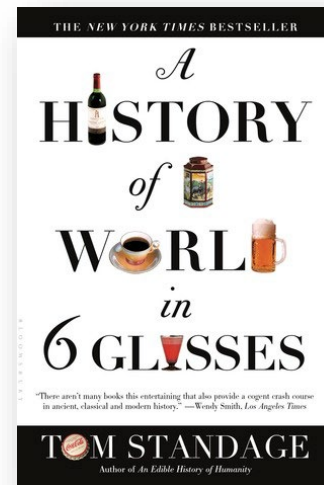
Appeal Factors



Food and Cooking

Types

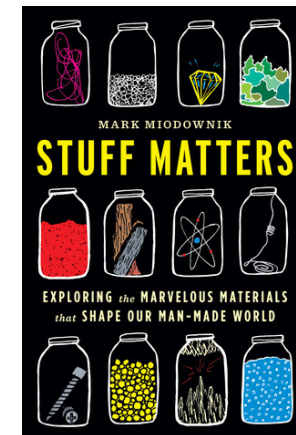
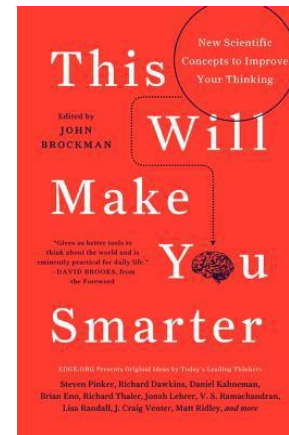
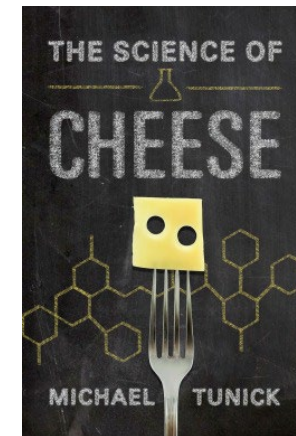
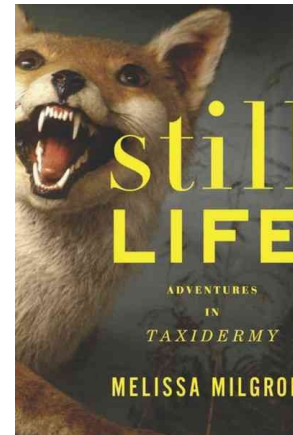
- Instructional
- Essays
- History
- Bios and Memoirs
- Reporting
- Narrative Cookbooks



