

Volume 4

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# ***The Mithibai Chronicles***



The Mithibai Chronicles is a bimonthly newsletter of Mithibai College Jitendra Library. The main objective of this Newsletter is to provide information about New Arrivals and other library resources to library users. Additionally, it serves as a communication channel between a library and its users. Activities conducted in the library are communicated to the users via this Newsletter. The Mithibai Chronicles will surely quench the thirst of the young, vibrant minds of Mithibai College. We are sure that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter.

***Mrs. Archana Garate  
Librarian***

केवल कुछ समय के लिए पुस्तकों को रटकर ज्ञान अर्जित न करें, बल्कि पुस्तकों को ध्यान से पढ़कर पूरी उम्र भर के लिए ज्ञान अर्जित करें।

## **Newsletter at a Glance**

In the current issue, we are publishing the first 17 Essays (out of 55 essays) submitted by students for the Essay Writing Competition organised by Mithibai College Jitendra Library on 16th January 2025 under Vachan Sankalp Maharashtra Initiative. Remaining essays will be published in the forthcoming issues of the Mithibai Chronicles.



**Happy  
Reading!**



या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता।  
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपद्मासना॥  
या ब्रह्माच्युत शंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा वन्दिता।  
सा मां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा॥१॥

अर्थात्

देवी सरस्वती जी अज्ञानाचा समूळ नाश करते ती आमचे रक्षण करो. ती देवी जी कुन्दाच्या फुलाप्रमाणे सतेज आहे. बर्फाप्रमाणे आणि दवबिंदूप्रमाणे दिसणाऱ्या मोत्यांच्या हाराप्रमाणे गौर शुभ्र वस्त्र धारण केलेली श्वेत कमळावर आसनस्थ आहे, तिने वीणा धारण केली आहे, आणि ब्रह्मा विष्णू व शंकरासारखे श्रेष्ठ देव ही तिला वंदन करतात, ती देवी सरस्वती आमचे रक्षण करो व आमच्यातील अहम समूळ नाश करो. (ही प्रार्थना).

**Essays from the Essay Writing Competition  
organized by Jitendra Library  
on 16th January 2025 under  
Vachan Sankalp Maharashtra Initiative**

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# Essay I

## THE DICHOTOMY OF READING

By Jeet Shah from T. Y. B. Sc. Mathematics, B004, SAP: 40312220255

### First Prize

The evolution of mankind to what it has become today, is quite exemplary when compared to our fellow species. However, attributing this stellar growth to just one particular aspect of human life would be a grand injustice. Looking back, one can think of a bunch of revolutions and innovations that might have played a crucial role in human evolution. Innovations like the wheel, the discovery of fire, farming and medical developments have certainly contributed irrevocably to mankind's progress. But, the one thing that stands tall and alone atop the summit is the invention of language. Language helped us crack the most fundamental of things required for any civilization to evolve, which is synergy and communication. Information wasn't lost to time or restricted by boundaries of any kind and the sole reason why language led to such an achievement is due to the invention of reading and writing.

Back when reading and writing were yet to be discovered, the flow of information and knowledge would be static and stagnant. If a person wanted to learn a skill or understand a concept, he had to do so in person with the guidance of respective authorities. But, after this invention, a child born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in an underdeveloped nation like Uruguay could learn and understand the laws of physics just by getting his hands on the Principia Mathematica written by Newton in England that too way back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Mark Twain said, "The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read" which is truer than ever in current times. Reading is not just a source of passing knowledge but an excellent resource to expand our

imagination. However, when it comes to reading, there exists this age-old debate as to what is reading better for: fun or academia. One might argue that the very reason for the development of reading and writing methods was to smoothen the flow of information and hence academic reading is what matters more. However, when reading for fun, the activity isn't held accountable for providing pleasure alone but also for opening our minds up to new and maybe even unknown possibilities.

On the surface, academic reading seems to be thoroughly structured and moulded for an efficient flow of information and knowledge. Meanwhile, reading for fun seems to be inconsistent, unpredictable and without any distinguishable pattern. But, if one tries to understand and look for the very crux of this seemingly obvious dichotomy, it turns out that fun and academic reading is not that different after all. The glory of Ulysses, the dynamics of the philosophical masterpieces of Kafka, the beauty of Robert Frost's poetry and the mystery of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's brainchild 'Sherlock Holmes' is at par with the greatness of Einstein's Theory of Relativity, the intricacies of Quantum Mechanics, the beauty of Inorganic Chemistry and the miracles of medicines and vaccines.

The plot of an Agatha Christie novel is as complicated and insurmountable as a lengthy mathematical proof. Both introduce characters and relations which seem unfruitful to begin with, but it all comes together at the very end, when all the pieces of the puzzle fit right into place and when these unrelated characters and relations play a key role in solving the murder mystery and proving the existence of a theorem.

Gulzar might describe the beauty of nature as unpredictable, dynamic and everlasting, while Fibonacci describes it as predictable, static and doomed forever. At the end of the day they are both just trying to put into words that intrigue them.

Academic reading and reading for fun both have their pros and cons but the one thing that is indisputable is that they are two sides of the very same coin. When Alice looks at this coin she thinks of spending it to go to the Wonderland while when Carl Friedrich Gauss looks at it, he contemplates the probability of Heads and its motion through space. But, at the end of the day it is just coin.

## Essay 2

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Azeem Fatema from M. Sc. Organic Chemistry, B001, SAP: 40771240001

#### Second Prize

"A room without books is a body without a soul"- the famous saying by Cicero illustrates the importance of books and being with it connected at all times. Books are the best friends of human rare they impart knowledge in every field of life be it core subjects like science or literature or about the ancient historical culture and traditions of the society one can get engaged in reading books which even teach humans morals, spirituality and the basic sense of life. Without books the world would be filled with the darkness of illiteracy there are enormous benefits of reading books cause any form such as books help us to increase our vocabulary it improves once critical thinking and is also a source of relaxation of mind. If we ask people who are book lovers they will surely say that books are a source of joy happiness and entertainment then watching television or playing games on smartphone books shape the human personality it may we speak and the manner in which we think all are influenced by books it is books that each US moral values and make us understand that the whole world is like a spider web and we are just a thread of it and the should not harm other living beings for our own Carmel desires. That's life without books cannot be imagined.

In today's modern world we are all surrounded by electronic gadgets we eat our smartphones television laptop washing machines or microwave before the bed tea comes in our hand we busy ourselves with our dearest smartphone wishing good morning to our family members we often engage in texting these wishes via chat all this depicts how dependent we are on electronic devices and cannot imagine even a single day without these.

Similarly when it comes to gaining knowledge or reading, ebooks or electronic box is no new term and all are familiar with it the ebooks are major source of information specially for a young generation the advent of ebooks rose on 4th July 1971 when Michael s.harth produced the first ebook the declaration of independence under the project the 10 burg from them ebooks underwent a lot of technology advancement and became popular and started replacing paper books in some respect the major advantage that ebooks offer is that a reader gets access to the entire library of books within one click there are lot many books available for readers to study and one can drive into the ocean of knowledge unlike paper books which are bulky to carry it is convenient source of reading specially while travelling since carrying many box paper box becomes in convenient due to its load also ebooks provide facility of changing the font sizes that theme and inbuilt dictionary which makes the reading comfortable ebooks have reduced the wastage of time in going to the library searching for the desired books is showing it and then reading it now with a advent of ebooks one can comfortable read any book which one desires at any time and any place also unlike paper books which require ink and paper and efforts in its processing a books are paperless and does help us save trees however ebooks can never completely take the place of paper books the sensory feeling of turning the pages highlighting the lines which we like book marking and peculiar Aroma of the book give us a nostalgic feeling and make a field emotionally connected to it while reading paper box it feels if the book has life and is friend who is narrating what is written and make a feel connected with the book The art of going to the library searching for particular novels or books of any kind next one field as if one is finding treasure or pearls from the ocean the feeling of having a collection of boobs having once on personal library at home and collecting some ancient rare articles or books of joy and happiness which is imaginable. Unlike ebooks paper books are not technology

