

The Renaissance of Reading

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Are you ready for the Renaissance of Reading? Take this simple test to find out.

1. Do you love to read a good book?
2. Can you still recall the wonder and enjoyment of storytelling and being read to by a parent or teacher from your childhood?
3. Do you feel that actively engaging and stimulating your brain is more important than engaging your fingers on a TV remote control or a game controller?
4. Do you like to escape from the stresses of daily life by reading a good book, either curled up on the couch, sitting by the pool, relaxing in bed before sleep, sitting in your favorite easy chair, or while traveling?
5. Does the idea of a “library” hold a certain sense of value and importance to you?
6. Does the thought of having a beautiful, well-stocked library in your own home sound appealing?
7. When you hear the phrase “book burning” does it have a certain revulsion and sense of injustice and intolerance associated with it?
8. Do you enjoy receiving good books as presents?
9. Is browsing a bookstore a pleasurable experience?
10. Have you kept your imagination alive?

If you answered Yes to most or all of the questions above, then you are a prime candidate to help promote the **Renaissance of Reading**. If this describes you, then you are among the group of avid book lovers who enjoy gifted storytelling, intimately understand the value of good books, people who love the *art of reading* and are determined not to let it fade from civilized culture beneath a sea of multimedia digital devastation.

This document speaks candidly and constructively to the issue of **basic literacy**, seeks to help cultivate or rekindle a **love of reading and books**, and provides some **practical ideas** of how more and more people are reawakening to reading as an important part of their daily lives, for their own pleasure and increased quality of life, as well as for their family and friends.

MULTIMEDIA DEVASTATION

The advent of computer-based digital technology has undeniably been of tremendous benefit to the entire world, enabling every manner of advancement in communications, commerce, education, healthcare, government, the arts and every aspect of life—including the entertainment industry. However, there have also been some unpleasant byproducts that have made the multimedia age

something less than a utopian paradise. For example, many decry the advance of multimedia digital technologies as one of the root causes of the mass proliferation and subsequent move towards mainstream legitimization of the pornography industry. While there may be a measure of truth to such claims, the spread of pornography is far less insidious or devastating to society, and our culture as whole, than the damage multimedia digital technology has inflicted upon the **Art of Reading**.

Let there be no misunderstanding: there is a valuable place in society, and more specifically in the realm of entertainment, education, communication, commerce, healthcare, government, the arts and journalism for all that modern digital multimedia technology has to offer, both now and in the future as the digital sciences continue to advance. Great movies are a valuable part of our culture. Digital technology has in many ways made the impossible possible in film. Video Games have advanced to the point of rivaling many movies in terms of sheer graphic presentation and storylines. That's not the point. The point is: **What has happened to an entire generation, ironically, now threatens our future generations from possessing the capacity to learn the fundamental skills necessary to keep those important sciences advancing.**

Well-developed thumbs will never be as valuable as well-developed brains.

Many decry the poor academic test scores of our nation's youth in Math and Science, but as First Lady Laura Bush astutely pointed out, those two disciplines cannot be mastered without first mastering the basic skill of Reading. Consumers were irate when they learned that many major corporations had outsourced large elements of their Customer Service and/or Information Technology organizations to countries like India. But as comedian Bill Mahr rightly noted, "Yes, but those countries still teach their kids to do math and read."

Where multimedia digital technologies have done us a dire disservice has been to steal valuable *time* away from us, time that was formally used for Reading. Most parents used to read to their children before bed. Children were taught to read in Kindergarten or the First Grade. Today an alarming number of High School graduates can't read their diplomas—but they can beat the hottest Video Games in record time! Well-developed thumbs will never be as valuable as well-developed brains.

No one is arguing the fact that many Video Games are a lot of fun to play. Watching TV can be fun, informative and educational. Playing sports is fun. Riding a bicycle can be fun. A generation ago most kids couldn't wait to get home from school and go out and ride their bikes around the neighborhood. That's rare these days—and yet people wonder where the current epidemic of childhood obesity comes from. The answer is obvious: kids used to be more physically active, exercising their bodies by playing ball, riding their bikes, swimming, and such. Now they sit in front of televisions or computer monitors watching movies or playing Video Games. And day after day they grow fatter and fatter. No mystery there. However, their muscles aren't the only victims—so are their brains. When muscles aren't used, they atrophy and become useless. When brains aren't used the same thing happens.

