

Secondary School of the Permanent  
Mission of the Russian Federation to  
the UN

# **“Books in Our Life”**

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# Books in my life

*A book, I think, is very like  
A little golden door  
That takes me into places  
Where I've never been before.*

*It leads me into fairyland  
Or countries strange and far  
And, best of all, the golden door  
Always stands ajar.*



**Hypothesis:** Books play a very important role in the life of people.

**The aim** of this project is to study the role of books in the life of modern teenagers.

### **Tasks:**

- ❖ to examine the reasons for reading;
- ❖ to summarize the history of books;
- ❖ to find out the most popular genres in our school;
- ❖ to view some hacks how to write a good book.

### **Methods:**

- ❖ Analyzing special literature; polling classmates.

# Why do we read books?

*“When you open a book, you open a new world”.*

Books have been here for centuries and centuries, without them, today’s human knowledge of our past, ancestors, culture and civilization would have been impossible.



# Why do we read books?

A book is like a companion, be it a baby's bedtime story, a toddler's picture book, a child's comic book, a teen's young fiction or our very own academic books. Books are most often our best pastime, or rather a best friend, the only difference is that the latter will never part or walk away from you.

Of course, we read a lot for our Literature lessons but still we can name some reasons for reading for pleasure.

# Why do we read books?

## ◆ IT SAVES YOU TIME

It looks like it's wasting time, but literature is actually the ultimate time-*saver* – because it gives us access to a range of emotions and events that it would take you years, decades, millennia to try to experience directly. Literature is the greatest reality simulator – a machine that puts you through infinitely more situations than you can ever directly witness.

# Why do we read books?

## ◆ IT MAKES YOU NICER

Literature performs the basic magic of what things look like through someone else's point of view; it allows us to consider the consequences of our actions on others in a way we otherwise wouldn't; and it shows us examples of kindly, generous, sympathetic people. Literature deeply stands opposed to the dominant value system – the one that rewards money and power.

# Why do we read books?

## ◆ IT'S A CURE FOR LONELINESS

We're weirder than we like to admit. We often can't say what's really on our minds. But in books we find descriptions of who we genuinely are and what events, described with an honesty quite different from what ordinary conversation allows for. In the best books, it's as if the writer knows us better than we know ourselves – they find the words to describe the fragile, weird, special experiences of our inner lives



# Why do we read books?

## ◆ IT PREPARES YOU FOR FAILURE

All of our lives, one of our greatest fears is of failure, of messing up, of becoming, as the tabloids put it, “a loser.” Every day, the media takes us into stories of failure. Interestingly, a lot of literature is also about failure – in one way or another, a great many novels, plays, poems are about people who messed up. Great books don’t judge as harshly or as one-dimensionally as the media.

# What books do we read?

The results of the poll on reading preferences of the 7th graders of our school.



# What do we know about books?

The history of the book reflects the history of civilization. Around 3500 BC the ancient Sumerians created the first true written language called “cuneiform,” which means “wedge-shaped.” They also created the first permanent and portable documents by writing on clay tablets, which were first used for accounting, so they became popular for record-keeping.



# The history of books

Around 2700 BC the Egyptians developed a way to make sheets of writing material from the papyrus plant. Because the papyrus was brittle, it was rolled into scrolls for storage. These scrolls are considered the first true books.



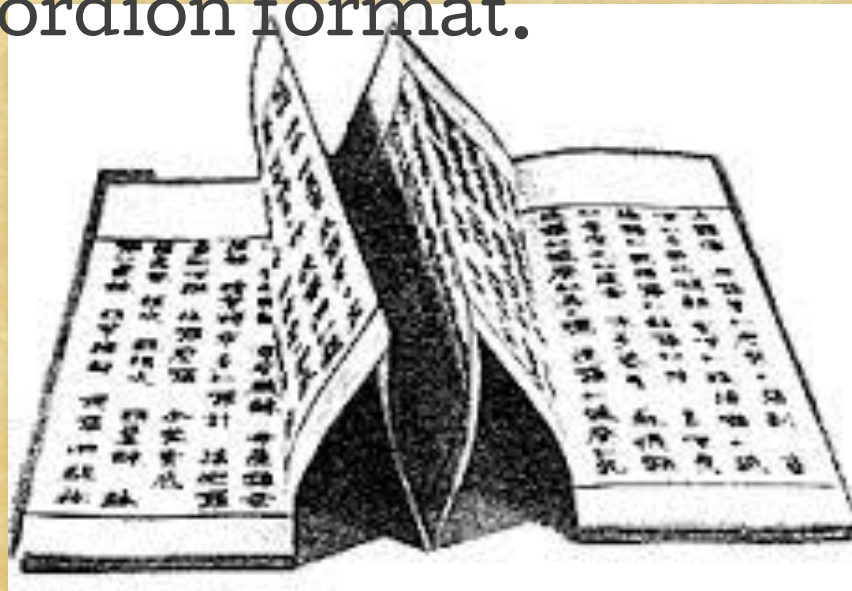
# The history of books

The ancient Greek and Romans often used wax tablets and a stylus for personal correspondence and business records. These “pages” could be erased by smoothing out the wax.