dependent there is no requirement of battery or charger and the scan use at anytime with or without electricity or without connection internet connection does paper books can be easily Red by people of all age groups and does it is a convenient source of reading also there is no I stream because you to reading for long time and does one never feels saturated which reading paper books and can read for as many as the desire with respect to environmental concern paper books required trees and water for processing but the carbon footprint of ebooks are also considerable and cannot be niklegated as it cause the generation of a lot of event which is difficult to be decomposed on on and can also cause accidents if not disposed properly from the time the first to library was built in net modern day Iraq to the modern day world world s greatest library in Washington DC there have been a lot of changes which the library has undergone seeing the hybrid mode of reading does the libraries are now equipped with both forms a huge collection of paper books as well as online reading articles with many subscriptions and databases in the end I would like to conclude by saying that both forms of reading be it Peppa books or ebooks have their own advantages and limitations and it depends upon the readers choice to watch he or she desires to adopt also the use of these forms depends upon the situation and which The reader is and the scan select any form which he or she desires we should not forget that any kind of library is like a garden with the flowers being different books and one can engage and relax in the garden and pick up the flower which day desire does books are man best friends and one should always be engaged in the act of reading as what is important is the habit of reading and not the form of book which one reads would like I would like to end by saying today a reader tomorrow will be a leader and that one should always try to gain as much knowledge as he or she can from various sources which will ultimately help in making the better society a peaceful world to live in.

## Essay 3

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Madhura Hejmadi from M. A. Part II Psychology, SAP: 40763230040

#### Third Prize

Reading has always been a sanctuary for those seeking knowledge, adventure, solace and thrill alike. Books serve as an effectively intoxicating medium to transmit knowledge and facilitate learning. The age-old debate of deciding the reigning supremacy of books v/s e-books has echoed right from our very own houses vis-à-vis discussions with our parents to panels and forums across schools, colleges and universities. So, are books better than e-books or vice versa? Is there a single correct answer to this question? Not really; while both do have their own pros and cons, both mediums are not adversaries competing against each other to meet a certain cause; rather, they are but companions working together to suit the subjective preferences of the reader population that they are catering to.

Traditional books do possess and allure and charm of their own. The tangibility that this medium offers succeeds in creating a sensory connection with the reader, transcending mere and curating a journey through the narrative for The reader to leave and re-live. There is an undeniable rhythm to the act of reading a paperback book, the deliberate and consonant turning of pages, the wandering of the eye to the crumpled or ridged ages of the pages, the dog-eared marks on the corner, the scent of the paper meeting the ink and last but not the least, the satisfying thud with which one shuts the book after finishing the desired line or chapter of the story.

As the book passes from one reader to the other, it creates a web of interlinked shared experiences as each person reading the same book may experience a vast variety of emotions common or uncommon to others.

It resembles creating an unsaid bond with each and every reader of the book or travellers of the same journey, in the past and future alike. The generations of our parents and grandparents have not known a childhood where virtual reality even existed; hence, making the library their second home, a sweet escape from home and school, was the highlight of their youth. Therefore, reconciling with the fact that their children and generations to come regard their device screens as the literal replacement for the very books that form the backbone of their education is extremely difficult and disturbing.

E-books are not without their upsides either. From the crinkled pages to the glowing screens the world of reading has witnessed a reformative revolution and seen various technological advancements. E-books serve the functionality purpose to the T as they are easily portable, easy to access and can be customised to suit one's lifestyle and preferences. One can bookmark, highlight and make notes on e-books for their reference and come back to it with a single tap. The sheer variety available on one single platform is astounding and impressive, to say the least.

From an environmental perspective, e-books might have a slight upper hand over traditional paperback books as the use of paper is linked to excessive deforestation and depletion of environmental resources. This damage can potentially be offset by switching to virtual portals. However, with excessive production of electronic devices and instruments comes the risk of generating large amounts of radioactive electronic waste and mining of more metals.

Cultural narratives play an important part in driving our perceptions of what is ideal and what is not, of what is accepted and what is not. Traditional societies where excessive modernisation is viewed negatively may favour the usage of books over e-books, whereas individualistic and Westernized cultures might prefer moving on and adapting to new and upcoming trends. Parental upbringing where device usage is introduced and encouraged at an early age, will swing

towards relative usage of e-books in contrast with traditional upbringing.

The nature of distractions differs drastically in both mediums. While browsing through books online, it is easier to get swayed by the lure of notifications from other apps and websites, interrupting the overall reading experience. However, reading a paperback novel or book is a highly engaging and immersive experience where one learns to resist the temptation to indulge in otherworldly activities for the time being. For that time period, the world stops, and one learns to build resilience and work through distractions to complete the story. However, all said and done, what one makes of the reading experience lies almost entirely in the hands of the reader. Books and e-books work together to serve the same purpose; it is up to the reader to imbibe the essence of what the book is trying to say to them. May it be through pages or pixels, ultimately, it is the words that weave the magic and will continue to do so despite the medium for aeons to come.

## Essay 4

### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Arshi Khan from T.Y.B.Sc Psychology Hons, SAP: 40322220006

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One of my mother's fondest memories of her grandmother was sitting by her feet as she read out articles and stories from Gujarati magazines. In her youth, my mother would spend her days at the local library, consuming all that it could offer her - from sappy romances to philosophical discussions by Albert Camus and other thinkers. Thus, when my first novel was handed to me at the age of six, it was not surprising. My second grade self read Heidi by Johanna Spyri and a world of Alpine mountains, green countrysides, and warm cottages opened up for me. A world of imagination suddenly emerged and I was able to immerse myself in it at will. The awe that reading inspired in me was so great that I would take my books with me everywhere. Neighbours would complain to my mother because I would read my book while walking to my school bus and they were concerned I would fall and injure myself. I was captured and moved by the ability of these words to bring such profound emotions in me and evoke such a strong sense of imagination.

Fast forward to today, I am in my third and last year of my psychology honours degree. If you ask me which is the last book I have read, I will say Psychology at Work by Adrian Furnham or Biopsychology by Carlson. In the world of academia, one has little time for leisurely reading. Or so it has been for me. My time has been increasingly taken up by academic textbooks and research papers germane to my course subject. My younger self will be shocked to hear that the last book I read for fun was three months ago and it lies incomplete.

What differentiates reading for fun and academic reading? One important distinction is the level of analysis and cognitive effort that academic reading

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### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Arshi Khan from T.Y.B.Sc Psychology Hons, SAP: 40322220006

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demands. Even back in school, when I studied fiction for literature, the degree of critical analysis of the text was extensive. Questions were asked and my brain was obliged to think rather than merely consume. Indeed, this practice aided my critical thinking during leisure reading as well. I began analysing what I was reading with more depth. In a way, academic reading allowed me to read between the lines, see through the text, and sometimes reach the author's original meaning and life.

However, now, my academic reading is directed more towards enhancing my subject knowledge than pleasure. Without a doubt, psychology as a subject brings me great enthusiasm. Yet I yearn to sit on my bed and binge read a novel in two days. I miss getting lost in worlds other than my own and experiences of people other than myself. My hobby of reading gave birth to my interest in writing. As I find myself reading lesser, I also have decreased my creative writing. Both have been affected due to the hectic nature of my education. With assignments taking up all my time, there is very little time I find for myself.

Inherent in this conflict is the trend our society embraces where work is given more importance than the self. Hustle culture has enabled people to <sup>de</sup>value their own self-care, ~~very little~~. Reading for fun, as the term suggests, is a healthy pleasure. It brings knowledge and improved vocabulary along with it as well. Yet this is overlooked and we work ourselves till the end, trying to stay relevant and successful in our fields. The latter is necessary, but what is ideal is balance. Leisurely reading is fuel for the imagination. Academic reading enhances one's critical thinking. Reading for fun improves diction and ~~or~~ grammar. Academic

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reading does the same along with increasing awareness.

The two are equally essential for a holistic development.

Why then do we pit them against each other? It is our own responsibility to find time and make the effort to engage in what one loves and what one needs.

The National Literacy Trust has found reading for fun to have ~~been~~ declined drastically in the recent past.

Whether it is the advent of the smartphone or the ubiquity of hustle culture, it is important to pause for a moment and feel the pages of a book in your hand. To truly immerse yourself in what you enjoy along with finding pleasure in work - that is what keeps life interesting.

