

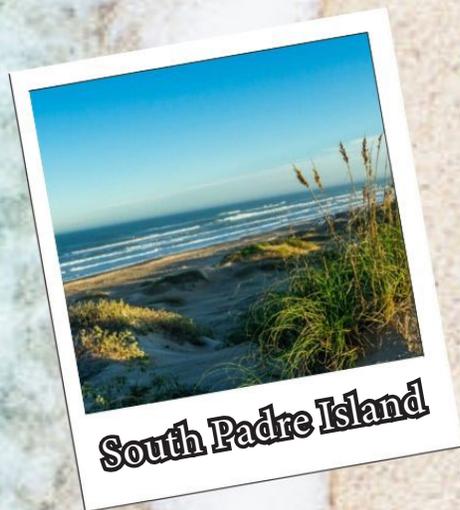
The image features a soft pink background with several branches of white cherry blossoms. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing prominent yellow stamens. The blossoms are arranged around the central text, creating a decorative border.

*The  
English  
Aggie*

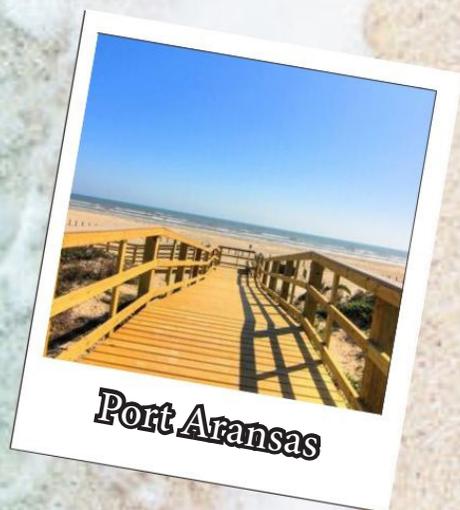
March 2020

# Spring Break

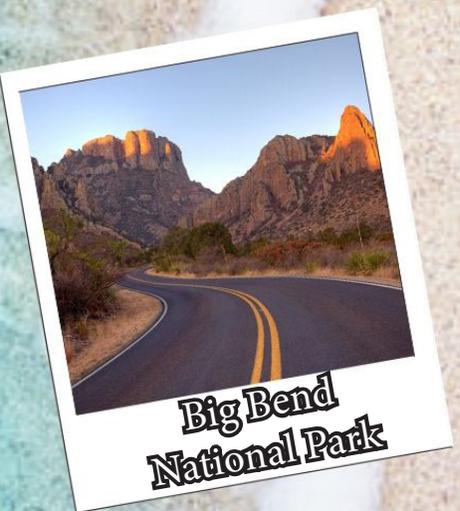
**Need ideas for the next spring break?  
Take a look at these amazing options!**



You know we have to start this list with one of the hottest, well-known spots in Texas. South Padre Island is 34 miles of beautiful sand and is the only tropical island in Texas. It's a great place to visit anytime of the year, but it's a huge magnet for college students during spring break. Expect large events, like concerts and other huge social gatherings. If the reputation of SPI discourages you, maybe one of the other places on this list is more suited for you.



Though not as popular as SPI, Port Aransas offers great beaches and perfect spots for fishing. It's 18 miles of shoreline with sand perfect for castles and many activities that range from bird and dolphin watching, swimming, kayaking, and is home to the only seaside links-style golf course in Texas. You can also explore the many shops, galleries, and restaurants. It's not as popular with college students so this may be the beach for you!

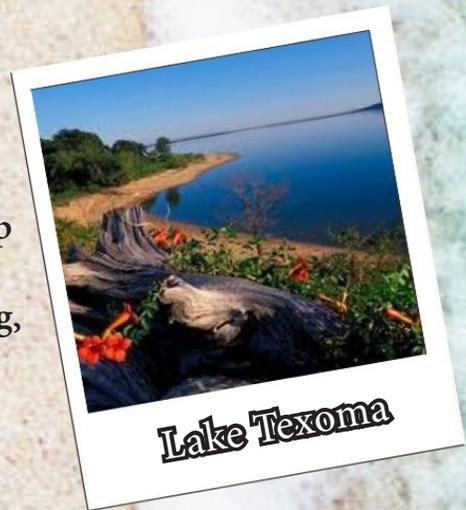


If river rafting, hiking, horseback riding and ziplining is more of your thing, consider this beautiful massive park! Big Bend is located along the Rio Grande River, taking up 1,200 sq. miles, and it's also an amazing spot for stargazing. You can camp in or near the park, rent a lodge, or even book a hotel room. Highly recommended if you want a place to get away and find solitude and peace in the wilderness.