THE MUSCLE OF THE MIND

The phrase "Use it or lose it" could not be more apropos than in the context of the development of the human mind. The mind stores data in its "memory banks" in the form of images, ideas, emotional feelings and abstract concepts. Information is presented to the mind through the medium of

our five senses, primarily via vision and hearing, or both. When it comes to inputting data visually, we are talking about either images or text, or both. If the data is an image, it can be stored “as is” with little to no effort by the mind. However, when it comes to text, an additional mental process is involved: syntactical interpretation.

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Syntactical interpretation is the *exercise* of the mind taking a standard set of alphanumeric symbols, correlating those symbols into recognized words of an understood language, drawing meaning and significance from those words from an internal library known as a “vocabulary,” whereupon they are organized into recognized idioms and phrases, adjusted for context, emphasis, and source, all resulting in the creation of an image, idea, emotional feeling or abstract concept. Yes, Virginia, *Words* alone have the power to do that—with absolutely no special effects, no 3-D rendering software, no orchestra, no subwoofers, no computers, no 1’s and 0’s. It is purely an exercise of the brain.

The repetition of this marvelous mental exercise, commonly referred to as “Reading,” is what enables the brain to be comfortable sorting and assembling bits and pieces of stored data, molding it and manipulating it into new concepts and ideas, analyzing and contemplating new permutations and possibilities, opening the door to this wonderful gift called “the Imagination” where all new thoughts originate. Conversely, the fundamental lack of reading is what results in a notable lack of imagination and creative thought.

A study of a convent of nuns was done several years back, whose premise was to discover why none of them ever contracted Alzheimer’s disease. What they discovered was both startling and pertinent to our discussion. Into their very advanced years, the older nuns’ minds stayed sharp, alert, and lucid until the day their bodies could go no further in life’s journey. What was their secret? They read constantly. That was the one common denominator the researchers identified. They kept their minds active and exercised to the end of their days.

The decline in literacy and the good habit of reading isn’t merely a social misgiving, such as watching a dance like “The Twist” or a fashion fad like wide lapels go out of style. The decline in literacy is literally the “dumbing down” of the population. Reading challenges the mind. Video Games challenge hand-eye coordination. Reading expands the boundaries of imagination. Movies only show the final images of someone else’s imagination. Movies and Video Games can be a wonderful addition and enhancement to entertainment and leisure enjoyment. They can never be allowed to become a substitute for a *healthy* habit of Reading.

Still images, illustrations, movies, and computer animation all have the ability to give context to the words of our vocabulary. As children, pictures of “The Big Bad Wolf” or a Unicorn or a Mermaid were how we learned to associate those words with meaning. But as we progressed in school, building and strengthening our reading skills and vocabulary, books didn’t need as many illustrations to help us understand the story. At some point we became able to read entire novels with no illus-

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trations whatsoever, and yet still were able to envision in our minds every character, every scene, every bit of the action. The pictures were, in effect, our “training wheels” that came off when our minds were properly prepared to take us where no pictures could.

The ability to use words from a rich vocabulary to paint vivid word pictures, convey persuasive ideas, stimulate genuine human emotions, or teach entirely new concepts is the expression of a writer’s talent. It is the natural execution of a skilled mind. And without skilled minds, there will be no more brilliant scientists and developers curing tomorrow’s diseases or inventing the new software and hardware that improves the world—and no more storytellers of tomorrow teaching new generations how to use their imaginations.

Isn’t it odd that parents are becoming alarmed at their children’s obesity, seeking to address the problem solely by diet revision, yet leaving them in front of the TV/computer—perhaps eating healthier, but perpetuating their sedentary lifestyle, which is more the culprit than the hamburgers and fries. In the same vein, those same parents lament their children’s low test scores, and seek to remedy the situation with Video tapes or DVDs of tutors, or Video Games designed to teach abstract conceptual disciplines like mathematics. And yet those same kids still sit there in front of the TV/computer, not reading, not exercising their minds, never addressing their *real* problem.

This issue certainly isn’t limited to children. However, if it doesn’t get *fixed* with the children, then have pity on the next generation who will lack the skills to govern themselves, maintain order in a civilized society, and will undoubtedly become subservient to some other culture or nation who didn’t make the same mistake. Despite what you may think, the solution to this problem doesn’t lie with the children of today, but with the adults—because the children will never gain an appreciation for reading and a love for books until they see it modeled by adults. As has been wisely observed, “Values are caught, not taught.”