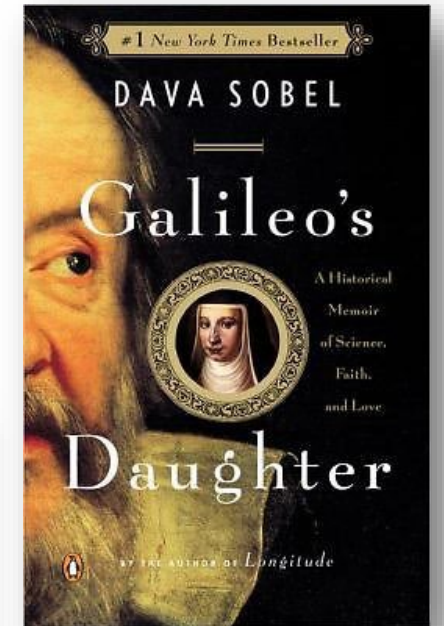
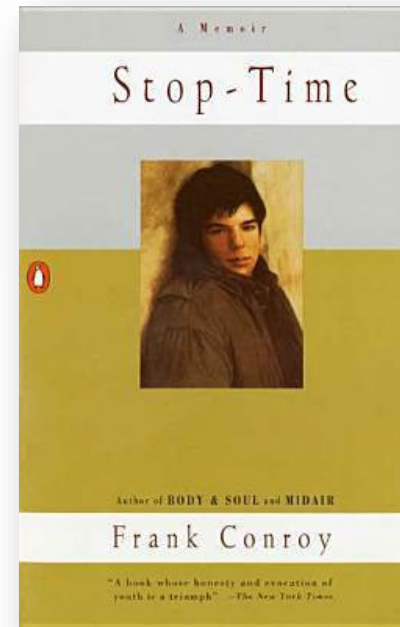
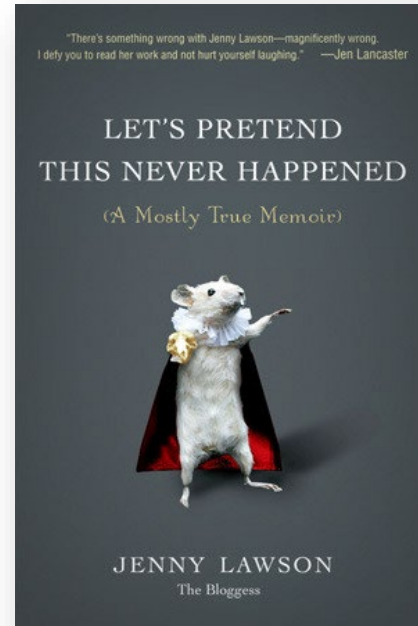
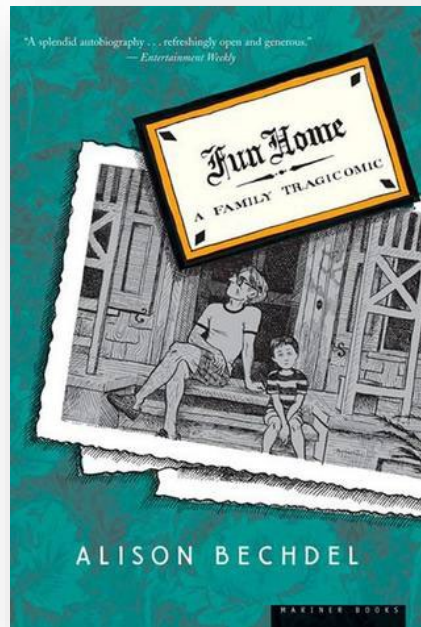
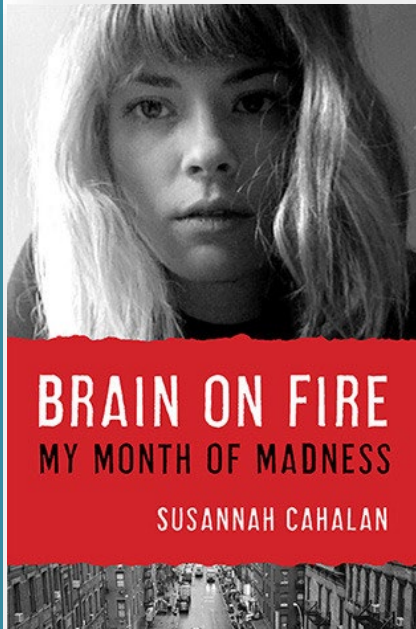
Science, Mathematics, and Nature

Types

- Explanations
- Investigations
- Nature and Natural History
- Literary or Historical Slants
- Bios and Memoirs



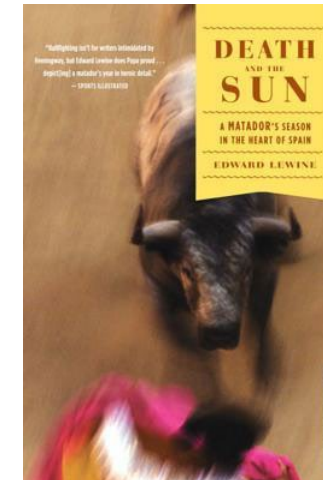
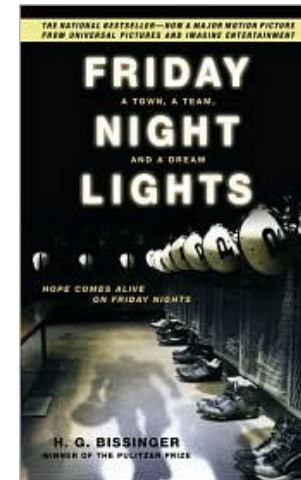
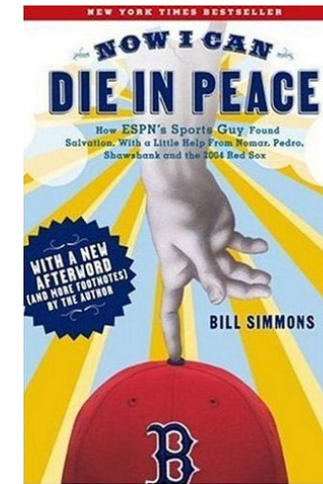
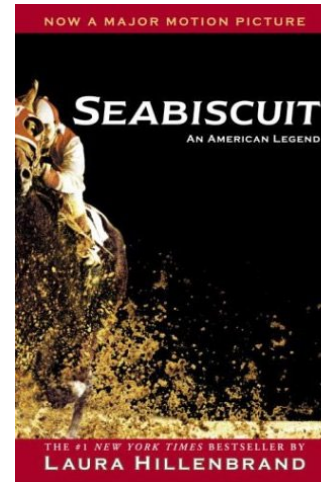
Memoirs