## Essay 5

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Sadiya Shaikh from T. Y. BSc. Chemistry, SAP: 40312220072

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Books v/s E-book</u></p> <p>Books v/s E-book is a comprehensive analysis that focus on the realm of literature and the evolved technology. This topic delve about the advantages and the disadvantages about the Book v/s E-book in different perspectives and it is supported by multiple opinions of multiple peoples. Books and e-book both have the same targets of providing knowledge, information and the entertainment to its readers. While printed books are cultural artefacts of the human history that has been passed through the generations on the other hand electronic books are considered as newly developed technology with this modern era. Through both the type of the book purpose will be similar. A Book should be based on sustainability, convenience, readers thought both books co-exist in this era.</p> <p><u>The Charm of Printed books:</u></p> <p>Printed books are part of culture from the ancient times and it is considered as a part of heritage to the world. The weight of the books, fingers flipping through the pages, The aroma of the pages feels very nostalgic and an emotional connection between the printed book and its reader. It is a connection of trust when several books are kept with care and given as a token of love to the special person whom you want to read that book. Printed books feels very personal attachment between the two readers.</p> <p><u>The Charm of Bookmarks</u> plays an major role in the printed books which cannot be connected to the electronic books. The feel of flipping through the pages that nostalgic same aroma cannot be Books are hub of emotion indispine of whichever type.</p>

## Essay 5

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Sadiya Shaikh from T. Y. BSc., SAP: 40312220072

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compared with the electronic books. electronic books cannot be preserved with such care as the file may get corrupted or deleted with some of the minor convenience in your electronic devices.

Sustainability and Accessability:

Both e-books v/s printed books are not as much sustainable to the nature. printed books required ink, transportation, pages etc can lead to deforestation and harming the resource severely reporting to the environment causes printed books can also lead to carbon foot printing. It requires numbers of life of an trees that provide us with fruit, flowers & oxygen. While on the other hand e-books can spread the electronic waste which can be hazardous to the environment leading to the electronic pollution and e-waste accumulation. Both e-books and printed books are ingrained with the several domains of sustainability.

The Rise of E-books:

In this new modern generation according to the lifestyle most of the people are comfortable using an E-book rather than a printed book. There are very few readers left who are attached to a printed book. You can carry numbers of E-book in your electronic device as compared to an traditional book. Numbers of audio e-books are also available to listen in your free time according to what are you comfortable with. In this new gen-z era mostly everyone has an electronic device available at their home it can be a cell phone, laptop, mac-book etc and can read at the comfort of their own self time.

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### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

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#### The Storage and Acesoability:

The heavy weights of the printed books may not be comfortable to everyone. While you are travelling to different locations and you want to read different books printed books are not accessible. Printed books required a good amount of storage spaces that everyone might not have. On the other hand E-books can be accessible for travelling purpose whenever and wherever required and many number of E-books can be installed in your digital device. Your electronic device does not require a very large area for storage.

Printed books may be cheap or expensive depending upon the author, book quality, or production while most of E-books are a bit inexpensive than the printed one and most of it may be free to access. There are different platforms, apps, website where you can find free of cost e-book that you can download. E-books can cause eye-strains if read through screens for the longer period of time may lead to eye irritations. While the printed book do not severely lead to eyestrains and are not that problematic.

Both Books v/s E-books depends on everyone's perspective and how comfortable they are with it. For a person with a busy life style an E-book can be a saviour for their hobbies to continue.

According to me library plays an important role for printed books having hubs of information just sitting in an peaceful environment with a lot of readers printed books should be preserved as a part of cultural heritage for an connection if kept with care. Both Books v/s E-books focus on the similar conventions and I just feel more connected towards the traditional printed books.

## Essay 6

### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Anantika Kumar from F. Y. B. A., SAP: 40711240060

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~~What~~ Reading for fun V/s. Academic Reading

Walt Disney once said that ~~B~~ Books are more valuable than all the Pirate's loot in treasure island. Every since ~~were~~ were in kindergarden we have been taught that books are ~~a~~ the best source of information and knowledge and have the potential to become your best friend. Books are of many genres like horror, fantasy, motivational, autobiographical, etc. There are new genres that keep on arising everyday. There are different reasons why a person read that is partly determined by the genre of the books they choose. These ~~are~~ type of requirements that are fulfilled by read books are unmatched than any internet explorer or artificial intelligence.

Reading for fun and academic reading are two ~~of~~ most common purposes of reading. Someone may be reading "To kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee from an academic perspective or reading it for their own entertainment. The ~~at~~ student reading this book might have a different perspective about the book because they may believe that they are being "forced" or "don't have a choice" purely due to the reason that they are focusing on the theme, settings, characters for the marks. They will be more focused on reading ~~a~~ for the purpose of being tested upon it and getting high scores to pass. On the other hand, a person reading the same

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### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

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book will be reading it for fun. They will be more focused on the emotion of the character, visualize the setting as if they are actually watching a movie in their mind. Readers who read just for the fun of it really choose to make the book, ~~story~~, the story, ~~at~~ the characters and their emotion, their own as if they are the ones who are experiencing it in reality.

The ~~attit~~ attitude a person has towards the reading material differs a lot from an academic standpoint and an entertainment or fun approach. If a person is reading for the sake of it, they are not as likely to really enjoy the book as someone who is reading it to know the story or the vision of the author. Academic reading tends to be performed more superficially than ~~entertain~~ reading for the sole purpose of entertainment.

The content in academic and entertainment reading is poles apart. Academic reading consists of learning about the world we live in ~~at~~ including its components. There is not doubt in the range academic reading provides. Whether it is learning about the laws of physics given by ~~to~~ Sir Isaac Newton to reading the character analysis of Shylock from The Merchant of Venice, all of it is very

## Essay 6

### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Anantika Kumar from F. Y. B. A., SAP: 40711240060

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well rounded in our educational ~~exist~~ curriculum. But a person is still likely to get bored or lose interest in the material and textbooks they are told to read, whereas they may be thrilled to read a novel.

This ~~segways~~ provides a segway to the next point; Motivation. Due to the nature of the content an individual's motivation is heavily affected. If the individual is reading chapter 3 about the nervous system from a 10th grade biology textbook, they may not be motivated to read it due to its repetition or other factors. On the flipped side of the same coin, that person can be motivated to read Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan because they are eager to know how it ends. But this motivation is still dependant on the interest they have in the material.

There are other benefits of reading some of them also include mental stimulation, creativity, vocabulary, etc. Academic books do still provide mental stimulation when compared with books for entertainment. This type of stimulation they provide still varies. In an academic reading session, an individual's memory, reasoning and ~~language~~ <sup>decision making</sup> abilities are exercised. Whereas when a person reads for fun their creativity is in the driver's seat. Their imagination is

## Essay 6

### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Anantika Kumar from F. Y. B. A., SAP: 40711240060

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at an all time high when the author manages to paint a vivid picture of the scene. The individuals are given creative liberty to imagine the features of a character, their mannerisms, their position in a setting and form their own opinions and perceptions about the characters.

Academic books provide more intellectual information that increases ~~or~~ our information capacity and ~~increases~~ <sup>it also</sup> increases our vocabulary. It introduces new concepts to use while providing more ~~in depth~~ in depth facts about topics that we are already aware of. Reading for fun can also increase our ~~the~~ vocabulary for in ~~our~~ for our daily use of language.

The type of book or genre or source of information you choose to read also says a lot about a person's preferences and personality. As rightly said by Virginia Woolf, "Books are the mirrors of the soul."