Children may be ignorant of many things due to their youth, but on the whole, they’re not stupid. If the parent says, “Go read a book,” and then goes and plops down in front of the television for six hours at a time, the child never gains an appreciation of how important reading is in the lives of the two people most important in their life.

If there is any small “silver lining” in the current situation, it is that today’s parents who teach their children to love and appreciate reading are the ones whose kids are going to be tomorrow’s CEOs, scientists, doctors, inventors, engineers, and civic leaders rising above all the functionally illiterate masses who never bothered to crack the cover of a book—because it “wasn’t fun.” That is, there’s far less competition for academically sound young people today as there was a generation ago. On the other hand, if things continue along their current path, there won’t be enough skilled people available for tomorrow’s leaders to effectively lead, a prelude to the death-spiral into anarchy.

So **something new** must happen—something radical, innovative, compelling and appealing to young and old alike. Again, values are *caught*, not *taught*. The government can’t legislate for everyone to start reading. Parents who force their children to read will only make them resent it. People will only swarm to an activity they *want* to do, something attractive, not some chore they *have* to do—even if it’s a matter of their own survival. Therefore, the solution is for government, parents, booksellers, publishers, authors, and everyone associated with the publishing industry to work together to foster a **Renaissance of Reading**.

THE RENAISSANCE OF READING

Consider the following:

- On average, new books cost between \$7.00 for a paperback to around \$25.00 for a hardback (non-discounted), and depending on reading speed, can provide many hours of entertainment over several days.
- A new Video Game typically costs anywhere between \$40.00 and \$60.00 each, and provides several hours of entertainment over several days (assuming the player doesn't get frustrated in the first hour and abandon it forever).
- It costs \$8.00 to see a movie at a theater (almost \$20 with popcorn and a soda); or \$15.00 to \$25.00 for a new DVD, providing approximately two hours of entertainment.
- Renting a movie or a video game costs \$3.00 - \$5.00 each.
- Checking a book out of a Library is Free.

Yet people continually complain that books are too expensive these days. More expensive than what? No, the truth is, books are one of the most economical forms of entertainment that exists. Books require no batteries or power cords. Books are 100% portable, and can withstand much more damage than any electronic device. Books don't have to be turned off during takeoff and landing. And the unfortunate loss of a book doesn't cause the same financial impact as losing a laptop, Gameboy, Palm Pilot, or PDA.

Money has *never* been the obstacle to reading. The lack of the *skill* of reading and an appreciation for the *joy* of reading have been the obstacles. And for the record, "The Joy of Reading" is hereby defined as:

That immeasurably pleasurable and satisfying sensation one experiences when the imagination is fully aroused and active, transporting our consciousness to exotic places and distant worlds, introducing us to fascinating and captivating characters, heroes and villains, intriguing us with intricate plots and breathless tales, amazing us with the vivid images of wonder and awe, laughter and tears, horror and triumph—a place where literally (pun intended) *anything* is possible. Synonym: Magic.

It is said that one of the fundamentals of the practice of "magic"—true magic of the mystical wizardry variety, not the prestidigitation of an illusionist—is for the magician to "envision" the spell, or desired change to the current physical reality, to focus his or her powers upon the image in their mind and thereby bring it across the threshold of imagination into reality.

With that "supernatural" concept in mind, where *did* you think good books came from? The stork? The Oracle of Delphi? Stone tablets on a mountain top? No, it really *is* magic. And if you don't believe in magic—the magic of true imagination—then you'll never have a love of books and reading. Walt Disney believed in the magic. It's no coincidence that his earliest and greatest films of all time open with a shot of an ornate storybook opening to tell a tale.

Unfortunately, the most formidable of the obstacles to the Renaissance of Reading is the "perception" (not reality) that "Reading isn't fun," or "Reading isn't cool." The erroneous conclusion of this mind-

set becomes, “Video Games and Movies are more fun and more cool.” But again, this lazy-minded perception is shaped by the reality of a fundamental lacking skill: reading.

