

The 10 Inalienable Rights of the Reader

by Daniel Pennac

1. The right not to read
2. The right to skip
3. The right not to finish a book
4. The right to re-read
5. The right to read anything
6. The right to escapism for escapism's sake
7. The right to read anywhere
8. The right to dip in and browse
9. The right to read out loud
10. The right to be silent—to not have to defend your tastes

Here are 10 additional inalienable rights for readers:

1. The Right to Mark: You have the right to contribute marginalia and doodles (as long as you own the book)
2. The Right to be Wishy-Washy: You have the right to be capricious, serendipitous, or whimsical in your reading
3. The Right of Stacks: You have the right to read multiple things at one time and create whatever stacks work for you
4. The Right of Media: You have the right not to discriminate between paper and electronic books.
5. The Right of Choice: You have the right to choose your own books and not be compelled by the best intentions (gifts) of others
6. The Right of Security Blankets: the right to have a book with you at all times
7. The Right to Not Justify: the right not to have read all the books in my library nor does this need justification
8. The Right to List: The right to have a list of more books-to-read than an average human lifespan would allow
9. The Right to Have a Favorite Child: The right to love one genre of book more than another (the right to read things you enjoy)
10. The Right to Masochistic Reading: The right to read challenging hard books even if you do not enjoy them

The Rights of the Reader

by Daniel Pennac
illustrated by Quentin Blake



1 The right not to read.



2 The right to skip.



3 The right not to finish a book.



4 The right to read it again.



5 The right to read anything.



6 The right to mistake a book for real life.



7 The right to read anywhere.



8 The right to dip in.



9 The right to read out loud.



10 The right to be quiet.

10 rights — 1 warning
Don't make fun of people
who don't read —
or they never will.

