

RESOURCES PALETTE

SUGGESTED READINGS BY READERS

- **Siddhartha by Herman Hesse**

In *Siddhartha*, *Herman Hesse* offers a gentle companionship— one that slowly leads towards something that cannot be named. The book revolves around the story of a man who breaks away from the bounds of traditionally structured wisdom, in search of peace— one that must fill his soul. He then finds himself emerging from a religiously inclined family into a life, not devoid of materialism, and finally leading up to a gentle question that stirs something within you. The journey isn't linear, it's spiral, more so recursive. *Siddhartha*, doesn't offer you answers but perhaps a quiet contemplation— something that will sit with you, long after the book is gone.

- **The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka**

In *The Metamorphosis*, *Kafka* touches on a man's encounter with sudden and unexpected meaninglessness. This novella strips one off the comfort of understanding, offering instead a stark portrayal of alienation, the collapse of identity, and the quiet violence of being unneeded. On a seemingly simple and normal day, the protagonist wakes up to find himself being transformed into an insect. The story then revolves around the subsequent erasure of one's identity and forces one to focus on the fragility of the self. It sneaks up, slowly asking— what remains of a person when all external affirmations—work, recognition, speech—are lost?

- **The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

The Little Prince by *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry* is a beautifully penned fable which questions the necessities of life and how one, in the process of growing up and in taking care of 'matters of consequences', forgets to be oneself. It offers a deep philosophical meditation on love, loss, perception, and the quiet tragedy of growing up. And quietly conveys that to see clearly, one might sometimes need to unlearn.

- **A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman**

In this novel, *Backman* offers a second-person experience of the slow and reluctant opening of the human heart— of how grief and sorrow are many times covered in anger. The novel revolves around an old, grumpy man named Ove who refuses to let anybody into his life, despite the grief and pain. The people around him however, do not offer him a grand, symbolic gesture and sense of belonging—ness, they simply arrive and stay. The novel quietly touches on the edges of meaning and belonging and affirms that healing and revelation often come not through ideas, but through presence, constancy, and the strange grace of being seen exactly as we are.

- **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**

This novel by *Mark Haddon* offers a view into the life of a 15 year old boy, amidst some unusual circumstances. The boy inclines towards thinking logically, structurally and with mathematical clarity. The novel lets one see through a lens, not so common— one that is unusual however, more gentle and tender in its view. The book describes raw emotions without the human-ly need to over-explain. The book offers a beautiful and moving reminder that there are many ways to map the world, and that even the most rigid forms of logic can lead us to something deeply human.

- **Letters to a Young Mathematician** by **Ian Stewart**

Letters to a Young Mathematician by *Stewart* is a quiet, generous companion for anyone standing at the threshold of mathematics—not just as a subject, but as a life. Stewart does not romanticize mathematics—he offers it as a serious, demanding, and deeply rewarding pursuit, one that asks not only for skill but for a certain disposition: patience, curiosity, and the ability to sit with abstraction long enough for beauty to reveal itself, and it's demand of humility, attention, and the courage to keep asking.

- **A Mathematician's Apology** by **G.H. Hardy**

Hardy wrote this book when he felt his creative powers fading. The book carries the quiet ache of someone looking back, trying to make sense of a life devoted to abstraction. Hardy does not argue for the utility of mathematics—he dismisses that entirely. Instead, he insists on its aesthetic value, placing it alongside poetry and art, claiming that a good theorem, like a good poem, must be beautiful. What emerges is a portrait of mathematics as a deeply human activity—not despite its detachment from the world, but because of it. In its refusal to justify itself through usefulness, Hardy's mathematics becomes something closer to a spiritual practice. The book illuminates a path rarely seen—one where meaning lies not in what we do for the world, but in the act of doing something well, simply because it is beautiful.

WEB RESOURCES

- Perimeter Institute Recorded Seminar Archive on Mathematics and Physics
<https://pirsa.org/>
- The Grothendieck Circle
<https://www.grothendieckcircle.org/>
- All I really need to know... by David P. Stern
<https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/1.2808904>
- A Physics Booklist maintained by John Baez
<https://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/physics/Administrivia/booklist.html>

- Collected Lectures and Talks in Biology
<https://www.ibiology.org/>
- Archive for The Whole Earth Publications
<https://wholeearth.info/>
- Music Archive by Rajan Parrikar
<https://www.parrikar.org/>
- Spic Macay Archive
<https://www.spicmacay.org/>
- Youtube Archive maintained by Carsten Wicke on Rudraveena and recordings
<https://www.youtube.com/@RudraVeena>
- The Bridges Archive
<https://archive.bridgesmathart.org/>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND PROGRAMS

- Upcoming conferences in algebraic geometry maintained by Ravi Vakil
<https://virtualmath1.stanford.edu/vakil/conferences.html>
- **ST4** (July 14, 2025 - July 26, 2025) at IISER, Bhopal;
Talks given by students intended for students in the area of theoretical physics.
<https://st4physics.wixsite.com/2025>
- **Les Houches Summer School 2025: Exact Solvability and Quantum Information** (Aug 04, 2025 - Aug 29, 2025) at Les Houches, France.
<https://www.lptms.universite-paris-saclay.fr/leshouches2025/>
- **Conference in Memory of Yuri Manin** (Aug 11, 2025 - Aug 15, 2025) at Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Bonn.
<https://www.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/maninmemorial>
- **Geometry and Analysis of Minimal Surfaces** (Aug 18, 2025 - Aug 29, 2025) at ICTS, Bangalore.
<https://www.icts.res.in/program/GAMS>
- **Gravity, Geometry, and Operator Algebras** (Sept 01, 2025 - Sept 05, 2025) at SIMIS, China.
<https://www.simis.cn/gravity-geometry-and-operator-algebras/>
- **QFT at the crossroads between Mathematics and Physics** (Sept 15, 2025 - Sept 17, 2025) at ICTS, Bangalore.
<https://www.icts.res.in/program/GAMS>

- **Millennium Prize Problems Lecture Series** (Sept 17 2025 - Apr 15 2026) at Harvard Science Center, Harvard University.
<https://cmsa.fas.harvard.edu/millennium/>
- **Operator Algebras and Mathematical Physics** (Sep 20 2025 - Oct 03 2025) at ICMS, Edinburgh.
<https://icms.ac.uk/activities/workshop/oamp/>
- **100 Years of Quantum: Perspectives on its Past, Present, and Future** (Oct 20, 2025, Oct 24, 2025) at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.
<https://events.perimeterinstitute.ca/event/1013/>
- **New Structures and Techniques in p-adic Geometry** (Oct 27, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025) at IHES, France.
<https://indico.math.cnrs.fr/event/14073/>
- **Holomorphic-topological field theories and representation theory** (Nov 03, 2025 - Nov 07, 2025) at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.
<https://events.perimeterinstitute.ca/event/1013/>
- **Millennium Prize Problems Lecture Series** (Sept 17 2025 - Apr 15 2026) at Harvard Science Center, Harvard University.
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