# The history of books

The Chinese invented paper, which unlike papyrus, could be easily folded. This led to the development of the concertina (or accordion) format. The ancient Aztecs also created books using the accordion format.



# The history of books

Around 300 AD, the Romans began linking together wooden tablets using cords. They called this a codex, from the Latin *caudex*, or “tree trunk.” We now use the term *codex* to refer to any book made of folded and sewn signatures.



# The history of books

During the Middle Ages, books, especially the Bible, were hand-copied by monks in a scriptorium. Many of these books contained beautiful miniature paintings called illuminations.





# The history of books

The invention of the printing press made books cheaper and more popular. More people could afford to buy them. They read more and thus became better-educated.



# The history of books

The proper system of libraries appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most important are in the universities. The biggest library in the world is in Washington, DC. It contains more than 9 million items!



# How to write a book?



Though most of us like reading books either in paper or digital form, only a few have tried to write themselves. Those who want to create a book have one serious question: how to make the plot fast-moving and exciting. We have examined several books and here are some helpful hacks how to keep suspense throughout the whole book

# Useful Hacks to Fuel a Story with Suspense

## 1. Pull a false alarm.

“The Boy Who Cried Wolf” is not only an instructive moral fable, it’s a nail-biter. As soon as you learn of the shepherd boy’s plan to get attention by screaming that a wolf is attacking the sheep, you just know a real wolf is bound to show



## 2. Point a finger.

Mary Renault’s historical novel “**The Persian Boy**” starts with a cataclysm: The death and destruction of the protagonist’s family and home. Before dying, his father screams the name of his betrayer. Well, guess who the Persian

boy will meet up with later, much later?

## 3. Build an oubliette.

Medieval lords would sometimes construct a simple pit below the castle floor, into which they would throw any captive they’d prefer to just forget. (*Oubliette* is French for *forgotten place*.) No screams could penetrate the heavy lid, and the screams were short-lived in any event. Edgar Allan Poe’s “**The Cask of Amontillado**” is the example.

# Useful Hacks to Fuel a Story with Suspense

## 4. Water a plant.

Growth can be incredibly suspenseful. Think about it: You plant a seed and you water it. Will it be a stalk of wheat, or a vine of poison ivy? Horror novels from **Rosemary's Baby** to **The Bad Seed** to **Carrie**

and beyond have made

**7. Withhold the right stuff.**  
use of this simple technique.

Keeping information from the reader can be a cheap trick, but there's a right way to do it—by playing fair. In his novella **The Valley of Fear**, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle keeps the secret of Birdy Edwards' identity from the other characters and from the reader—but everybody's given the same information.

**5. Rip it from the headlines.** The daily news is a terrific place to get ideas for suspense.

## 6. Fray an end.

Leave a cupboard door open. This visual cue suggests that things are unsettled, not composed, in need of attention.



# Useful Hacks to Fuel a Story with Suspense

**8. Put a symbol into work.** Look to nature: Natural processes are inexorable, and they're understood by all humans instinctively. A beautiful lake can represent the water of life, or it can symbolize something more unsettling if, for instance,



your story begins in autumn.

**9. Isolate them.** Isolation of a select character or group of characters intensifies the most ordinary circumstances into suspenseful ones. Consider all those closed-room murder mysteries by Agatha Christie, as well as stuck-on-a-boat adventure tales such as Jack London's *The Sea Wolf* and Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*.

**10. Amp the unknown.** The unknown is a time-honored suspense component, especially useful for horror, sci-fi or paranormal. One of the greatest examples of the unknown as a suspense-builder is in Charlotte Brontë's gothic romance *Jane Eyre*. There's something weird going on in that attic! And that drives the suspense all the way to the end.

## Conclusion:

- ❖ The life of modern people is impossible without books. They reflect our history, teach us, support in different situations.
- ❖ Reading is a useful pastime. It broadens the horizons, educate our feelings, develops imagination.
- ❖ Reading is still up-to-date. It is a sort of communication with someone wise and friendly.
- ❖ If you have nothing to read, then you can create your own book.

## Used sources:

- ❖ <http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/21-fast-hacks-to-fuel-your-story-with-suspense>
- ❖ <http://www.booksbuyer.com/article-on-the-importance-of-books/>
- ❖ <http://www.brainpickings.org/2014/10/09/school-of-life-literature-reading/>
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- ❖ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_books)



***Thank you for attention!***