# DESTINATION



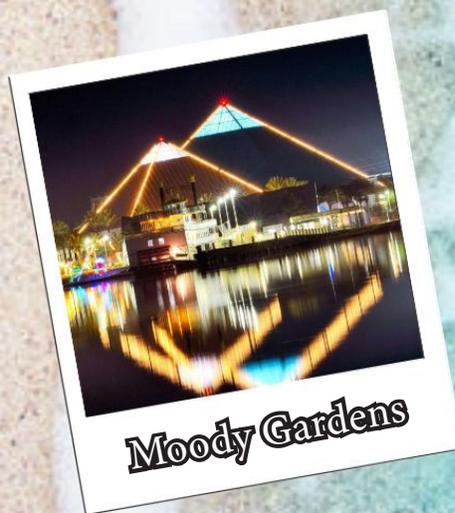
Still want to be near the water but don't want any of the south Texas beach shenanigans? Consider taking a trip to Lake Texoma! This oasis is located on the Texas-Oklahoma border and you can camp or even rent a cabin. Some activities include picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, and swimming (if you don't mind a slight winter bite). You can also head to Fobb Bottom for social gatherings along the shore. If you still desire solitude, don't worry, there are plenty of nice spots to achieve peace and serenity.

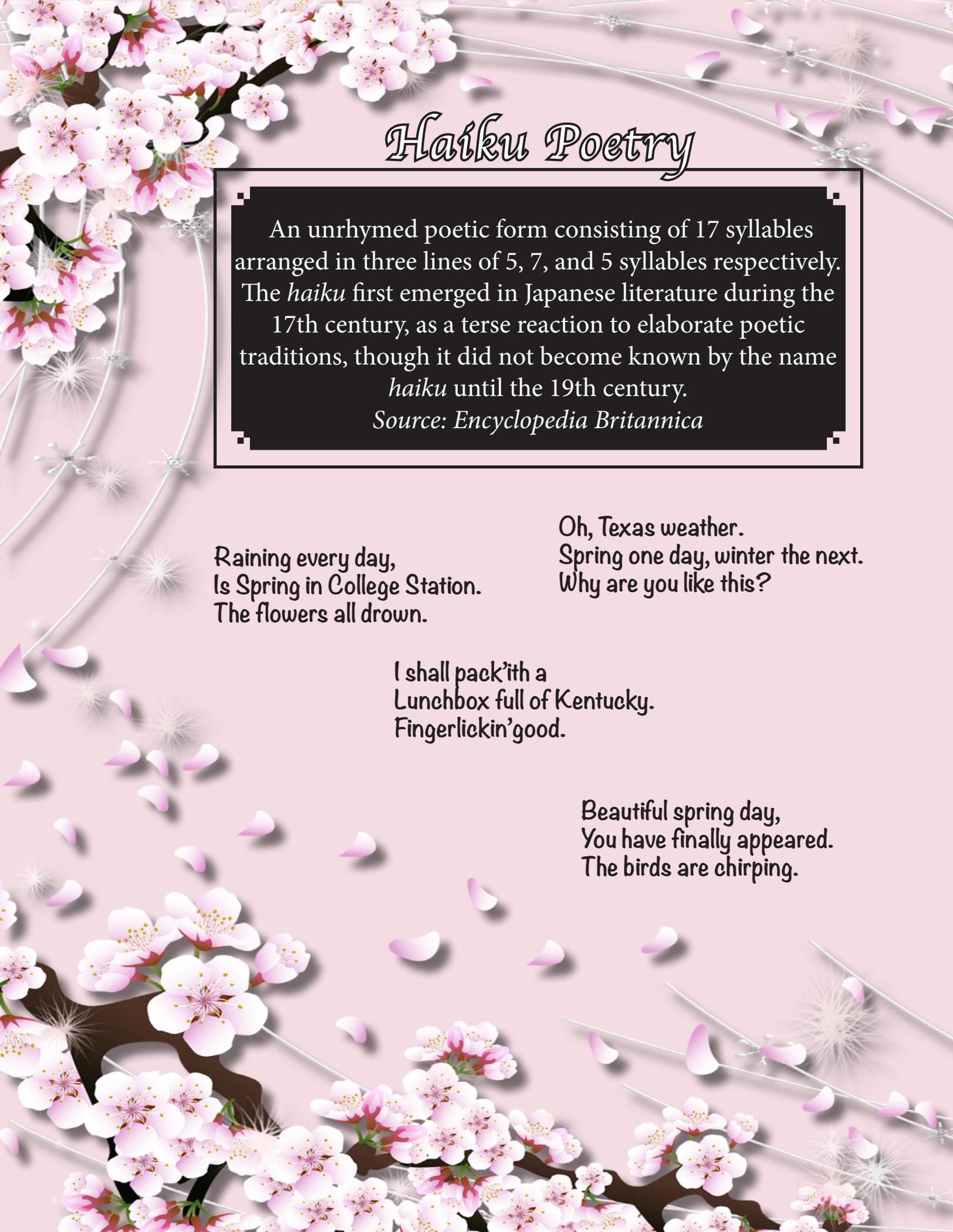


Why not explore a different part of Texas that's beneath the surface? A place with interesting historical, geological, and archeological features? Journey into Cascade Caverns to find a "diamond ceiling", a 100-foot underground waterfall, and intriguing creatures that call this place home. Once you're done exploring, travel along the nature trails of the 105-acre park where this cavern is located. There are also over 100 sites for camping and not to mention free wifi for those who can't wait to share photographs from this unique experience.



Lastly, we can't forget the great city of Galveston! It's hard to miss the pyramids when crossing the causeway to Galveston Island. There are several activities to do here: go to one of the many aquariums, an IMAX theater, zipline, and even a rainforest. Not to mention, when you're done here, there are beaches nearby as well as other famous attractions in both Galveston and it's well-known neighbor, Houston.





# Haiku Poetry

An unrhymed poetic form consisting of 17 syllables arranged in three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. The *haiku* first emerged in Japanese literature during the 17th century, as a terse reaction to elaborate poetic traditions, though it did not become known by the name *haiku* until the 19th century.

Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*

Raining every day,  
Is Spring in College Station.  
The flowers all drown.

Oh, Texas weather.  
Spring one day, winter the next.  
Why are you like this?

I shall pack'ith a  
Lunchbox full of Kentucky.  