Sports

Types

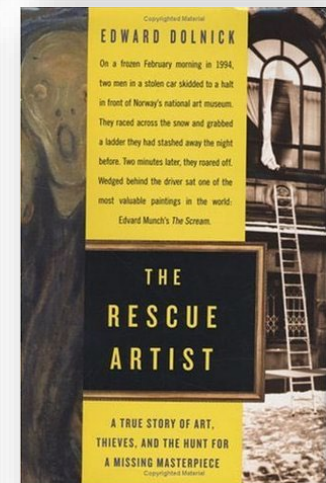
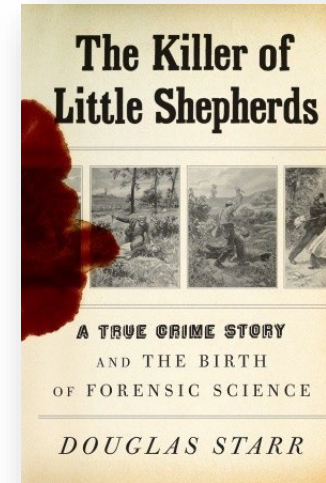
- Essays
- Biography and Memoir
- Reporting
- Time and Place



True Crime

Types

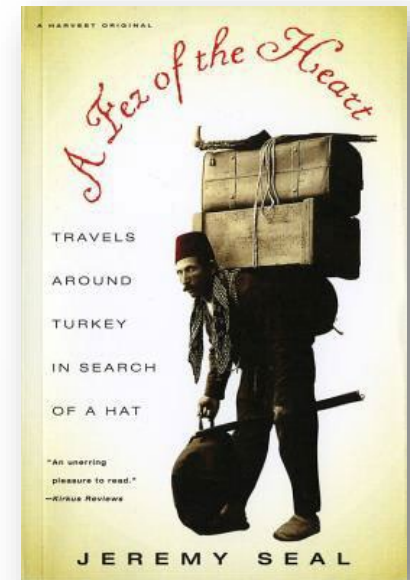
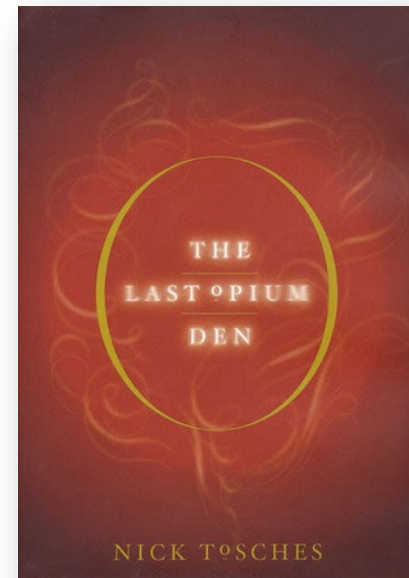
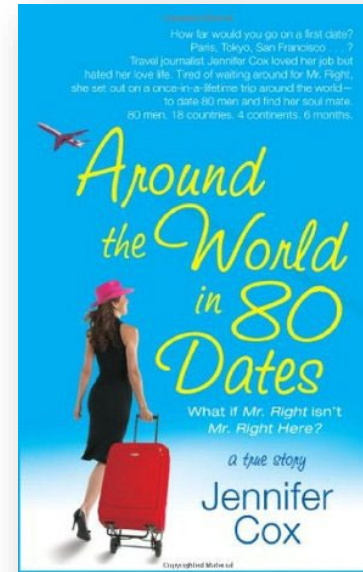
- Historical
- Reporting
- Heists and Capers
- Biography, Memoirs and Personal Accounts



Travel

Types

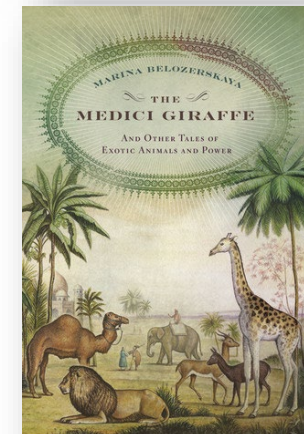
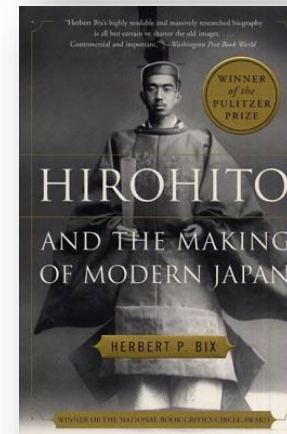
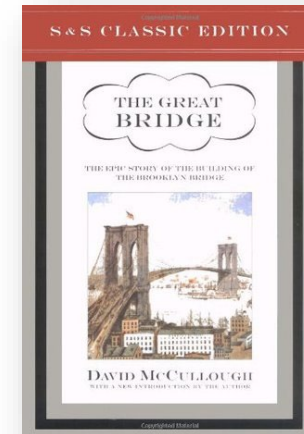
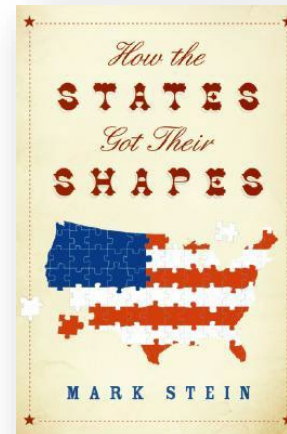
- Memoirs and Personal Accounts
- History, Land, and Place
- Journeys, Escapes, and Adventures.



