

YouGov Survey: Reading Books



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted July 19 - 22, 2022
Margin of Error ±3.3%

1. When you were growing up, did you read any books?

Yes	89%
No	8%
Not sure	3%

2. When you were growing up, which of the following genres of books did you read? Select all that apply.

Short stories	39%
Historical fiction	30%
Literary fiction	29%
History	39%
Thrillers	26%
Fantasy	36%
Romance	21%
Mystery and crime	40%
Science fiction	36%
Religion and spirituality	19%
Crafts, hobbies, and home	16%
Graphic novels	14%
Poetry	21%
Young Adult	35%
Academic	24%
Drama	23%
Biographies and memoirs	28%
Other non-fiction	20%
Other fiction	19%
None of the above	3%
I didn't read any books growing up	8%

3. When you were growing up, which of the following genres of books did you read MOST often?

Asked of people who read books when growing up and liked at least one genre

Short stories	7%
Historical fiction	5%
Literary fiction	5%
History	8%
Thrillers	5%
Fantasy	8%
Romance	4%
Mystery and crime	10%
Science fiction	10%

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Religion and spirituality	4%
Crafts, hobbies, and home	2%
Graphic novels	2%
Poetry	2%
Young Adult	12%
Academic	4%
Drama	2%
Biographies and memoirs	4%
Other non-fiction	4%
Other fiction	3%

4. During the past 12 months, about how many books did you read either all or part of the way through? Please include any print, electronic, or audiobooks you may have read or listened to.

None	22%
1 book	10%
2 - 3 books	24%
4 - 5 books	12%
6 - 10 books	8%
11 - 20 books	7%
More than 20 books	12%
Not sure	4%

5. Currently, which of the following genres of books do you read? Select all that apply.

Short stories	15%
Historical fiction	19%
Literary fiction	16%
History	27%
Thrillers	20%
Fantasy	16%
Romance	14%
Mystery and crime	28%
Science fiction	18%
Religion and spirituality	20%
Crafts, hobbies, and home	11%
Graphic novels	8%
Poetry	7%
Young Adult	10%
Academic	11%
Drama	16%
Biographies and memoirs	22%
Other non-fiction	17%
Other fiction	11%
None of the above	3%
I haven't read a book in the past year	23%

6. Currently, which of the following genres of books do you read MOST often?

Asked of people who currently read books and like at least one genre

Short stories	2%
Historical fiction	4%
Literary fiction	3%
History	10%
Thrillers	6%
Fantasy	6%
Romance	5%
Mystery and crime	14%
Science fiction	5%
Religion and spirituality	13%
Crafts, hobbies, and home	4%
Graphic novels	2%
Poetry	2%
Young Adult	4%
Academic	3%
Drama	3%
Biographies and memoirs	6%
Other non-fiction	6%
Other fiction	2%

7. When you start reading a book, how often do you finish it?

Asked of people who have read a book in the past 12 months or are unsure if they have

Always	33%
Most of the time	42%
About half the time	10%
Sometimes	11%
Never	1%
I don't read books	3%

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Interviewing Dates	July 19 - 22, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2020 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.239 to 3.236, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.356.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	54 questions not reported.