



# The big debate

## Should you read a book more than once?

Some people return to old favorites, while others want to dive into something new.

### What you need to know

- In a recent study conducted by Scholastic, nine out of 10 kids said their favorite books are the ones they picked out themselves.
- The study also found that kids who choose their own books read more.
- Experts say rereading books helps kids become better, faster readers and helps comprehension.
- On the popular site Goodreads, where people keep track of the books they have read, millions of people said they have reread their favorites.



**WOW!**  
One publishing database estimates that there are 158,464,880 books in the world, with about 2.2 million new ones published each year.

So many books are published every year that even the most dedicated reader would never be able to get through them all. Yet many people like to return to books they've already read. "Books are like people," said Jane Brown, a retired literature professor at the University of Washington. "Some you meet once and that's enough. Some you want to get to know better, and whenever you are with them you discover more about them. Some are old friends you haven't seen in years but to meet them again is a joy." Still, many people think their time is better spent discovering a new story. What do you think? Should you read a book more than once?

### Yes—the experience changes

People listen to songs and watch movies over and over, so why not read books again? Every time you read a book, you notice new details and interpret things differently than you did the last time, especially as you get older. Reading something at age 10 is different from reading it at age 15. And many people struggle to find books that interest them. It's better for them to reread the same book than to give up on reading entirely. Book lovers say that rereading favorite books can bring comfort and happiness, like hanging out with a best friend. If you enjoy a book, it doesn't matter if you're reading it for the first time or the fifth.

### No—the world is full of new books

Why read a book you've already read when there are so many more to discover? Books aren't like films or songs. They take a while to read, and that time would be better spent reading something new. Think of all the stories people miss out on each time they reread an old book. And if you only read the same stories again and again, you won't progress as a reader. Rather than rereading something, why not give your copy to someone so they can enjoy it for the first time? Then you can discuss it afterward and see what they thought. You might think about the book differently after hearing a fresh opinion.

### YES Three reasons why you should read a book more than once

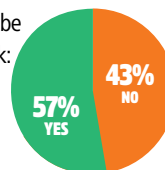
- 1 People notice new details and themes every time they read a book again, which only makes it better and more interesting.
- 2 It's better for people to reread something they're interested in than not to read at all.
- 3 Rereading a book you love is comforting and fun and makes you feel happy. If you enjoy it, there's no reason not to read it.

### NO Three reasons why you should not read a book more than once

- 1 Reading a book isn't quick. Why waste time on something you've already read?
- 2 If you keep reading the same book, you won't hear new and different stories or make progress as a reader.
- 3 If you share your copy of a favorite book with someone, they can experience it too—and you can talk about it together.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if parks should be closed at night. More than half of you think it's best for park gates to be shut after dark: 57% of you said yes, and 43% said no.



### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think you should read a book more than once or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.