

The Hour Is Upon Us

This is your moment!
We all have one moment in time to do
good with, or to do ill with:
that is all.

You must be careful when you are dealing with God. Cheating God is not like cheating man. When you deal with man there may or may not be consequences to your actions, bargains or deceit but with God there are consequences. Anytime you say to God 'will you do so and so for me' you are striking a bargain you are negotiating a deal. Because implied in your request you tacitly agree to do x, y and z. The deception occurs when you fail to follow through because all of God's promises imply a condition before and after the promise. God is not easily put aside and He will not allow you to forget Him. So before you call upon God to help you solve your problems and to make life easier for you consider the consequence. You may get more than you bargained for. You may find that the God you called upon is truly God, that He is not an invention used by man when there is no hope in sight.

We thank you for attending our discussion.

We realize giving up a Saturday just to hear someone talk is a great sacrifice. So we thank you.

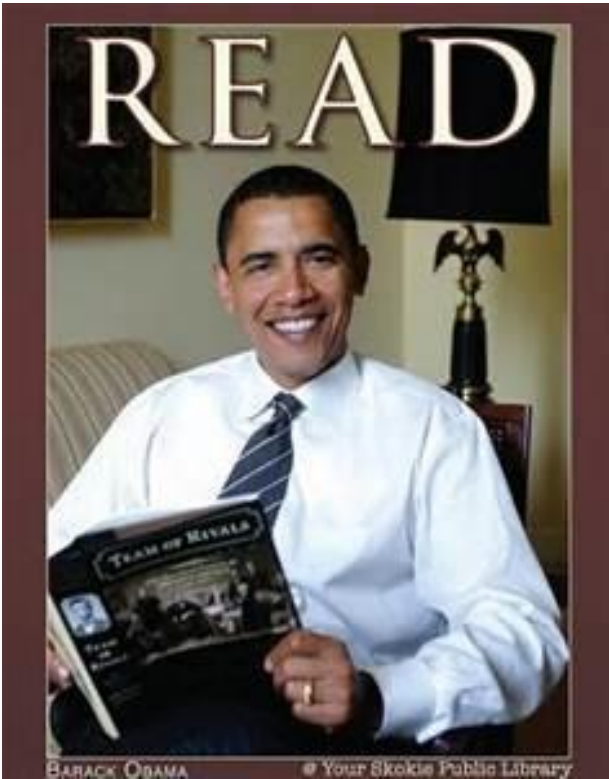
We have one goal today and that is to get your help in our quest to teach **men** in prison to read in order to improve their thinking and problem solving skills and to help them further release their creativity in defining their reality. To demonstrate the importance of reading and how reading can shape a man or woman's life we present information regarding the President of the United States Barack Hussein Obama II.

We have prayed that you will not only see the value of ministering to men in prison through reading but will also be persuaded to help.

Matthew 9:36-38 We, like Paul, need to have the compassion of Christ for those who are lost. God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **1 Timothy.2:3-4** The man who is really saved he will have a concern and desire and burden for the salvation of others. He will see others as lost men and women who desperately need Christ. He will share in the desire God to turn men around.

Matthew 25:31-40 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory.....He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me

This man held the Republican House and Senate off for eight years. They kicked him, they beat him, they delayed him, they insulted him, they scoffed at him, they laughed at him yet he persevered. Why, because he could read.



He went to books for knowledge. He went to books for entertainment. He went to books for growth. He went to books for information.