The type of reading material in academia and entertainment vary significantly from each other. ~~An~~ Reading for academia can consist of books, articles, research papers, newspapers, etc. Reading for pleasure can consist of novels, novellas, mangas, fanfiction, comics,



## Essay 7

## BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Arya Mishra from T. Y. B. M. S., SAP: 40401220037

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Man has triumphed over beast through reason and intellect. What has inculcated this intellect, over the ages, has undoubtedly been communication. While man does possess advanced and developed verbal capabilities, it has been his expertise in non verbal communication which has charted civilizations, from hieroglyphs to ancient parchments. At the cornerstone of this domain sits a mighty stalwart — The Book. A book is a collection of linked pages bound together narrating stories, commentaries, sciences and everything under the sun. They've been an irreplaceable part of our sociocultural treasures. However, like all things in the world, books too have been subject to transformation into newer meta-digital forms of itself. The digital equivalent of a book is an e-book. An electronic book, as the name suggests denotes a digital file comprised of text and graphic akin to a book's composition but existing digitally as a representation of computational and mechanical expression on a screen. These E-books have brought books from the metaphysical causal realm of reality into a completely artificial and technological world. While both books and e-books contain similar expressions and stories, they vary vastly in their application, nature

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and interactions with us as their readers. Firstly, the most obvious demarcation is of the physical form. While books exist physically and constituted of ink, polymers, wood pulp and threads of fabric, E-books only exist digitally in the vast repositories of online and local servers. It would not be incorrect to deduce the book reading experience as a multi-sensory one. A reader doesn't merely read a book through his sight alone but also through his touch which he uses to feel the intricate textures of the book. His smell picks up the glistening delicacy of aged paper and dried wood pulp. These interactions put him immersed into a world beyond ours, forging an intimate ~~and~~ connection. In stark contrast, an E-book is held by the bodies of cold tablets or read through the lifeless screens. An e-book fails to establish this close and personal connection in space due to its monotonous and ~~robotic~~ robotic constitution. Furthermore, these differences aren't merely experiential or physical, but also functional. Extracting meaning from books turns out to be even so slightly lighter and chesomer than e-book. An e-book is instantaneous, available on demand and can be appraised instantly with

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The help of technology. Individual snippets or words can be searched and jumped to on demand ~~to~~ to cater to your needs and accuracy. Books however exhibit a more traditional experience. All books eventually become commodities in trade and are affected by the laws of the market as ~~is~~ anything else is. Not all books are easily available, neither are some of them easy on the pockets of an ordinary reader. Even consumption of a book requires some level of focus, commitment and physical comfort.

E-books however champion convenience and affordability as they're integrated and assisted by an omnipresent digital ecosystem with numerous quirks to enhance the reading experience.

Many would also be inclined to the belief that books have souls, and I would wholeheartedly agree with them. Once a book is published into existence, it truly becomes a being of its own. It echoes the thoughts of its Maker which it carries diligently and proudly. It stands the trials of time and perseveres as long as its physical body allows, to pass on its message, its essence and yabled knowledge of its soul.

An e-book on the other hand has a more modern existence. Numerous classical readers would even call

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them soulless and with good reason. It is a contemporary being which relies on electricity and computation to assert its quasi-existence. Its being is truly cold, indifferent, mechanical and impersonal. It obeys all our whims yet it would struggle to establish a fraction of the closeness brought to us by real books. It acts as a subservient resource whereas books act like peers who have conversations with us.

An ebook is eternal, infinite and ever present like echoes in a cave. It surrounds us in our daily lives, from our tablets to workstations to smartphones. However just like those echoes, it is fleeting, into an ever growing abyss of ~~sewers~~ servers and storage units. A book on the other hand is like a seashell, washed to the sands of our mind through waves of time. It is not dead and asertive in its form, but it is proud. It will continue to exist independently regardless of the demands of a consumer searching for it on a ~~server~~, or any formatting modulations. Its format is simple, a physical being. E-books can be compared to sparks from flint, instantaneous and helpful at all times but lacking lustre. A book on the other hand is a slow churned fire which requires care

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<p>and effort to cultivate. Its flames are dazzling and captivating, providing deep warmth through soulful words. Ultimately both of them are expressions of the penultimate human thought and emotion. They're both a repository of unbound knowledge and joy. The question which arises is of choice, of convenience vs. connection, of form vs. modulation, of leisure vs. temporal demands and lastly of a mechanical experience against a traditional literary one.</p> <p>I do <del>to</del> believe both books and e-books possess unique and complimentary merits. It would be in our greatest benefits <del>to</del> to cherish and engage with them both, as they are both ephemeral manifestations of a vast, and boundless literary abode waiting to be explored.</p>	

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### BOOKS vs ebooks

Throughout history books are an inseparable part of our lives. It is a cohesive part of our culture, tradition and imagination. From our bedtime stories to the great biopics such as 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata'. With our navigation of advanced technologies and upgradation began the advent of e-books. Which altered the dimension of our understanding towards books. With it's own advantages and limitations, give rise to such a relevant debate over books v/s ebooks.

From 15<sup>th</sup> century, in which Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing machine, to Amazon kindle which was launched in the year 2007. Our journey has taken us miles ahead; including academic progress, scientific research and our daily journals, without books we would have never handed our traditional recipes to our children, which also constitutes our traditional way of cooking. If Dr. B. R. Ambedkar would have never drafted our Constitution, which is also a book, we would have never lived our lives under safety and security of the rights and provisions. You name a field and there are a hundred reference books available, in the libraries and today we got around thousands of titles under a click.

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Sounds fascinating isn't it? Let us deep dive into the comparative analysis of our books and the newbies - ebooks. We have a sensory and emotional connection with printed books, the flipping of the pages, the unusual smell of the pages, the sense of physical connectivity, our freedom of adding our personal touch to each and every page by adding some pointers of our own, highlighting certain texts, adding our fancy book marks and etc, ebooks lack this connection, restricts our personal touch to some extent; though we can annotate, highlight but the sensory connection is missing.

If we consider the accessibility and the portability; ebooks has comparatively higher advantage we can download and store hundreds of books in just one portable device such as mobile, laptops; which makes it easier to carry and it is easily accessible through the digital libraries, whereas the traditional books are very difficult to carry due to their bulkiness and tangible properties. We may readily access two to three books at times. Even the storage and space issues give the e-books an edge over the books.

Ebooks though they are very compact but it leads to over technological dependency which again causes a huge problem as not everyone is under the main stream of the technology which might adverse the Global Literacy rate. In this case books play a vital role, reaching the nooks and the

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corners of the world. Making everyone accessible to written content.

Spending too much time on the screens, as in reading requires time and attention but the increased screentime due to ebooks causes multiple health issues which include physical issues such as musculoskeletal dispairment, posture issues, eye blindness, reduced vision, etc. Mental Issues such as increased stress levels, FOMO (Fear of Missing out), depression, reduced attention span, low academic progression etc. and the much concerned cognitive issues such as cognitive dispairment- and etc. Books generally don't impact human this much; infact table-chair reading acts as mindful meditation, which conditions the brains and improves posture as well.

Books have dangerous environmental impacts leading to deforestation and over utilising the water resources; equally the ebooks have larger carbon footprints due to large and improper disposal of the malfunctioned, and expired electronic devices.

ebooks allows illegal distribution of the resources which leads to copyright infringement, Intellectual property rights breach and violation of licensing. ebooks are read often without any supervision which leads to over exposure to content, age-literary mismatch, adult content'

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content distributed freely, to which under age children may be exposed to immature and overmature themes; The content circulated or posted under the name of ebook may lack authenticity and factual generalisation.

For instance the latest example of Sweden which had replaced the traditional books by computers in 2009, will now invest €140 billion by the end of 2025, which would be utilised to provide traditional books to the children of their country. The extreme step of replacing books by computers lead to adversing their literacy rates, reducing attention span and lower productivity.

Similarly the latest ongoing case against the Internet ~~not archived~~ <sup>archive</sup> ~~archive~~ which is held responsible for circulating content without any factual checks and copyrights, violating the author's licensing and making available all readable content illegally to the readers.

Considering all the above parameters we can understand that, as every coin has two sides, so as the concerned theme of books and ebooks. Both of them come with their own charm of advantage, and limitations. We must understand how to balance the use of both, in order to further progress as mankind altogether.

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We can conclude that books and ebooks are the results of our tradition and innovation. Exploiting the written content offline as well as online for the better, and further improvement of our academics and social strata is suggested. Considering the resource remains the same, just the form is changed. Happy and thoughtful reading.

## Essay 9

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Harshvi Malaviya from T.Y.B.Sc Psychology Hons., SAP: 40322220001

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Books vs. E-Books

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Turning pages or Tapping screens?

"The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library"

~ Albert Einstein.

