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## 5 Books to Read over Winter Break

For most college students, reading can begin to seem like a chore. You spend so much time reading textbooks, articles for source documentation – even your own term papers as you proofread and edit – that reading for pleasure may seem like a distant memory.

But reading for pleasure can be a great academic workout. Like any workout, it won't always be pleasant, but it will be rewarding. By expanding your reading selections and reading more often, you can widen your vocabulary, expand your worldview, and make yourself a better writer. Exposure to various writing styles can provide new models for your own academic writing and helps to engrain grammar and punctuation rules so they become second nature to you.

Depending on the type of books you choose to read, you can also deepen your knowledge of a particular topic that's of interest to you. Or you can just read for the fun of it. If you're looking for suggestions, here are just a few of the top titles of 2018 courtesy of [GoodReads](#), covering a variety of genres.

1. *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles tells the fictional story of a Russian count under house arrest in a Moscow hotel for writing a poem objectionable to the Bolsheviks. Full of adventures, love affairs, and silly twists of fate.
2. *The Clockmaker's Daughter* is the latest work of historical fiction by Kate Morton, author of *The Lake House*. It's the story of a love affair and a mysterious murder that cast their shadow across generations, set in England from the 1860s until the present day. A great snuggle-under-the-covers read.
3. *The Outsider* by Stephen King combines the best of a police procedural and King's signature genre: horror. What could be more entertaining than the latest from the master of horror novels himself?



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4. *Circe* by Madeline Miller offers a contemporary retelling of the insignificant nymph who grew to become the formidable witch who turned Odysseus' sailors into swine. The novel crosses paths with characters from Greek mythology from the Minotaur to Daedalus.
  
5. *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Works of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King is the biography of the Presbyterian minister who became a television fixture for a generation of children. An optimistic and uplifting source based on interviews and Rogers' well-documented career.

Of course, no one is suggesting you read all five recommendations. Just one is plenty. Do some research and find another title that interests you. See if a favorite author has a new book out. Or just wander through the library or bookstore to see which cover appeals to you.

No matter what you choose to read during your winter break, just make sure it's something that entertains and engages you. It doesn't have to be academic – in fact, it's probably better if it's not – it just has to be something you *want* to read. So, take a break from school and let your mind wander a bit with anything from science fiction to non-fiction. Just pick up a book, turn those pages, and let your imagination take flight!