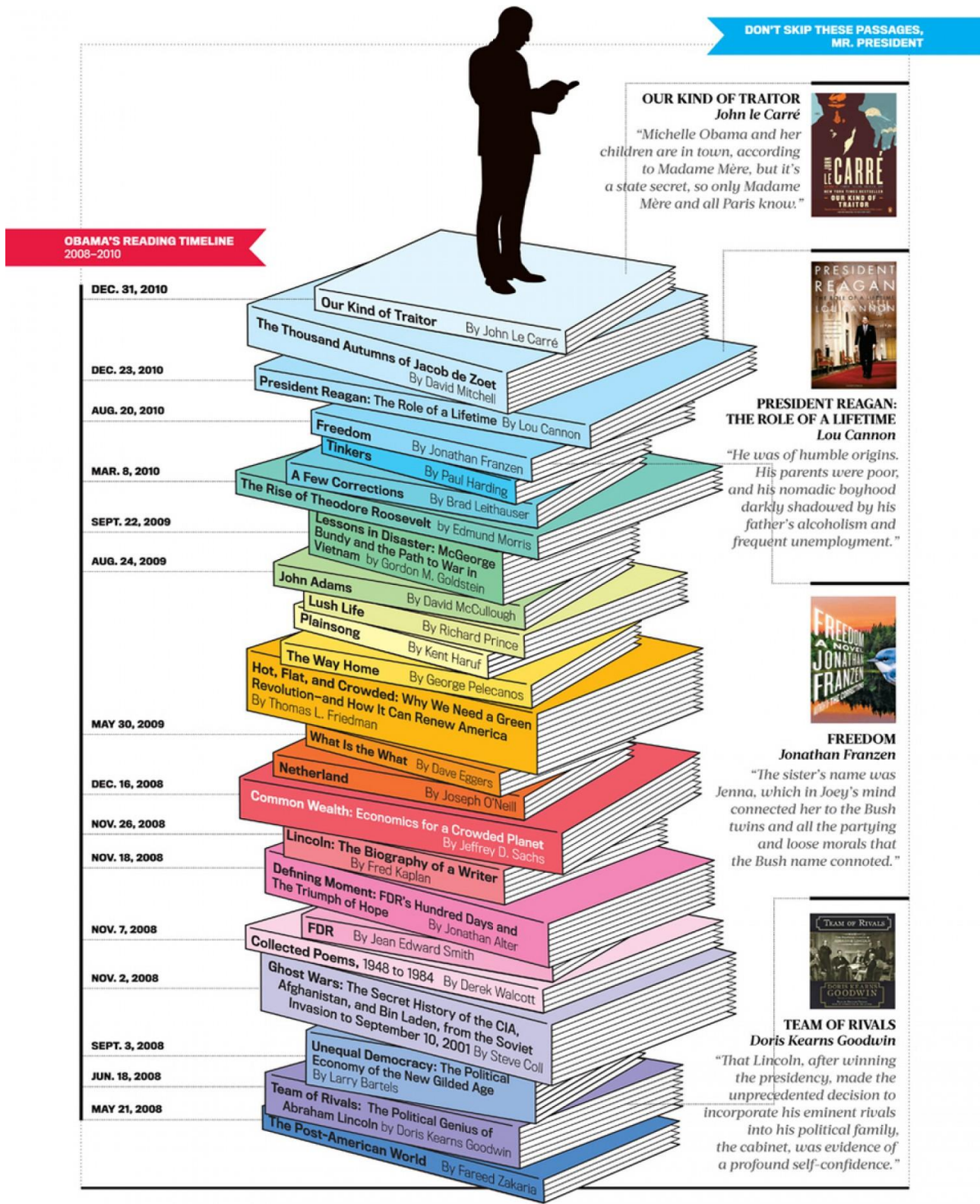


When a man reads every day he is preparing himself for the future. He will not be left behind when technology changes. A man that reads does not rely upon gossip for information he knows how to find the information he needs to make the critical decisions in his life. He will not be led into making violent decisions. The problem with some men is they don't believe

they can change their lives so they stop trying. They become resigned. Life will never change for them. They start drinking so they can endure their job their wife and their children. They attribute their life to luck. They tell themselves I never got a lucky break like other men. Not knowing all one has to do is to pick up a book and believe in oneself. Life is not luck. Life is looking at circumstances and asking what has God sent

me to help me change? Life consist of asking oneself what can I create to solve a problem that will improve my finances and how can I change myself for the better.

<http://visual.ly/obamas-reading-timeline>



He beat back the Republicans after they insulted his wife and called his



children names.

In Washington they named an outhouse after him. He beat back the Republicans when they called him a liar. SCJ insulted him because he was reading fiction books on Air Force

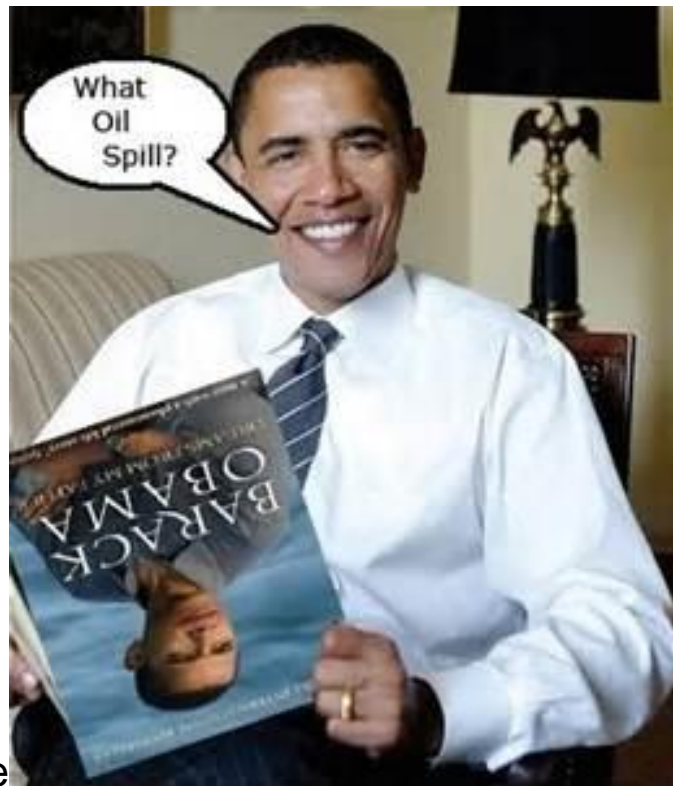


One. They said serious men do not waste their time with fiction books.