Anything can be perceived as “more fun” if it is remotely pleasurable and entertaining, compared to doing something you are incompetent to do or have simply never done. One could say that going to the movies is more fun than waterskiing if someone has never learned to water ski, or tried and didn’t have much success getting the hang of it. However, waterskiing aficionados might want to debate that point. The fact is, the myopic logic of the ignorant and/or incompetent holds about as much water as a virgin telling you that playing a video game is better than sex. Quite a few adults would vigorously debate that one (after they stopped laughing). And all the truly masterful lovers would be swift to affirm that the greatest element of good sex is found not between the legs, but between the ears—once again, involving the stimulation of the imagination. Weren’t we just talking about that?

So what have we learned so far? Reading is one of the most economical forms of entertainment there is. It possesses an element of true magic. It shares the ability to stimulate the mind, the spirit, and the emotions (and even physically on occasion) as few other human experiences can. Therefore, the argument that reading isn’t fun not only lacks credibility, it is fundamentally an admission of weakness and inexperience. It is an admission of being a mere mortal and never discovering the Magic, never realizing the inherent powers of one’s own imagination which is capable of infinite possibilities.

One might ask, “But aren’t some people simply more *visually* oriented, and prefer movies, television, and video games to black and white printed text?” Well, few would question the credentials of great movie directors and producers like Stephen Spielberg, George Lucas, or the great Walt Disney himself as being masters of the visual arts. Yet every movie starts with a script, or a storyline treatment, an *idea* on a piece of paper, summoned by the magic of the author’s imagination that causes a producer or director to “see it” in their heads and then translate that vision into their films. If you recall, Spielberg’s first breakout blockbuster was *Jaws*, adapted from the bestselling novel by Peter Benchley. Mr. Spielberg undoubtedly reads novels for his own pleasure as well as professional gain in addition to making wonderful films.

Lest you misunderstand, these facts are not an indictment against the illiterate. Thankfully, illiteracy is a state of being that can be changed. Teachers have proven that mastering the basic craft of reading takes an investment of only about forty hours—not forty hours to learn a new language, but to learn to read one’s own mother tongue. The nice people at “Hooked on Phonics” have built a thriving business around this truth. Forty hours is one full work week, or a couple of hours a day for less than a month. It’s not an onerous price to pay for a lifetime of information, entertainment, enlightenment...and *magic*.

What *is* unforgivable are all those multitudes of individuals who refuse to invest the time to develop this skill and use it productively to improve their lives. Surely, that is a form of “sloth” that ranks among the Seven Deadly Sins. So indeed, the point is: reading is not only economical and fun, but one should rightfully be ashamed for not doing it regularly.

Admittedly, these facts do pose a frustrating dilemma. Those who don’t read, in all likelihood, will never be reading a paper like this, nor any other document intended to change their perspective. It’s akin to accidentally ingesting a deadly poison, but not being able to read the labels on the bottles to find the one containing the antidote. But even reading a document like this aloud to a “non-reader” wouldn’t make any difference. Information alone violates the premise of *caught vs. taught*. So, what

must we do to foster the Renaissance of Reading? We must do something both simple and yet profound—we must return reading and an appreciation for books back to its rightful place in our culture, not merely in word, but in deed.

THE TRANSFORMATION

Revolution starts at home, not in the town square. What place of honor do books have in your home? Do you have an office, study, or library? You should. What images come to mind when you think about the concept of a home library? Something like this picture?



There was a time in western culture where the library was one of the most sacrosanct rooms in a fine house. It was literally the “sanctuary” where one could find privacy and seclusion, surrounded by a wealth of accumulated knowledge and insight, inspiration and entertainment. It was intended to be a warm and secure place, where you could curl up with a good book and enjoy the magic, a place to learn and grow. It is no wonder why so many in our culture these days suffer from stunted growth in maturity and character—coincident with the period in life when regular reading was no longer a major part of it. An emphasis and priority to the home library is critically important. It is an important example to family members and visitors, as well as a *special* place for your relaxation and enjoyment of reading.

A Question of Priorities

One of the byproducts of our nation’s prosperity over the last twenty years has been a proliferation of affluence, with more and more families improving their quality of life, and in many instances enjoying luxuries once reserved only for the wealthiest of families. In Atlanta, GA, where this author lived for eight years, throughout the 1990’s thousands of homes were built (at the pace of clearing 50 acres of trees a day), known as “McMansions.” That is, they were 3,000 to 5,000 square feet or more homes, with five or more bedrooms, grand halls, palatial in every respect, but sitting on small suburban lots, not the multi-acre estates where such dwellings were typically found in generations past; and they were less expensive than modest-sized homes in most other major metropolitan markets. And in these homes the owners eagerly spent tens of thousands of dollars on gourmet kitchens, formal wine cellars, theater quality media rooms, resort caliber bars and billiard rooms, and the like. Yet few featured a room as beautiful as this (*left*):



There was no *economic* reason why this was so. It was purely a question of priorities.