Fingerlickin' good.

Beautiful spring day,  
You have finally appeared.  
The birds are chirping.



Spurs on the concrete.  
There's whooping in the distance.  
Shiny ring of gold.

I hope our Queen barks,  
So I can get out of class.  
I need a good nap.

Hammocks are swaying  
Like tree leaves in a cool breeze.  
Textbook in my lap.

Bags under my eyes.  
I'm feelin' like a zombie.  
Coffee is my fuel.

College is two things:  
Breakdowns. Procrastination.  
Delicate balance.

We are almost there.  
Halfway through the semester.  
I can taste summer.

Adulthood is near.  
Graduation is looming.  
Do I feel ready?

I adore reading.  
Unless it is for my class.  
Makes me loathe the books.



# What Kind of Book

## A Diagnostic

### The Hate Reader

You're loving the book nearly as much as you're hating it. You complain that the author can't put two sentences together properly or that the book is dragging hopelessly in the middle even though you are devouring every last bit. You think to yourself: "What kind of plot twist is that?"

"These characters are so poorly drawn as to be comical!"

"You call that a conclusion?"

"Vampires, really?"

Sound familiar? If you are a hate reader, you will finish each hate read down to its very last word.

**Suggested hate reads:** *Twilight*; *Fifty Shades of Grey*; any much-celebrated novelist's latest offering that's bound to be arguably less than all the hype.

### The Book Buster

Is your home strewn with books scattered about, this way and that, their pages turned, their covers folded over, their backs broken and their limbs splayed out on either side? You are a destroyer of books, but you love them so. Your spirit book character is Lennie of *Of Mice and Men*. You just want to hug the books, squeeze them tighter and tighter, you adore them so much, you really don't know you're hurting them. And then you've got a paperback with a huge chunk pulled out of it, or a first edition that's suddenly waterlogged from bath water. You take your books out into the sun and their pages bleach away to nothing, but you keep them anyway, because they are books and you love books. **Suggested book-buster reads:** Whatever you like, but buy a Kindle.