This man is a fierce reader. If you want to change your life, start reading. Why wait until you are dying to wish you had done more with your life. Pick up a book and learn how to become the

man you want to be. It is never too late to shape your destiny. All you need to do is believe and develop hope in your spirit. Marriages are saved with hope.



He read to his wife





He reads to children



The Republicans began plotting against him as soon as he took office.

They were sitting hunch together detailing what they were going to do to Obama. They failed because he was able to outwit them because he could read. The books

he read during his lifetime gave him the knowledge to avoid their traps. Reading must become a priority of your family. We are failing because we do not appreciate the benefits of reading. Reading can spark your imagination and lead you to an invention that can give you enough money to change your life and the lives of your children forever. Start a reading campaign and watch the changes that will take place in your life. When you start reading you will stop grimacing when you get off from work. You will begin to smile believing you are charting a new future. Hope is life and hope comes from reading.



This man is smiling because he is confident. He is confident because he is knowledgeable. He is knowledgeable because he can read. Once you learn to read no one can take that knowledge from you. Look at the self-control this man displayed. He learned this behavior through reading about the lives and experiences of men before him. He knew Congress and the press was baiting him waiting to pounce on his every word. His self-control defeated their purpose, even when they said his wife looked like a gorilla.





Reading is everything. If you cannot read you are forever lost, lost to your children lost to the world lost to yourself. You cannot take a driver's test, fill out an application for employment, get a library card, read a menu to wait tables. This man aspired to be president of the most powerful nation in the world. He succeed because he could read competently where he not only understood what he was reading he could take that information and develop into constructive thought to problem solve



The republican has done everything to this man except watch him go to the bathroom

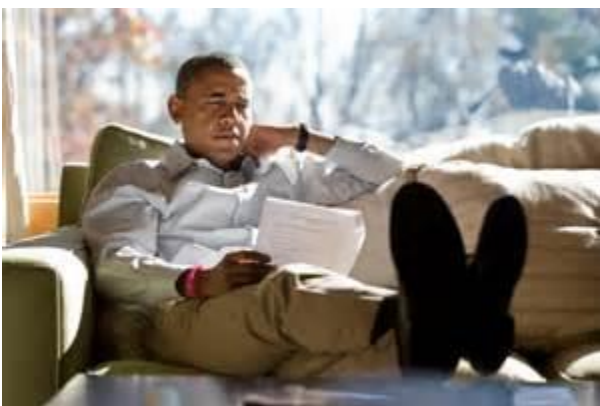
Yet he has persevered. When he gives a briefing everyone always remarks about his demeanor. They say he is always cool. He is slow to speak and when he speaks it is deliberated and controlled. How do you think this man developed this technique? He did it through reading. If you asked president Obama how many books have you read during your lifetime? He will look at you and smile and say thousands and thousands of books. No man gets anywhere in life and maintains his lifestyle without reading taking in new information daily. President Obama attended a dinner when Seal Team 6 captured Osama Bin Laden. All during the dinner he knew his presidency was on the line if that mission failed yet he maintained his composure and did not share his anxiety with anyone. The country was aghast when they learned President Obama held his tongue until he announced the success of that mission. Where did he learn this behavior? He learned this behavior through reading. He read books about the trials of other men. He read how they coped with their doubts, their fear of failure and how they fought depression. No man escapes the pains of depression. Men such as Winston Churchill, Teddy Roosevelt, General Patton and General McArthur are examples of men heavily burdened but were required to carry on for the sake of their nation. This is why we are asking you to join us in The Wall Project to teach men in prison to read. It will change their lives.



If you want to be an example for your son to follow do as this man did read. Stop counting yourself out. Pick up a book and start reading.



There will be books written about President Barack Obama for years to come. Most books will be flattering and as time goes on his brilliance as a statesman will be studied and popularized. **Nothing is more noteworthy than when you enemies remember you.**



This is the man that saved thousands of lives by providing health care to the poor. **Advocacy group: 26,000 die prematurely without health insurance.** For his trouble they named an outhouse after him. This is what ignorance does to the man who

cannot read. A man who does not read has no emotional control. He lives by assumptions all his life. He is easily led into conspiracies



Washington State and the

Nebraska Outhouses



The final insult the speaker of the house deliberately went to sleep as the president addressed Congress. The presidential address was televised all over world.