The book in your hand is more than just an object. It is a doorway, a vessel that has nestled within it an infinite number of dreams and ideas. As you hold it, the cover, worn and softened by years of touch and the wisdom of time reflects its journey. The crease on the bind, a testament to the minds it has enlightened. You open the book and there lies the faint smell of aged paper and ink, the words, the metaphors, the imagery and the characters pull you into a new world - The scene so weird that it starts to feel like a memory. The vividness of the story makes it a personal experience which feels as though the author sits right next to you to weave a tale that has a deep imprint on your thoughts. You savour every moment of it knowing that each page you turn brings you closer to the end and still there sets in a reluctance to leave its embrace.

E-books on the other end are a magical marvel on its own. It lends you the convenience of having a thousand books at your finger tips, making you the master of stories that you choose to devour in. The story you desire is available at the glow of a screen. It might not match the traditional charm of a hardbound book

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and yet it flows with its own magic. It is there when you want it, be it the dark quiet of a midnight room or the strong sunlight in the afternoon train, the distant crowd that you want to escape or the impending loneliness you sense while getting on an aircraft.

Books and E-books aren't just a medium of reading the written word but a constant companion, each with its own quirks and joys, both vying for a place in your heart but to make a choice is more often than not an impossible decision, something that can be likened to standing at the crossroads of nostalgia and modern convenience. For some, including me, the weight of a book in hand is irreplaceable with the emotions and connections it arouses in you and the fond memories of reading it slowly becoming an integral aspect of your own personality. Yet the world today swiftly moves to the sleek allure of the screen attracting us with its adaptability and portability.

Be what may, Einstein's quote still rings true. Does not matter in what form you access a library - a pile of books on a wooden shelf or a digital shelf tucked inside your device, the library is the only most important location one needs to know. No matter how you choose to experience books, they will still transform your world for the better.

## Essay 10

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Nida Shaikh from F. Y. B. A. Psychology, SAP: 40711240049

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#### Books vs. E-Books - The Evolution of Reading World.

Culture has been an integral part of human history for thousands of years. Some traditions have been passed down orally, while some have been preserved through scriptures. So as long as culture and language has existed, so has literature. History, wars, biographies, autobiographies, education, entertainment, name it all, literature is there. The traditional hardback books to paperbacks to now what we carry in our electronic devices, being called e-books. The readers have seen it all. But what ensues the debate of which one makes an individual more of a reader? Let's look at it.

Traditionally, since ancient times, books have been a part of every aspect of life. The original hardback cover books, the most favourite, carry the feel of the design cover, the smell of pages and the unconventional feel of being one with what you're reading about, it never gets old. But as we move forward in time, we see the precious hardbacks being replaced with more accessible paperbacks. Easy to carry, durable, portable, as well as cheap to get your hands on, as compared to ~~hard~~ hardbacks. The shelves of readers

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is filled with an array of collection of variety of genres. What soon took over the wind and became more accessible, is ebook. As the world moved towards digitalization and advancement in various sectors of education & entertainment production, the book world also integrated and welcomed a new format of books. An e-book is a digital or soft copy of a published book, which is usually easier to access in today's world.

As the world moves and adapts a fast pace, so do humans. Needs are changing, accessibility of resources is changing, and with that choices are changing too. People have leaned a little more towards ebooks, as our fast pace lives barely give us time to catch onto a physical copy of book in a crowded train. Easily accessible literature through our mobile screens has given rise to a debate, with readers calling/labelling each other as "less of a reader" because of their choice of book accessibility. How chaotic has this world gotten, that we are now on the stage of discrediting people's hobbies and choices, all because they read books through a different medium?

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The world of literature is welcoming. It calls for all those who pen their voice on paper, and give themselves a chance to be vulnerable and open to thousands of strangers picking up their work. It validates the feelings of every reader who feels trapped in itself, but finds himself a refugee while reading. It gives space to opposite ideas, to co-exist together, without clashes. It is an unbiased space which welcomes diversity and variety with open arms. Then why the fight between labelling a group of readers as far more superior, than other, just because they access and consume media differently?

Walt Disney had said "There is more treasure in a book than in all pirates' loot on Treasure Island". Literature and words will always exist. So as long as humans live, the world of reading and evolution of books will continue. Books and e-books, no matter your preference, the words of those books will always welcome you equally and warmly. The treasure found in books is not limited to the type of medium it is consumed through. The debate should cease to exist with such strong forces and instead, should

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stand together against the actual evil force of AI taking over the creativity and human touch of literature world.

The pros and cons of books and ebooks will always exist. But resisting the evolution will result in loss of value and preservation of literature. The future could be more advanced than today, and maybe, traditional hardbacks and paperbacks will become history and museum artifacts, but the dedication and love ~~of them~~ for them will always exist in the heart of every reader.

## Essay II

## READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

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## Reading for fun v/s. Academic Reading.

The importance of reading is well-known with a majority of people citing their biggest regret of free time usage to not reading enough books. The internet is filled with articles, research studies, videos and podcasts on advice on how to read more books, how to read more effectively, how to retain information and how to tackle reading goals for a set time period. It is no secret that people highly regard persons who read a lot and aspire to be like them. It is often depicted that well-read individuals are high-earners, innovators, intelligent and billionaires. People have different reasons for reading like for curiosity, skills, cooking, career advancement, degree research, leisure, escapism, problem-solving, travel and so on. But reasons for reading can be broadly segregated into 2: reading for fun and academic reading.

Reading for fun is an intentional reading habit to quench the undying thirst for knowledge, wisdom, curiosity and leisure.

Books under this category can range from novels and fiction as well as scientific research and non-fiction! There's no limit nor restriction to what some people find fun and interesting. To some,

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cooking is a passion they do in their spare time so they read recipe books, while to some others ~~see~~ reading and solving advanced maths from textbooks is their fun escape from their singing job. Reading for fun means that the person does not have a set time frame or compulsion to read a book, they can take as little or lot of time to read their selected book. They ~~see~~ read it without the stress of needing to fully grasp topics so they can take what information sticks to their memory while discarding the rest. There's no punishment to giving up on a book or taking too long to read from others, so people can comfortably read or stop as per their feelings and motivations. There's a book I've been reading for years now, called Anti-fragility by Nassim Taleb. It's really fun but I always forget about it these days due to coursework!

Then comes academic reading. Reading under this category also covers reading for research thesis, projects, assignment submission for college coursework as well as

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academic reading for research professionals and corporate analysts for their occupation. Reading in this subcategory is much more structured, ~~intell~~ intentional, analytical and strategic... sometimes with the reader reading carefully to make notes, citations and summaries based on their reading. This is due to the fact that such readers will be evaluated by their academic thesis mentors and employers and if reading (like literature review) is not done correctly, may make their whole research unreliable. It can also lead to a reduction in marks and failure to complete college coursework. It is no surprise that due to this, academic reading tends to be more stressful & usually also due to shorter time frames and harder language to read and fully understand what is being read. Sometimes the book is written very beautifully but due to fears of failing that subject, students who read for academics may still find it difficult to read. A book that comes to mind is "Introduction to Econometrics" by Damodar Gujarati. Another important characteristic of academic reading is that professors and educators tell their students which chapters

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they must read for their exams or project, the rest of the book is omitted.

A classic example of the differences between the two is my own exp. example. When I was an undergraduate level student, I was very fond of reading classics like Pride and Prejudice, Great Expectations, Oliver Twist, Merchant of Venice and many others. So, I got over confident and bought the complete works of William Shakespeare.

Within 20 minutes of trying to read that book, I gave up. It now collects dust on my bookshelf! This is an example of how easily you can give up reading a certain hard book when you're reading it for fun.

Had I taken up my Bachelor's of Arts major as English literature, I wouldn't be allowed to ignore any of the prescribed books for my major! This is exactly why I told my undergraduate degree college principal that no I wasn't interested in taking up English literature as a major despite my love for reading. This was my response when she

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had stated that I should've done my BA in that subject instead of Economics. I was the Book Club's co-ordinator that year.

Reading books and discussing it with other book club members every week at the Andean book club was very fun. I read several different books that year for fun along with academic reading for my course.