### The Bookophile

More than reading, you just love books. Old ones, the way they smell, the crinkles and yellowing of the pages; new ones, the way they smell, too, the crispness, running your hands over a stack of them at the bookstore. You like books rescued from the street as much as signed first editions; you like drugstore paperbacks, you like hardcover new releases, you like it all. You just like books. To you, they are an object of beauty, and you would never, ever hurt them in any way. **Suggested bookophile reads:** Anything you can get your hands on.



### Delayed Onset Reader

You are, without a doubt a book lover. When you walk into a bookstore, or any place books are available, your wallet tends to suffer. When you get home, you put them aside, often reverently, displaying them like art that's within reach. But you're very, very busy, and days, weeks, or months may go by before you actually crack open one of these books. When you finally do, you will be overjoyed by all the learning and emotional depth and humor and writing quality that exists in this book that's been sitting within reach all along, and you will be amazed that you waited so long to ever open it.

**Suggested delayed onset #1 suggestions:** *The Princess Bride*, by William Goldman; *Lolita* by Nabokov; *Anne of Green Gables*, by L.M. Montgomery.

### The Cross-Under

You are an adult who reads Y.A. or kids books, or a kid who reads adult books. You don't need to feel shame at your questionable reading habits but can instead bask in the admiration of book blogs and feel a part of the vanguard. You are not ruled by categories; you are a free thinker. When you were in elementary school, a librarian told you a book was "too old for you." You read it anyway, and there's been no going back. **Suggested cross-under reads:** *For kids*, Dickens, Fitzgerald, Salinger, Vonnegut, Harper Lee. *For adults*: Collins, Rowling, Alexie, Chbosky, Lowry.

### The Multi-Tasker

This is the nice way of saying you are a promiscuous reader, but it's not that you don't finish reads. Instead, you just have a sort of hippie reading way about you, free love or some such. You might start the day out with a few pages from one novelist, and then read something entirely different later. You have reads for different times of the day. Do you confuse characters or plots? Do you give more attention to some books than to others? Perhaps. The point is, you're not ready for a book commitment just yet, and you're doing a brilliant job dating them all in the meantime. **Suggested multi-tasking reads:** Short story and essay collections, novellas.

# Book Reader Are You? Diagnostics Guide

## The Hopelessly Devoted

You stick to the authors you like, and you read them, pretty much exclusively, whatever they write, good or bad, regardless of reviews or the opinions of your friends or family. Everyone knows what to get you for your birthday or holidays. You are a true fan, and have been known to stand in line for a book signing from the author you idolize. **Suggested devoted reads:** This really depends on you. For me, it's Marie Lu or Cassandra Clare.

## The Audiobook Listener

So, ya like audiobooks? That's cool. There's a place for you, person whose ears are essentially eyes. Not that we understand, exactly, but, hey, different strokes for different folks. You probably run miles like that Olympian in the commercials or you're just simply an audio learner so it would make sense that you'd listen to books for fun too. No shame in that. Maybe I should drag myself to the gym with a good audiobook. **Suggested listens:** Again, really depends on you.

## The Conscientious Reader

It's nonfiction or nothing for you, reader! It should have a purpose, too, and be meaningful. You should learn something. There should be ideals! If it's just fun, you can read it on the Internet, in your humble opinion. You like reporting, true tales, and journalism. If it is fiction, make it by Chinua Achebe. Also, you like libraries a bit more than the rest of us. **Suggested conscientious reads:** Books by presidents; *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand.

## The Sharer

You read something you like and you simply will not stop talking about it; you tell everyone you know, and you will not give up until they read it too. And then you want to talk about it. If you are one of these, sometimes you loan people books, too, and that is a good quality. We like you, book sharer. We really, really do. You're a giver, not a taker. **Suggested sharables:** Anything you read and liked, obviously, but also stuff you don't like, because you might as well pass it along to someone who might enjoy it more than you did.



## The Re-Reader

You know what you like, and instead of branching out and possibly finding something new that you don't like, you focus on what you do. You read the same books over and over again, returning to them as if they're old friends, which, pretty much, they are. Your book-reading motto is, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." **Suggested re-readables:** You probably already know, but try these.