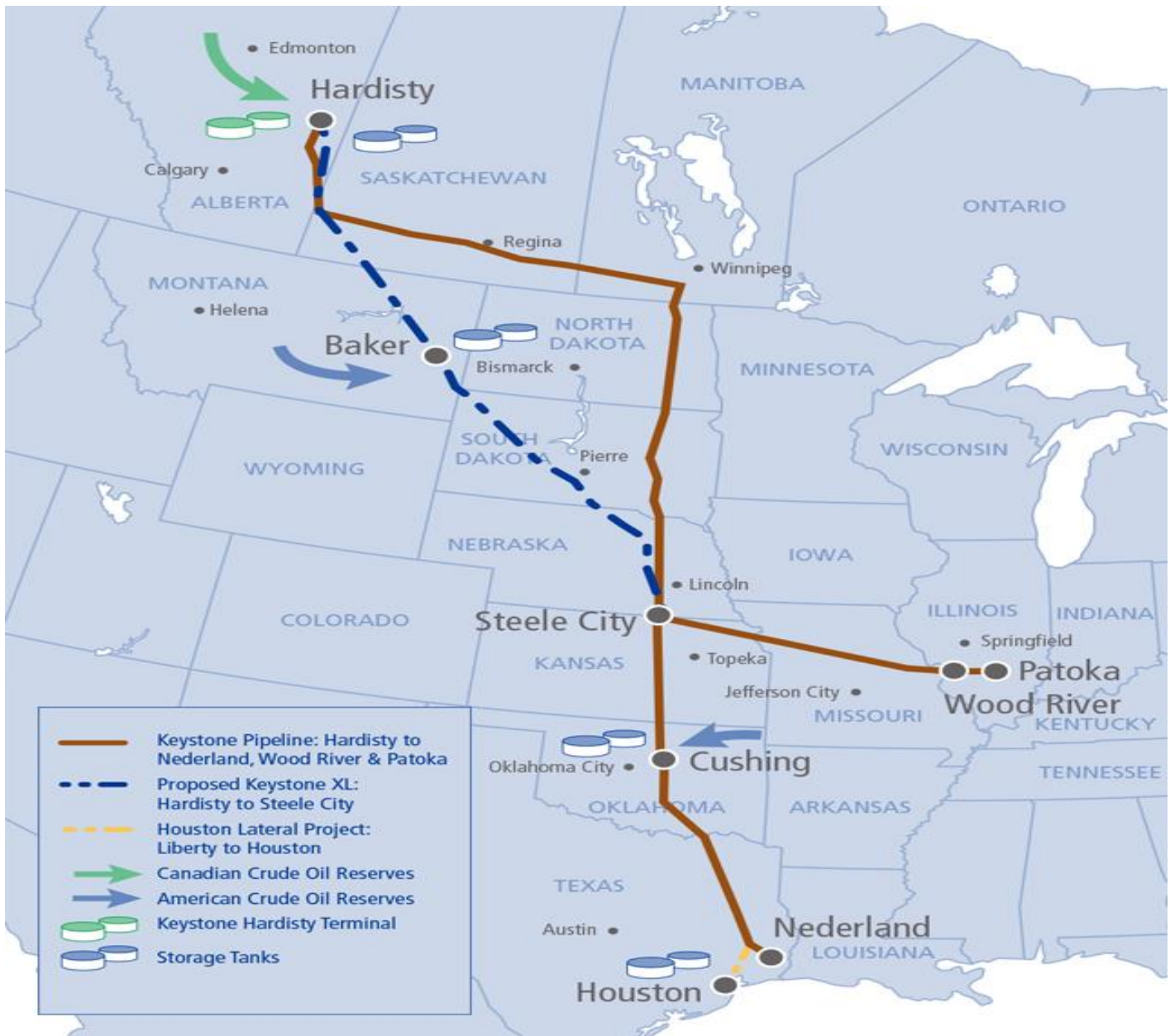
The greatest characteristic of Barack Obama's presidency will be he never allowed his opponents to make him desperate. Regardless of all the insults and the baiting he never exhibited desperation. While under fire at the podium he remained confident and spoke deliberate and with control. Not once in eight years did he fumble or stutter. This behavior took practice and determination fueled by intelligence derived from reading.

Keystone XL Pipeline —

Overall route map

The Keystone XL Pipeline is a proposed 1,179 mile (1,897 km), 36-inch-diameter crude oil pipeline which begins in Hardisty, Alta., and travels south through to Steele City, Neb. This pipeline goes through many different states and provinces on its route south, including: Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada, and then Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska in the United States. Along with transporting crude oil from Canada, the Keystone XL Pipeline will transport oil from producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Montana and North Dakota.

In January, 2013, [Governor Dave Heineman approved an alternative route \(PDF, 620 KB\)](#), for the Keystone XL Pipeline in Nebraska. The new route was created to minimize disturbance of land, water resources and special areas in the state.



[Download the Keystone Pipeline System map, including the Keystone XL route \(PDF, 2.3 MB\)](#)

- See more at: <http://keystone-xl.com/keystone-xl-pipeline-overall-route-map/#sthash.7x8hDo5u.dpuf>

President Obama was criticized for his opposition to the pipeline yet read the following articles published in 2016 of the oil spills. President Obama was able to fight this battle because he could read and gained knowledge through reading.