I started reading novels quite late in life compared to my peers. While my friends were already reading Harry Potter at the age of 11 years old, I was still only comfortable reading books with pictures and text. The first book I read with only a few uncolored pictures for and in between their pages was the wonderful "Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It's a children's book about a young girl discovering growing up and ~~her~~ her own interests and identity through the progress of the book's story. It was a mindblowing experience. I never knew the power of imagination & and curiosity before I read that book. I didn't have the habit of reading before it. That book was a turning point and lead me to pick up several other fun books in my free time. That book

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ignited in me a spark. I started skipping rope daily and trying different jump rope tricks with my friends and alone as the main character also becomes active with skipping rope. It's quite ironic that a book inspired a young child to be more active in her daily life.

I also tried ginger ale due to reading Enid Blyton's St. Clare book series.

I once also read a book called "Astrophysics for people in a hurry" by Neil Tyson, a renowned USA ~~astrophy~~ astrophysicist.

All of it were great explorations and discoveries into the thoughts of knowledge and wisdom of the author's mind. It's amazing how far you can travel via a book while staying statically sitting in your bedroom. I gained the experiences and understood complex emotions of the author. I even learnt how to write better and speak English more fluently due to my reading habits! These days, I write poems, blogs, diary entries and I'm trying to write books of my own to help

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other mind adventurers to learn from me.

At the end of the day, reading for fun and academic reading are closely linked. For once you fall in love with learning, the lines become blurred. Great scientific discoveries have been inspired by fun and arts. And ~~so~~ such can be said about academic reading as well, like the way I find the diagram for lemons and peaches in my ~~microeconomics~~ microeconomics books, a good abstract art inspiration. ~~so~~ Often times academic reading becomes fun and reading for fun turns tedious and boring. ~~so~~ what else can be said about it other than, don't judge a book by its cover!

## Essay 12

### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

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"Books." A simple yet magical word that is capable of evoking all kinds of emotions and feelings. A word, the thought of which causes beautiful eruptions in one's mind of visuals of giant, stacked libraries, titillating bookshelves, and inviting piles. A word that allows us to escape into the comfort of far-off worlds and ~~escape~~<sup>let go of</sup> our humanly limitations. And then, with the overpowering wave of technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, trotted along the word 'e-books'. This is a word that sounds innocent; like it only reaches till the knees of its parent word, like it doesn't know anything about the big, bad world, and like it clings tightly to its parent for survival.

As innocent as it sounds, however, it opened up a scintillating new world to people across the globe. Much like the adorable newborn with its wide, twinkling eyes becoming the centre of attention in Indian households, e-books pulled to themselves a great many admirers. And it is ~~know~~ no wonder that they did, because what they offer is truly marvellous. The ability to own thousands of books in just a tiny screen, the opportunity to read anywhere and at any time, the chance to have any book you desire at your fingertips — it is all a dream come true for millions of bookworms around the world.

But just like worms and their cocoons, bookworms often like to wrap themselves up in the comforting embrace of a physical book. Reading books takes me back to my childhood — the palpable excitement of entering a bookstore, the frenzy of scanning hundreds of titles, the satisfaction of settling on one or two books, the incomparable happiness when my parents would kindly nod at me to buy them, the urge to dive

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into the pages right at the billing counter, the impatience-filled drive back home, the silly bickering with my sibling about who gets to read it first; and then, the absolute enchantment of travelling into fantasy worlds, turning the pages, making new friends, chuckling to yourself, revisiting a section that you like again and again, reading with a torch inside your blanket because it's late at night and you ought to be sleeping <sup>and finally falling asleep holding the book close!</sup> Phew.

It is well known that one's childhood experiences greatly shape up their personality later in life. And with a childhood as filled with books as mine was, I was bound to turn into this person - a person who adores reading good content, one <sup>who</sup> can devour written materials at ~~tw~~ double the average speed, one who loves writing and is therefore composing this piece, and one who <sup>is</sup> immensely attached to physical books. For a person like me then, the concept of 'e-books' is a distant and abstract one. They simply don't provide the closeness, compactness, and closure that physical books do. The characters in such books seem different too. To evoke technological language, reading off paper gives rise to High Definition (HD) illustrations in my mind, while e-books simply provide the standard reading experience!

However, it would be foolish to dismiss e-books altogether. If years of reading has taught me anything, it is to be adaptable, optimistic, tolerant, and resilient. It has taught me to be open to all kinds of experiences, and to never shut

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myself off. Therefore, I have not been a stranger to the wonders of e-books; and I have definitely not shied away from reaping their benefits. Especially as a student in today's world, the introduction of e-books has singlehandedly transformed my educational experience. I now have access to thousands of textbooks and educational materials right at my fingertips. What would have earlier taken a painstaking physical search now just requires making a few clicks on the nearest available device. The provision of e-library resources by educational institutions has been a game changer in the way we learn. Almost all of our reference materials now-a-days are in the form of e-books, saving us the time, effort, and space required to procure a physical copy.

When confronted with change, it is only natural to feel defensive and overwhelmed. But we should be mindful to not let our brooding get in the way of experiencing marvellous experiences that would otherwise have not come to us. E-books have given me the privilege of laying my hands on books that I desperately wanted to read but could not find. And in the modern world with technology permeating every part of our lives, why should books be an exception? That is why, I look at e-books not as a threat to my beloved childhood companions, but as a complement to them. I am also confident that the fears about physical books becoming outdated are baseless, for I know that most other book-lovers like me <sup>would</sup> enjoy snuggling up with a good book and adding it to their prized personal collection. I think of e-books as the child who grows up and explores the wonders of the world but comes back home to the

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comforting presence of the original parent books whenever the need arises. It is not a competition, but a beautiful symphony instead, just like the Hindu God Ganesha and his divine parents Shankar and Parvati.

The presence of a library resource by itself is not enough to bring about a change in the way we think of books. The library must have a good collection of books, and the staff must be well-trained and experienced. The library must also have a good location and a good atmosphere. The library must be a place where people can find books and where they can enjoy reading.

The library is a place where people can find books and where they can enjoy reading. The library must have a good collection of books, and the staff must be well-trained and experienced. The library must also have a good location and a good atmosphere. The library must be a place where people can find books and where they can enjoy reading.

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## Essay 13

### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Shikha Mankodi from F.Y.B. Sc., SAP: 40719240282

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#### READING FOR FUN VS ACADEMIC READING

The path of pursuit vs the path of pleasure; both paths leading to a goal, which is the enlightenment of the mind.

As soon as we listen to the title of this essay, we become biased. "don't we?" For we find 'pleasure' in one and 'pressure' in another.

Carrying this thought forward, there comes a visual in our head; just ~~the~~ ~~and~~ a book, a warm cup of tea and ourselves on a couch, immersed in a world only known to us.

Indeed, reading for fun transcribes to the act of reading for leisure. It occurs at one's convenience, through internal motivation. We tend to enjoy it more than if there were our high school textbooks in their place. The books that we read for fun are often picked up and talked about more than our academic books ever will, unless they are read with the same gleam in our eyes.

Reading for pleasure goes way beyond simply taking in the words of the paperback. It is looking at a piece of one's mind through ours, feeling the emotions it portrays, even if it is a thriller mystery. We tend to open the doors to new worlds with each book, be it the

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goosebumps of a horror book, the butterflies of a romance novel, or the tears of a fictional tragedy.

We give away our minds and hearts to the book we're reading, so much so, that we lose the track of time. We are lost in the realm of another genre altogether. This is the core of pleasure reading. We are so much more dedicated and focused than we would be with our academic books. Instead of the objective of transferring data into our minds, in alignment to the aim being simply to pass examinations, the aim of reading for pleasure simply is to experience the book how you would like to experience it. To take lessons out of it, if you'd like, or simply just be in that book for as long as you need.

There stands nothing between you and the endless pages of words before you. No pressure of failing, no pressure of having it memorized by the end of the week, nothing. And how wonderful to have that! What a luxury, in this day and age to experience a trance so deep, and full of emotions that are free to be as they like.

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Aside from the roller coaster of emotions it takes you on, reading for fun also introduces you to the life beyond the four walls you live in, through a new lens.

It enforces creativity, empathy, curiosity and satisfaction; all constituting a fertile mind that is a precursor to living a fulfilled life. You can only ever experience the ecstasy of a book if it is read with the emotions you carry in your heart. Academic Reading can never achieve that.

