

## Whatcha Reading? Instructions

### Introduction

My grandmother always said “If you can read, you can do anything.” Both she and my mom taught functionally illiterate people to read to help them better their lives by being able to read instructions to complete a job application, or follow directions to complete a task, or locate the proper bus, train or subway track to travel on a map, graphic, or directory. Reading is a requirement for living and being successful in the world.

This project, which I think of as a reading experience, is designed to help you cultivate a passion for reading if you don't have one, reconnect you to your love of reading, help you find a love of reading, or skyrocket your love reading to the next level. You might think you're a reader but our phones and social media have taught the world to skim bullet points, fragments, and bite sized single sentence responses—that isn't reading. Reading is critical to be successful in college as well as in your future careers as you'll need to be able to read and comprehend:

- Media reports
- Research data
- Customer feedback
- Schematics and plans
- White papers
- Articles
- Corporate strategy plans
- Social media analytics
- Proposals
- Job and Grant Applications

This is just a limited list of texts you'll need to read and understand once you're beyond the education system. If you're just skimming through your phone, many of these texts will be problematic when you read them. However, if you engage in reading now and develop a habit and passion for reading or maintain your love of reading, you'll be able to tackle any text that comes your way in the future.

### Purpose for this Reading Experience

My goals for you from these reading experiences are:

- to get you more comfortable reading books;
- advancing your reading skills and vocabulary;
- increasing your reading speed and comprehension; and

- seeing writing techniques in action that you can use in your own writing.

I hope to encourage you to get to the point where you can read 200 pages per week if you're a self-reported "nonreader." For those self-reported readers, I hope you can increase whatever your current pages per week significantly. Being able to read 200+ pages per week is a requirement for advanced college and university courses as well as various careers.

### Task

Your task for this reading experience is to read as many books in 14 weeks as possible.

Here are some guidelines to help you:

- You may choose your own books (no pornography)
- Books include:
  - Fiction (e.g. *The Great Zoo of China*)
    - Adult
    - New Adult
    - Young Adult (YA)
    - Classics
    - Graphic Novels
    - Manga
    - All Genres
  - Non-fiction (e.g. *Townie: A Memoir*)
    - Memoir
    - How-To
    - Biography
    - History
    - Philosophy
    - True Crime
    - Science
    - Travel
    - Self-Help
  - Plays (e.g. *Raisin in the Sun*)
  - Books of Poetry (e.g. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*)
  - Book of Short Stories (e.g. *The Bloody Chamber*)
- Challenge yourself to "reach" with each additional book you choose to read—it's okay to stretch outside your comfort zone. **You can't read all the same kind of books (all graphic novels or all Manga or all romance, etc.)**

**Conclusion**

Having completed this project, you'll have developed your reading and comprehension skills in addition to increasing your reading pace.