Keystone Leak Worse Than Thought

The rupture, which went undetected by pipeline owner TransCanada, has spilled roughly 17,000 gallons of oil in South Dakota. By [Alan Neuhauser](#) | Staff Writer April 8, 2016, at 9:50 a.m.



Signs mark the Keystone pumping station in Steele City, Neb. Nati Harnik/AP

A leak in the Keystone pipeline is worse than first believed, spilling much more oil than first reported. Nearly 17,000 gallons of oil has leaked in South Dakota since Saturday, pipeline owner TransCanada says – up from the 187 gallons the company [initially reported to federal authorities](#). TransCanada has "yet to pinpoint the source," the company [told CNN Money](#), but it maintains the leak has been "controlled," and a section of the pipeline was shut down after the spill was discovered

The leak was not reported by the Keystone pipeline's [spill detection system](#), but instead was discovered by a passerby, [according](#) to Chris Nelson, chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Keystone, which runs about 2,150 miles from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to refineries in the U.S. Midwest, is less than a decade old. After being commissioned in 2010, it [reportedly recorded](#) 35 leaks in its first year alone, including a spill of 21,000 gallons of oil in North Dakota. Nonetheless, TransCanada maintained that a planned \$5.4 billion addition to the pipeline network, [Keystone XL](#), would "set the gold standard for a safe and reliable 21st century pipeline," as it described in a statement in

January 2015.

[President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL project in November](#), citing concerns about climate change. The company is now seeking to build the Energy East pipeline, a 2,800-mile project which would carry 1.1 million barrels of crude per day to refineries in eastern Canada. The company also [sued the Obama administration in January](#), arguing it overstepped its constitutional authority in blocking Keystone XL.

Keystone I Leak Raises More Doubts About Pipeline Safety

A leak and shutdown in South Dakota comes as TransCanada seeks to build another large, cross-country pipeline touting its leak detection technology.



By [Phil McKenna](#) Apr 6, 2016



A leak in South Dakota of the Keystone 1 pipeline has raised more concerns about safety. Credit: Reuters

Update: On Thursday, April 7, TransCanada said it had found an estimated 16,800 gallons of oil in the Keystone I pipeline right of way. That figure is 90 times higher than the company's original estimate of 187 gallons. Company spokesperson Mark Cooper said in a written statement that the oil came from a "small leak" in the pipeline. The line has been shut down since Saturday. An oil spill that surfaced in South Dakota over the weekend prompted Canadian pipeline company TransCanada to shut down its Keystone I pipeline, a predecessor to the controversial Keystone XL project.

TransCanada had still not confirmed the leak as of Tuesday, calling it a "potential incident." According to Chris Nelson, chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, the leak was first reported by a passerby. TransCanada reported to the U.S. Coast Guard on Saturday that 187 gallons of oil had leaked, Nelson said. The line is expected to remain closed all week.

The leak is the most recent of dozens reported since the pipeline, which moves about 500,000 gallons of oil per day from the tar sands of Alberta to refineries in the U.S., was commissioned in 2010.

According to Nelson, the leak was not revealed by the company's own leak detection systems. Environmentalists familiar with pipeline leaks said the equipment's failure to detect it is cause for concern.

"It's another piece of evidence in the inherent risk of some of these systems and our oil transportation infrastructure," said Anthony Swift, the Canada program director for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "Contrary to industry talking points, the reality is pipeline systems do fail."

Keystone I was commissioned in 2010 with a number of advanced leak detection technologies. In its first year, the pipeline leaked 35 times in the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#). Most were minor leaks; one was major spilling more than 21,000 gallons of oil in North Dakota.

This leak comes as TransCanada seeks to build the Energy East Pipeline, which would carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day 2,800 miles from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in eastern Canada.

"Just last month hearings began in the province of Quebec on TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline and TransCanada was making a lot of very big claims about how in near minutes they would detect any leak and be able to shut down the pipeline in event of a spill," said Keith Stewart, who leads the energy campaign for Greenpeace Canada.

[TransCanada states on its website that its Energy East Pipeline would employ leak detection technology that "can detect events immediately"](#) allowing "the line to be shut down and valves surrounding the area to be closed within minutes, limiting the impact of a potential spill."

"Given that the Keystone Pipeline is less than a decade old it doesn't give us a lot of confidence in their claims of how good the technology is to detect spills and thus minimize them," Stewart said.

[An investigation of 10 years of federal leak data by InsideClimate News in 2012](#) found leak detection systems used by pipeline companies detected only 5 percent of pipeline spills in the U.S.

Leak detection experts said the current leak is likely too small to easily detect.

"I know the public would love to have a leak detection system that is 100 percent reliable but it's an extremely difficult challenge," said Richard Kuprewicz, president of Accufacts, Inc., a consulting firm that provides expertise on pipelines to government agencies and industry. Kuprewicz has worked with TransCanada in the past, but is not currently.