Reading for fun is reading without any limits. Nothing to research and understand theoretically. Logic can cease to exist in this part of the world, where you dive into. Indeed, a connect with the human mind is only possible when it opens the doors of emotions to the pages of a book. And realistically speaking, so many more people in this world would become readers, if they sought a book outside their academic niche. For there is a book for everyone.

In a nutshell, reading for fun triumphs over academic reading, if we ever want to see the world outside of what we already see. And if we already find pleasure in it, then we're already exploring the world;



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#### Reading for fun vs. Academic Reading.

Reading as an interest, in itself, has multiple benefits. Reading, regardless of the reason behind it, serves to skills such as language development, critical thinking, empathy, understanding of self and others among other things. In this essay, we will be discussing reading in two contexts: for fun and for academic purposes.

Reading, as a hobby, is one which is tried to inculcated from a young age. Parents introduce children to storybooks and hope that the habit of reading stays for the years to come. However, only few children pick it up beyond 9 years of age. For those who continue, the habit sometimes ceases to be a habit, considering the busy schedules of adulthood.

Reading, as a part of # academia also comes at an early age. However, it increases in # intensity by the high school years and continues until whenever the individual ends their formal education.

Both these circumstances, reading becomes an integral part on an individual's life. And both have its pros

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and cons.

When we speak of "Reading for Fun", we tend to assume that it is limited to reading fiction and explore genres such as romance, mystery, crime, thriller and so on. Similarly, when we hear the term "Academic Reading", the presumption exists that it involves only non-fiction - that too, specifically, textbooks, academic journals, research papers, and articles. This assumption is a false one. Both contexts may involve a multitude of genres. For example, Academic reading often includes reading fiction stories and poetry. ~~Read~~ An individual who finds joy in reading research articles might just read them for fun.

The question arises: How do we distinguish the two contexts? In the simplest ways, we can define them based on the expectation placed upon the activity. Academic reading is done with a set purpose in mind. There is an end result of participating in the activity. This is usually a test or a Quiz based on the read material. You enter the activity with a set purpose in mind. For example, if given the task to read "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", you would be expected to

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focus on certain aspects - characterization, storyline, plot, theme, subthemes, etc. On the other hand, if you pick up the same book simply for the sake of reading, these aspects are not what you would focus on. There are no expectations to reading here.

Expectations or the outcome-focused reading is usually the reason why individuals find academic reading to be boring or stressful. That, along with a lack of choices, as well.

When an individual is reading for fun, the freedom to choose material of their liking, the freedom to begin ~~at~~ and engage and stop and end at their own pace, the freedom from expectations makes the experience wholesome and engaging. In a way, it can be said that Academic reading is more objective in nature, whereas reading for fun is subjective in nature.

Apart from expectations, which is the biggest and most significant difference in the context of reading, it is also about the availability of options.

Academic reading offers a limited range - either the material you are assigned or that which is under your field in terms of suggested reading material. Contrary to that,

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Reading for fun involves a broad range of options - from storybooks and novels, exploring fiction, non-fiction, every possible genre. The world provides it all; an unlimited sea of options and the freedom to choose.

Reading is a difficult hobby, especially as an adult. For those who enjoy reading for fun - they may find it difficult to engage in the hobby due to time constraints.

Academic reading comes with as a necessity, a requirement - often taking time away for those who enjoy reading for fun. As for those who don't enjoy reading, the requirements may make it harder.

What about outcomes? Does reading for fun teach less than academic reading? Or is it the opposite?

The answer is that there is no definite answer. Reading, as mentioned at the beginning of this essay, serves many purposes. It teaches valuable skills to those who indulge in it.

The outcome of reading may be subtle or overt. ~~Indivi~~

Academic reading involves certain expectations and these may prepare individuals to analyse their material and indirectly have real world impact.

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such as the ability to read between the lines. Often, when reading for fun or without purpose is seen as an insignificant task with no learning outcomes. And while that may be true in some instances but again, reading for fun does not need to fulfil a preset criteria. In the process, individuals end up learning skills such as emotional understanding, language skills - vocabulary, and so on.

Reading, in either context, helps an individual. Be it critically examining Sherlock and Watson's friendship or simply enjoying their camaraderie. Neither context is greater or better than the other.

~~TA~~ To end this essay, I would like to mention the movie - Dead Poets Society. It is important to remember that medicine, law, psychology, engineering - all are noble pursuits and reading as a part of learning enhances understanding - serving an important purpose.

But reading - to distress, to simply enjoy the words on paper, to read poetry and not analyse it - these are important to sustain life and to make it more meaningful.

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So, while reading for fun and academic reading - both have their ups and downsides, & both are unique experiences and hence, important.

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#### ACADEMIC READING vs READING FOR FUN.

Reading is one of the very first skills we learn as children. We start with ABCs and one sentence format storybooks to reading books, textbooks, and even novels - all within a decade. It is an ability we exercise every single day and despite of how inherent it seems, it takes us years of repetition, practice, and discipline to be where we are today.

Academic reading widely differs from reading for pleasure or fun. The difference essentially boils down to one main factor - Purpose & of Motive. People read for different reasons and causes. The second difference is motivation. Reading for fun is something that's innate and intrinsic. We desire to read a book or a poem, or even an article - arises out of your thoughts and intentions. This is called intrinsic motivation. Academic reading, on the other hand, is a task you're subjected to - it's homework, and that word doesn't necessarily ring positive bells in most minds. Your teacher, parent, or someone else in authority has to constantly remind you to read in the name of accountability. Your motivation here is to simply complete the task - thus, it is extrinsic in nature. The third difference between academic reading as reading for fun is the skills you require. For academic reading, in the majority of cases - you're prompted to be more analytical and objective. This encourages you to approach

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concepts from a strictly scholarly point of view. Since your main goal here is to understand and memorise the topic well enough to recall it whenever necessary - you tend ~~not~~ to only view these concepts from a limited perspective. On the other hand, reading for pleasure differs a lot. Here, you aren't required to only see it from a single perspective and your main goal here is not to pass your examination but to have fun. Reading for pleasure lets you experience life from multiple perspectives, it helps you develop a sense of profound understanding of the world. This lets you ~~to~~ lead a richer life with likely more refined experiences because of the mindset you hold.

Research studies point to a very interesting phenomenon that's been observed - Reading for fun actually facilitates your academic reading skills as well. You're much more likely to have higher levels of reading comprehension and even have a quicker pace. These are extremely valuable skills as an academician, where your bread and butter depends on reading and having a solid understanding of your field's work.

It is now established that either way, reading ~~is~~ is extremely good for you. Its benefits include better mental health, brain health, vocabulary, language skills, and beyond.

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In an era where information is being ~~hand~~ handed to us via Youtube, social media, podcasts, and more - reading persists as the healthiest option. Making reading a habit is crucial and helps you prevent the side-effects of our digital-age. Doing difficult things, at least once in a while, is how you keep your brain fit and young. While it is easy to assume that reading for fun isn't needed because we can reap the benefits of reading from academic reading as well, it isn't that easy or simple.

Most people only spend a quarter of their life in an academic institution - this means that only <sup>or</sup> 25% of their lives, they are reading on a semi-daily basis at least.

What happens after they graduate or even retire or simply choose a field that doesn't require reading at all? Your habit fades. For this very reason, it is important to inculcate a habit of reading.

On a positive note, pleasure reading can be much easier to build as a habit. This is because of 3 reasons. Firstly, like ~~not~~ I've mentioned, the motive here is much deeper.

When your motivation is intrinsic, it's a smoother process of translating it into a habit. Second, you have complete autonomy.

You're free to choose what to read, what book, what genre, what author, what language - it's all up to you. And third, this is a long-term goal and not just passing an exam.

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From a neuroscience-based perspective - reading is one of the most easiest yet efficient ways to delay the symptoms of aging. Your brain, as you grow older, ~~to~~ tends to ~~to~~ get weaker. This often manifests as cognitive symptoms in the form of poor memory and inability to focus among other symptoms. A more severe manifestation coupled with ~~to~~ genetic disposition and biological health problems is Dementia. Dementia includes some life-changing conditions like Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, Lewy body dementia. Recent research has proved that along with healthy habits, reading is a great habit to build as a preventive measure. It has shown to at least delay the onset, if not completely reduce the risk of the condition. The mechanism behind this is that our ~~our~~ brains are highly plastic. This means that the neural connections form very strongly and quickly if you repeat a behaviour consistently. Essentially, you're keeping your brain young by exercising it. This is to say that reading has long term benefits that are beyond our expectations. By building a habit of reading for pleasure, you're subjecting yourself to a healthier life.