What does a room like this say about the master of this home? Think about this question in a future tense. If more and more people took the time, money, and energy to turn one of the rooms of their home into a beautiful library, so much so that it became the norm to see a book-filled study or library rather than the exception, what unspoken message would that say about those who *didn't* have one? Might the motivation of “keeping up with the Joneses” be applied to the cultivation of reading?

What about the caliber of books you buy? Admittedly, there are economic considerations for many people, who only buy the least expensive books they can find, rummaging through the bins at the used bookstores, stretching every penny as far as it can go to enjoy the maximum number of books. That's understandable. But that isn't everyone. There are many people with more discretionary income available to them today than in previous generations, who wouldn't blink an eye at spending top-dollar on a new pair of shoes to hide in a closet, or who routinely rent countless videos/DVDs every week, but wouldn't think of spending an extra ten dollars to get a beautiful hardcover book for their library instead of a mass-market paperback. In libraries like the one previously pictured you don't find too many paperbacks. If you would spend an extra ten dollars on a bottle of wine to get a good one versus a mediocre one, on which both hold the exact same amount of wine, why wouldn't you make the investment to spend an extra five or ten dollars to fill your library or study with beautiful books made to last a lifetime, enjoyed by many?

Before the decline in literacy and onset of ambivalence toward books, grand libraries of great books that took generations to accumulate were the hallmark of the great leaders and leading thinkers of western civilization. If you visit some of the famous historical homes of the founding fathers of this nation, guess what you find? Libraries. A full library with well-stocked shelves should be a testament to a long and happy life, graced with the wealth of accumulated knowledge and enlightenment. Only the most vain among us would fill a personal library in a single day “just for looks” for fear of having empty shelves be seen. Conversely a full library overflowing with books lovingly purchased and cherished over a lifetime is a personal treasure worth having.



Frankly, if economics prohibit you from purchasing fine books on a regular basis, then realize that this is what Public Libraries are there for. If you are pinching every last penny to make ends meet, then you shouldn't be spending any money on any leisure or entertainment activity that you can enjoy for free. If you're going to the beach or traveling on a plane and looking for a pastime, a juicy paperback is just the ticket. They're cheaply made, easily disposable. But additions to your home library? What's your priority? What is your message to your family and to guests in your home?

SHARE THE MAGIC

One of the most effective things you can do to stimulate interest in books is to talk about them. Talking about reading for reading sake has a limited audience of interest. But if you are sitting in the living room enjoying a good book and a family member hears you laugh out loud, or say, “Oh, my,” in a tone of great shock, you get raised eyebrows and an urgent inquiry of curiosity. “What?” So take

a moment to talk about the good parts. “Oh, you wouldn’t believe this part. I was so scared, I could barely turn the pages.” People perk up when they perceive others to be having a good time (that they are missing out on), or something very impressive happens—anything that makes a profound personal impact. One thing is very clear: you can’t do it alone. And that’s where the **Renaissance of Reading** revolution comes in. Are you willing to take a leadership role in helping foster the **Renaissance of Reading**? If so, and you want to be an active part of the revolution, here’s a list of practical recommendations:

- Give books a more **prominent place of honor** in your home. This can be as simple as buying or building a new bookcase, or as extravagant as a library that would make a French king blush, or anywhere in between.
- **Be seen Reading in front of your family** and in public as much as possible. Be an example, and be obvious and verbose about your enjoyment.
- If you are a **Parent**:
 - —of pre-school age children, **read to your children every night** before bedtime.
 - **Limit** your children’s television and video game time. You don’t have to arbitrarily forbid such activity. In fact if you do, they’ll only want the forbidden fruit that much more. **Find a balance.**
 - If your children are of reading age, **insist upon a daily reading time.** In the early Elementary Grade years, have them read their books to you out loud so you can help correct their pronunciation of new words and explain words they don’t understand.
 - **Buy your children books, continually!** Take them on regular visits to the bookstore, and make the experience of book buying as exciting an adventure as going to the toy store. And teach them early in life to be proud of their own library on the bookshelf in their room.
 - Encourage your children to **order books** from the Scholastic Book Program (or equivalent) at their school, or encourage them to pick out new books online from Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.
 - Don’t be afraid to gradually **challenge your child’s reading level** with more complex books. No pain, no gain.
 - Read some of the same books as your children and take time to **talk about them.**
 - **Don’t differentiate books by when they were written.** Contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of books aren’t dated periodicals. A great story will always be a great story. When your child is able to read at a reasonably mature level, start sprinkling in a few classics here and there: *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*, anything by Dickens, Sherlock Holmes mysteries, Jules Verne, Edgar Allan Poe, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ray Bradbury, etc. Most people over 40 can remember growing up with Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, Zane Gray, Laura Ingles’ *Little House on the Prairie* series, et al. Your children still can, too. You might be surprised what you find in an old box up in the attic or down in the basement. Amazing treasures can also be found at a good yard sale—for pennies!



- Commit to your own **Daily Reading Time**, whether it be in the morning, after dinner, before bed, whatever fits your schedule. Remember all the times you've said, "I can't believe it. We've got over 200 channels and there still isn't anything on!" Well, that device has an off-button for a reason. Use it.
- Commit to a personal **Reading Goal** of a specific number of books per month, even if that number is only one.
- **Challenge yourself** every six months to increase your reading goal.
- **Donate Books to your Local Public Library.** We suggest, if you have the financial means to do so, when you're at the bookstore picking up a few new ones, grab an extra book to donate to the library. You can also make a donation from books found in used bookstores, as long as they are in good shape.
- **Support Your Local Bookstores.** Especially support the smaller "mom and pop" independent bookstore owners. Many such stores are facing closing their doors due to the competitive pressures of the mega-chains. Help them not only to survive, but to flourish.
- **Give New Authors a Chance.** Deliberately vary your reading habits away from the well-worn path. Reading bestsellers is fine. But the only thing that typically separates most bestsellers from wonderful new books is the lemming attitude of book buyers to only buy authors they've heard of or read in the past. Spread the wealth!
- **Read as much if not more Fiction than you do Non-Fiction.** Fiction is the realm of storytellers. Enjoying good stories on a regular basis enriches your own journey of life.
- **Own a good Dictionary**, work to add to your vocabulary as often as possible.
- **Nudge your friends and acquaintances.** As friendly and chipper as asking "How 'ya doin'," ask questions like:
 - So what books are you reading right now?
 - Who's your favorite author? Really why?
 - What's your favorite bookstore?
 - Hey, have you read <insert title> yet? (with a look of expectation on your face)
- If you have the available time, **volunteer** at your local elementary school or community center to help tutor children or adults in reading.
- **Attend book events:** book fairs, book conventions, Genre based conventions (Mystery, Sci-Fi, Romance, etc.) and support your favorite authors. Use the occasions to start your collection of "autographed copies" of your favorite titles.
- Remember to **put new Books on your Holiday shopping list**, both for giving and receiving.
- **Email a copy of this article to everyone you know, and encourage them to do the same.**

JOIN THE FIGHT

Martin Luther, father of the Protestant Reformation, pulled back the 1,000 year veil of the millennium known as the Dark Ages, and not only revolutionized a religion, his courageous deeds also helped serve as the catalyst to usher in the Renaissance era of Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Mozart, Beethoven, and all the great Masters of the period.

Funnily enough, the Martin Luther (catalyst) of the **Renaissance of Reading** may turn out to be a precocious fictional boy, a wizard in training, by the name of Harry Potter. Harry has not only used his magic to make his creator, Ms. Rowling, a billionaire more wealthy than her Queen, but caused millions of children as well as adults to fall in love with reading again.

We at ArcheBooks Publishing therefore warmly invite you to join with us in the good fight, to rekindle your love for the magic of books, if you ever lost it. Unshackle your imagination once more and look into new worlds, visit them, explore them, and report back to the rest of us what you find.

Start today. Treat yourself to something special: Go buy a new book!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Gelinas is the founder, Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of ArcheBooks Publishing Incorporated, (www.archebooks.com), as well as the author of many novels. He is a frequent public speaker and teaches and lectures on writing and publishing.

For more articles and by Mr. Gelinas, please visit www.archebooks.com/AuthCor/AuthCorn.htm for ArcheBooks' "Author's Corner" of writer's resources.