Kuprewicz said companies typically rely on a combination of sensors inside pipelines that measure temperature, pressure, flow rates and other hydraulic data as well as external sensors that can detect fluid outside the pipeline. Internal sensors are unlikely to detect small leaks and external sensors are prohibitively expensive to use everywhere along a pipeline's path, Kuprewicz said.

The spill was most likely tar sands crude, also known as diluted bitumen, Swift said.

President Obama was criticized for the enactment of the Affordable Care Act. To defame the president and show him as a loser the Republicans renamed the Affordable Care Act to Obama Care. Yet read the following on the condition of health care in this country for the poor and mentally ill.

44 million **people** in this country have no **health** insurance ... dollars of "uncompensated **care**" drive up **health** ... 26,000 die prematurely each year without health insurance.

Contansta medical care throughout your life improves you chances to reaching old age.

Ron Pollack, Executive Director Families USA. "The fact remains that for the millions of Americans without health coverage, only the Affordable Care offers the promise of access to affordable coverage and to a longer and healthier life." according to Families USA between 2005 and 2010, premature deaths rose from 20,350 to 26,100. The total number during that time was 134,120. Each state is affected, the organization said. Vermont had the fewest deaths with 28 while California had the most - 3,164, according to this report.

The method used to determine how many lives were lost was based on a model developed by the Institute of Medicine in 2002 for their report "Care without Coverage: Too Little, Too Late." In that report, the IOM found 18,000 adults between 25 and 64 died in 2000 because they didn't have health insurance.

Pollack says if the Affordable Health Care Act stays intact and goes into effect fully in 2014, millions of American will be eligible for help covering costs and insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions or charge them higher premiums. **Pres. Obama went from this**



to this



As history is written Obamacare will be noted as one of the most significant legislation of the 21st Century. The republicans have yet to create a system better. History will erase all of the lies said about this man. News agencies around the country have said he used all of his political capital to get the Affordable Care Act passed. He did this because he wanted to save lives. He would not have been able to help humanity if he had not learned to read competently. He is the man to emulate. He is greater than any rock star. The speaker of the house has created a law to supplant Obamacare that will not include people with preexisting conditions. These people will be thrown back on the street to suffer their illness. Imagine taking away hope from those that are sick. Please join in the Wall Project by purchasing a set of books for a prisoner. Not every man in prison is guilty and not every man walking the streets innocent. The men in prison need to be given hope. They can be given this hope and change their lives as they learn to read. Many f these men will return to our communities on parole what are they to do if they cannot read. What are they to do if they are the same men they were when they went to prison? Since it is our communities that will suffer when these men return unchanged it would behoove us to help them while they are in prison.



You can learn how to tend to your mental health through reading. You can learn how to problem solve through reading. You can learn how to anticipate your enemies through reading and you can learn how to win through reading. This is why the man in this picture won a second term as president against a man who had over \$500 million dollars in one savings account. If you want to improve your status in life read. If you want your child to live a better life than you make certain your child can read. Because if a man can read you do not have to teach him how to fish he can learn how to fish by reading. Every person that worked on Barack Obama's election campaign could read competently. Their imagination and creativity was supported by their ability to read. Through reading the history of other successful men and through reading the history of non-successful men Barack Obama was able to assemble a team that got the first Black man elected President of the United States, the highest office that can be held in the world by any man.

10 benefits of reading

1. Mental Stimulation

Studies have shown that staying mentally stimulated can [slow the progress](#) of (or possibly even prevent) Alzheimer's and Dementia, since keeping your brain active and engaged prevents it from losing power. Just like any other muscle in the body, the brain requires exercise to keep it strong and healthy, so the phrase "use it or lose it" is particularly apt when it comes to your mind. [Doing puzzles and playing games](#) such as chess have also been found to be helpful with cognitive stimulation.

2. Stress Reduction

No matter how much [stress](#) you have at work, in your personal relationships, or countless other issues faced in daily life, it all just slips away when you lose yourself in a great story. A well-written novel can transport you to

other realms, while an engaging article will distract you and keep you in the present moment, letting tensions drain away and allowing you to relax.

3. Knowledge

Everything you read fills your head with new bits of information, and you never know when it might come in handy. The more knowledge you have, the better-equipped you are to tackle any challenge you'll ever face.

Additionally, here's a bit of food for thought: should you ever find yourself in dire circumstances, remember that although you might lose everything else—your job, your possessions, your money, even your health—knowledge can never be taken from you.

4. Vocabulary Expansion

This goes with the above topic: the more you read, the more words you gain exposure to, and they'll inevitably make their way into your everyday vocabulary. Being articulate and well-spoken is of great help in any profession, and knowing that you can speak to higher-ups with self-confidence can be an enormous boost to your self-esteem. It could even aid in your career, as those who are well-read, well-spoken, and knowledgeable on a variety of topics tend to get promotions more quickly (and more often) than those with smaller vocabularies and lack of awareness of literature, scientific breakthroughs, and global events.