Moreover, like I've mentioned, reading for fun lets you live in different people's shoes - experience different perspectives.

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Understanding and synthesizing media and literature through reading helps you become a more productive and informed person.

You approach reading as a subjective concept and are more likely to refine your comprehension of concepts and processes that define and make up your life - from childhood to old age.

Essentially, my essay points to one extremely important fact - reading has benefits for you, <sup>on</sup> through your lifespan, and these benefits exceed your expectations. Thus, while academic reading is an immensely intellectually stimulating activity and should definitely be nurtured, reading for fun is just as, if not more, essential.

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### READING FOR FUN V/S ACADEMIC READING

By Anushka Desai S.Y.B. Sc. Psychology Hons., SAP: 40723230002

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"Books are ~~the~~ cheaper than any other source of entertainment, and bring more pleasure."

This is a famous adage that has been in circulation for years. Books are alluded to as a fantasy land, a parallel universe, and even humans' best friends (apologies to dogs!). It is quite true that reading has been a great activity to induce relaxation, as established by the thousands of coffee shops which thrive on marketing book-reading and sipping a comforting beverage as a recreational activity.

However, this is just one aspect. We cannot ignore the dimension of academic reading; i.e. reading not just for fun, but for work, sometimes out of compulsion. There is a huge debate on reading for fun vs reading for work, and the arguments are aplenty.

Academic reading includes reading journals, blogs, research papers, or even textbooks - with the end goal of either summarising or critically analysing them. Often, students in high schools and colleges are assigned certain books that they have to review critically. They must discuss the pros and cons, discuss the plot summary, talk about the message derived from the text, literary devices, etc. This can be for a book or even a research paper for more advanced learners. One must stop to ponder whether reading for the end goal of getting a certain external, tangible ~~to~~ reward

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for it could absolutely negate the "fun" element.

~~When we were kids, most~~

Most kids spend their time reading books of fiction - with fantasy characters like dragons, wizards, griffins (half lion-half eagle!), gargoyles, etc. Reading, if inculcated from a young age, is a great channel to develop language and let the imagination run wild. As ~~we~~ they grow up, there is a marked shift from majestically pictorial books to those with no images save the ones on the cover.

As ~~the~~ children grow, the reading under the covers with a torch past their bedtime is <sup>often</sup> replaced by reading pieces for assignments due at midnight. When does this happen? There is no fixed time, but mostly, adults are the ones who struggle to find time to read for pleasure. After coming home from college/work, barely any time is left for recreational activities/ "alone time" to ensue. Moreover, even if people do have time, ~~reading~~ <sup>reading</sup> can be too cognitively exhausting ~~at the~~, ~~moment~~ especially for academicians whose profession ~~is~~ already involves perusing through multitudes of text on a daily basis.

There has been extensive research with regards to this topic. According to a study in The Journal of Multidisciplinary Graduate Research (2000), it was found that

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students who read regularly for fun are more likely to have better reading comprehension skills in high school and score better on standardized tests. Thus, it is possible that students can use this rationale to rekindle their passion for non-academic reading. Moreover, academic reading equips you with the ability to <sup>read fast,</sup> make mental notes, underline things you wish to revisit, pay most attention to the important aspects of the text, etc. One can use these skills when reading for fun too.

It is difficult to hope for an ideal situation where one can read academic material but simultaneously have fun. This rests on the premise that one would have the time and energy for that, which most people do not. However, if teachers can prescribe more course-related books - e.g. The Psychology of Money for Psychology and Economics students - students may be able to engage with the content better. Since academic reading is more of a 'skill' than a 'hobby', it is not possible to make it entirely pleasurable, but we can try to pace ourselves a bit. Even if we have to read 30 papers for one assignment, being mindful of and actually absorbing the content we are biting can improve academic outcomes as well as mental peace.

In a fast-paced life with deadlines and

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almost every single day, curling up with a ~~cup of~~ warm plate of food & beverage and a favourite classic sounds like a luxury. People often get very overwhelmed by adding too many books to their reading list. This can be avoided ~~as~~ by looking at 'fun reading' as a hobby, not a task. One could organise bookstore visits or small book clubs occasionally, making it an exciting social activity.

To conclude, reading for fun is definitely a great way of recharging while taking a break. Academic reading cannot ~~provide~~ provide the same level of fun. However, instead of trying to compare the two, we can try to strike a balance as and how we see fit. If we want to read one book or three a ~~month~~ month, it should be a goal we set according to our needs and interests.

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### BOOKS V/S E-BOOKS

By Bhoomi Purohit F.Y.B. A. English, SAP: 40711240030

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#### Books vs. e-books

In this age of scientific and technological advancements, every traditional object has its own modern, ~~me~~ more digital versions of them. Letters lost to text messages, manual and pestles got outdated to mixer grinders, and even books are, now, evolving into more digitalized version of them, that is, e-books. More and more people, these days, are opting for ebooks for their portability and convenience.

However, surprisingly people still opt for books over ebooks. Many of them state the reason to be the tactile experience of reading a book. The feeling of the paper against one's fingers while flipping pages, and the smell of a newly printed book or even the smell of an old book allows the readers to connect to the story and the characters better. It is the process of flipping and feeling and smelling the book that makes a book, a book.

A research done by Heather Rose Arthurshin revealed that comprehension of the book increased by six to eight times while reading a physical book. Readers could build an "index" to remember the storyline and the chronology better. This was what their digital counterpart lacked. It failed to provide the readers with a better reading experience. This is one of the major reasons behind why more readers chose books over ebooks.

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Fans of ebooks, often argue, stating how ebooks are portable and a more modern with their design and innovation. Their sleek and light frames ~~are~~ made them way more convenient. However, they often forget that although they are portable and convenient; at the end of the day, they are electronic devices that are not of much use without a proper source of electricity. An electronic device without charge is useless which makes it less convenient.

The cost of these devices range upto fifty thousand in some cases which makes it less affordable for a lot of people when compared to physical books which would, ~~max~~ at maximum, be worth of only three figures. These devices, also, are unreliable when it comes to the longevity. The books on digital devices might get deleted without proper protection.

Books, on the other hand, can be preserved for years. This feature of books make them a popular and the most prominent choice of book collectors. Some collectors collect limited edition and special edition books and preserve them for years making them a rare ~~asset~~ treasure and a precious piece of history.

Books, also, have been an integral part of our history, imparting knowledge and wisdom since the vedic period in the form of scripts, scrolls, and manuscripts. Ebooks, on the other hand, have durability

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and warranty of maximum five years.

Ebooks, being digital, is more susceptible to forgery, piracy, and imitation making everybody question its security. Books, however, create job opportunities to the publishers, the printers, the designers, the retailers, and even the authors making them economically important.

Books provide with a calm environment to the reader, allowing them to reconnect with their environment from which they disconnected while being lost in their digital screen. Everybody these days are so obsessed with their phones and digital devices, it causes them digital fatigue, migraines, and strain to their eyes. Reading physical books provide them with ~~about~~ leisure and space and opportunity to think and meditate.

Therefore standing by the quote stated by Ernest Hemingway which said "No friend is as loyal as a book".

This proves the point that no matter how developed technology becomes and how modern our society gets becomes, the impact of physical books on people will remain strong. For me, ebooks will never overshadow books. They have been an integral part of our culture, heritage, and traditions since the beginning of time and are also an unforgettable and ~~irreplaceable~~ irreplaceable part of our human society. The knowledge and wisdom on how to live, love, care, build, heal, and behave have helped us evolve as creatures and made us ~~the~~ the unique, thoughtful, and powerful creatures we are today.

Therefore, for me, books will always be superior to ebooks and books are precious and timeless.



पुस्तक प्रेमी मनुष्य अत्यंत श्रीमंत आणि सुखी असतो.

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