## The "It's Complicated" Reader

You are a combination of many of these things and yet completely different, too. Each book means a new type of reader exists in your soul; you refuse to be defined or categorized. You are a freeform, wild, woolly entity. You do whatever you want. You're probably a pisces. You're definitely a reader. **Suggested "it's complicated" reads:** We dare not to go there.

## The Cat

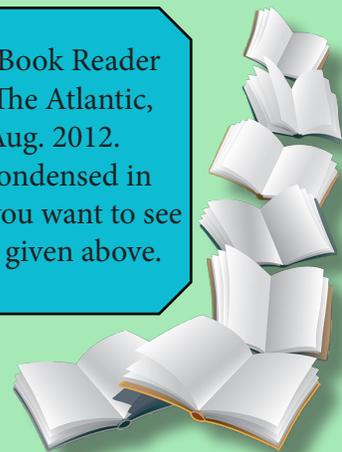
You creep around the house all day and sneak peeks at all those large, paper-filled things that your owner leaves lying about.

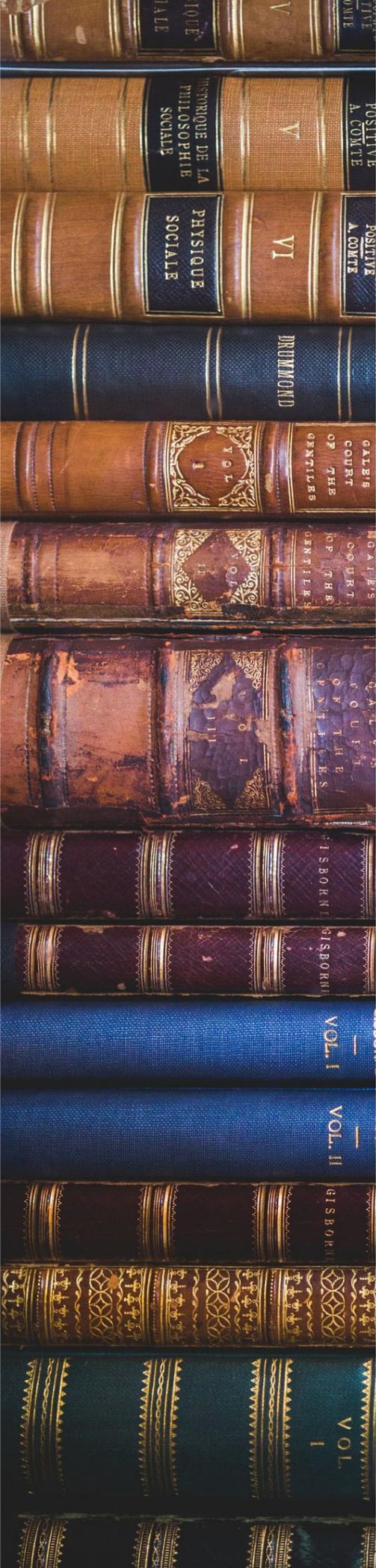


Sometimes, if you're lucky, your owner has left one open, and you lie on top of it and let its smooth pages touch your whiskers. It is oddly comfortable, and deeply satisfying, particularly if it's in a spot in the sun, where you enjoy whiling away a whimsical afternoon. Your owner, who is an "It's Complicated" Bookophile type, fancies that you're actually reading the pages, but you're not. You're just laying there. Humans are so weird. **Suggested cat reads:** *This one looks nice and flat.*

**Source:** Doll, Jen. "What Kind of Book Reader Are You? A Diagnostics Guide." The Atlantic, Atlantic Media Company, 29 Aug. 2012.

**Editor's Note:** This feature was condensed in order to fit its designated space. If you want to see more, please search up the source given above.





# Share your story with us!

Have any creative fiction or poetry that is collecting dust in your notebook, languishing in your hard drive, or waiting to be released from the confines of your mind?

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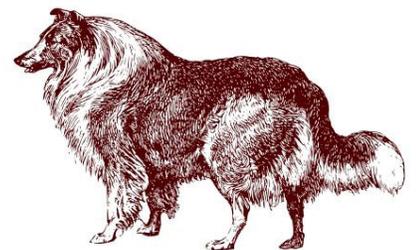
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