Reading books is also vital for learning [new languages](#), as non-native speakers gain exposure to words used in context, which will ameliorate their own speaking and writing fluency.

3. Knowledge

Everything you read fills your head with new bits of information, and you never know when it might come in handy. The more knowledge you have, the better-equipped you are to tackle any challenge you'll ever face.

Additionally, here's a bit of food for thought: should you ever find yourself in dire circumstances, remember that although you might lose everything else—your job, your possessions, your money, even your health—knowledge can never be taken from you.

4. Vocabulary Expansion

This goes with the above topic: the more you read, the more words you gain exposure to, and they'll inevitably make their way into your everyday vocabulary. Being articulate and well-spoken is of great help in any profession, and knowing that you can speak to higher-ups with self-confidence can be an enormous boost to your self-esteem. It could even aid in your career, as those who are well-read, well-spoken, and knowledgeable on a variety of topics tend to get promotions more quickly (and more often) than those with smaller vocabularies and lack of awareness of literature, scientific breakthroughs, and global events.

Reading books is also vital for learning [new languages](#), as non-native speakers gain exposure to words used in context, which will ameliorate their own speaking and writing fluency.

5. Memory Improvement When you read a book, you have to remember an assortment of characters, their backgrounds, ambitions, history, and nuances, as well as the various arcs and sub-plots that weave their way through every story. That's a fair bit to remember, but brains are marvelous things and can remember these

things with relative ease. Amazingly enough, [every new memory you create forges new synapses \(brain pathways\)](#) and strengthens existing ones, which assists in short-term [memory](#) recall as well as stabilizing moods. How cool is that?

6. Stronger Analytical Thinking Skills

Have you ever read an amazing mystery novel, and solved the mystery yourself before finishing the book? If so, you were able to put critical and analytical thinking to work by taking note of all the details provided and sorting them out to determine “whodunnit”.

That same ability to analyze details also comes in handy when it comes to critiquing the plot; determining whether it was a well-written piece, if the characters were properly developed, if the storyline ran smoothly, etc. Should you ever have an opportunity to discuss the book with others, you'll be able to state your opinions clearly, as you've taken the time to really consider all the aspects involved.

7. Improved Focus and Concentration

In our internet-crazed world, attention is drawn in a million different directions at once as we multi-task through every day. In a single 5-minute span, the average person will divide their time between working on a task, checking email, chatting with a couple of people (via gchat, skype, etc.), keeping an eye on twitter, monitoring their smartphone, and interacting with co-workers. This type of ADD-like behaviour causes stress levels to rise, and [lowers our productivity](#).

When you read a book, all of your attention is focused on the story—the rest of the world just falls away, and you can immerse yourself in every fine detail you're absorbing. Try reading for 15-20 minutes before work (i.e. on your morning commute, if you take public transit), and you'll be surprised at how much more focused you are once you get to the office.

8. Better Writing Skills

This goes hand-in-hand with the expansion of your vocabulary: exposure to published, well-written work has a noted effect on one's own writing, as observing the cadence, fluidity, and writing styles of other authors will invariably influence your own work. In the same way that musicians influence one another, and painters use techniques established by previous masters, so do writers learn how to craft prose by reading the works of others.

9. Tranquility

In addition to the relaxation that accompanies reading a good book, it's possible that the subject you read about can bring about immense inner peace and tranquility. Reading [spiritual texts](#) can lower blood pressure and bring about an immense sense of calm, while [reading self-help books](#) has been shown to help people suffering from certain [mood disorders](#) and mild mental illnesses.

10. Free Entertainment

Though many of us like to buy books so we can annotate them and dog-ear pages for future reference, they can be quite pricey. For low-budget entertainment, you can visit your [local library](#) and

bask in the glory of the countless tomes available there for free. Libraries have books on every subject imaginable, and since they rotate their stock and constantly get new books, you'll never run out of reading materials.

If you happen to live in an area that doesn't have a local library, or if you're mobility-impaired and can't get to one easily, most libraries have their books available in PDF or ePub format so you can read them on your e-reader, iPad, or your computer screen. There are also [many sources online](#) where you can download [free e-books](#), so go hunting for something new to read!

When You Start To Read More, These 10 Things Will Happen

1. You will find a safe way to escape when your own life is depressing, overwhelming, or just boring.

No need to turn to drugs or alcohol. Save your money. Get a library card, or start downloading some of those thousands of ebooks in the public domain. Get wrapped up in a story. Get lost in another world. Get into a character's head and out of your own.

It's instant. It's economical. It's portable: your own personal escape route when things get to be too much.

And who's going to look down on you for reading a book? You smart thing, you. I won't tell them what's really going on. Promise.