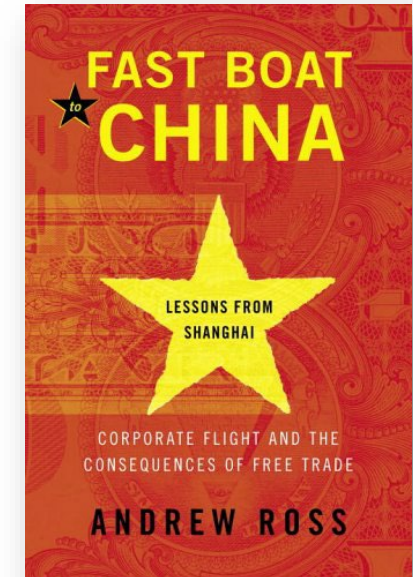
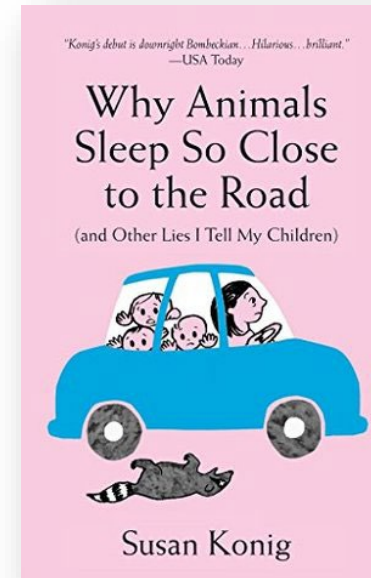
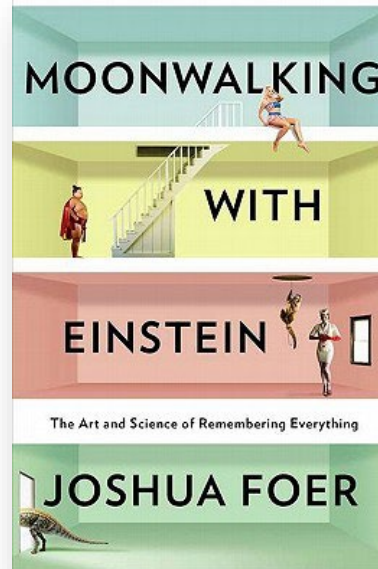
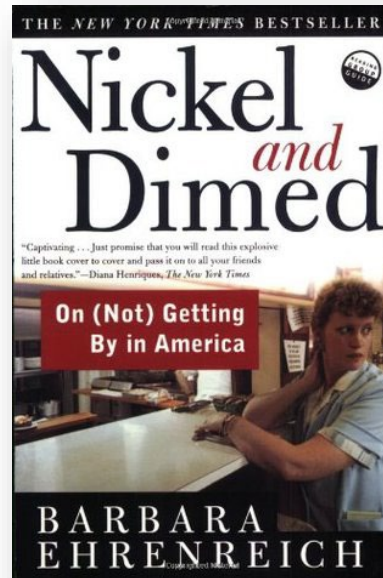
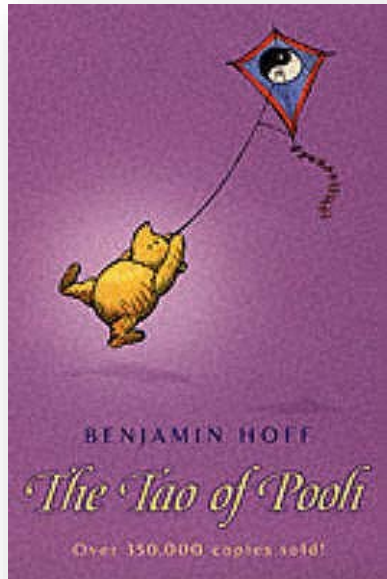
History and Historical Biography

Types

- Explanations
- History of War/Military History
- Pivotal Moments
- Social and Cultural History
- Disaster History
- Micro History



General Non-Fiction





AI Tools

ChatGPT

Perplexity

Claude

Copilot

Gemini

EldonAdvisory

**What NF do
you
recommend?**

BEYOND THE DEWEY

NON-FICTION READERS' ADVISORY

Fin

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