There's a reading genre for every literate person on the planet, and whether your tastes lie in classical literature, poetry, fashion magazines, biographies, religious texts, young adult books, self-help guides, street lit, or romance novels, there's something out there to capture your curiosity and imagination. Step away from your computer for a little while, crack open a book, and replenish your soul for a little while.

2. You find out that you have a family.

Okay, I know. You have parents and maybe siblings, and maybe a whole slew of aunts and uncles and cousins and grandparents and whatnot.

Or maybe not. Maybe you do feel alone in the world, bereft.

Whether you're a literal orphan or you simply feel like you totally don't fit into the family you've got, becoming an avid reader is a way to find the family you can fit into.

It's a worldwide, totally open, and really awesome family. It's the family of readers. Book lovers. Literary addicts. Bibliophiles. Become one of us, and you have an extended family that you can find anywhere. There's a signal, of course, like a secret family handshake. Just pull out that latest book and read it. That's all it takes.

We'll see you.

We'll know.

We're always nearby, whenever you need us.

3. You will become part of a timeless, global conversation.

Books are the way that the past communicates with us. And books are the way that we communicate across cultures and national boundaries, across social lines and class divisions.

Books let us enter into each other's lives and worlds in a completely unobtrusive but immersive way.

Yeah, it's pretty awesome.

Have you ever wanted to be someone else, to go somewhere else, to experience some other life than the one you got?

Books, baby. What are you waiting for?

Books, baby. What are you waiting for?

4. You will learn to talk pretty.

Reading is the most painless way to improve your vocabulary, spelling, and grammatical proficiency.

Did you catch how I just spelled "proficiency" without even looking it up?

Yeah. That comes from reading.

Read more, and you'll be able to snicker smugly when your friends post status updates with egregious spelling errors. You can correct their misuse of common words. You can be the Grammatical Tyrant you've always dreamed of being.

5. You will look forward to lines, layovers, and waiting rooms.

This could be the biggest turning point of your life, actually. Instead of tapping your foot impatiently, huffing and sighing like dyspeptic cow, or otherwise displaying your wrath and frustration in a socially acceptable way, you can simply... read.

Whatever book you're currently lost in should be with you, in your pocket or purse. Pull it out and you've got entertainment, companionship, and intellectual stimulation. All in one handy portable package. My friend Leigh says that reading gives her "the ability to be happy anytime, anywhere, even when waiting ridiculously long amounts of time."

That's a superpower everybody needs.

6. You will be a nicer person.

You might not care about being a nicer person, but the other people in your life probably do care.

Reading, as my friend Christine put it, "allows me to experience another's emotions, which in turn makes me more sensitive to those around me." And she's right.

Maybe you've never been a victim of racism, abuse, or poverty. Maybe you don't know what unrequited love feels like. Maybe you find it easier to criticize than to sympathize.

Reading won't take that away entirely (my Criticize-O-Meter is still in good working order, even after decades as an avid reader) but it will help you to slow down a little bit on the judging.

And speed up a lot on the empathizing.

Because when you live other lives through books, you begin to see the other lives happening in the world around you. The lives you know nothing about.

And you begin to have a little more understanding. A little more interest. A little less "us versus them" and a lot more "we're all in this together."

6. You will be a nicer person.

You might not care about being a nicer person, but the other people in your life probably do care.

Reading, as my friend Christine put it, "allows me to experience another's emotions, which in turn makes me more sensitive to those around me." And she's right.

Maybe you've never been a victim of racism, abuse, or poverty. Maybe you don't know what unrequited love feels like. Maybe you find it easier to criticize than to sympathize.

Reading won't take that away entirely (my Criticize-O-Meter is still in good working order, even after decades as an avid reader) but it will help you to slow down a little bit on the judging.

And speed up a lot on the empathizing.

Because when you live other lives through books, you begin to see the other lives happening in the world around you. The lives you know nothing about.

And you begin to have a little more understanding. A little more interest. A little less "us versus them" and a lot more "we're all in this together."

7. You will learn stuff.

Even if all you read is fiction, you can learn quite a lot about cultural influence, relationships, history, fear, human psychology, the various expressions of spirituality, the effects of war, the way robots will definitely take over the world, and how superheroes manage to keep their capes clean.

All very useful information.

Want more? Branch out into non-fiction. Biographies, history, current events. No, just kidding; skip the books on current events. Read history instead; you'll learn more about current events that way.

Philosophy. Psychology. How-to books. Memoirs. Science. Exploration. If you're interested in it, you can find a book about it. Probably you can find an entire section of books about it.

Touched By The Light Publishing P.O. Box 7267, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107 734 686 1444 www.touchedbythelight.us

And hey, if you can't find a book about it, maybe you should write one.

8. You will discover that you were dumber than you knew.

In the time prior to your avid reading addiction (also known as “The Years Which Must Not Be Named”), you thought you had a pretty open mind, didn't you?

Go ahead, you can admit it. I won't laugh.

You thought that you knew kind of a lot, and that you had a broad perspective on life, and a pretty accurate view on the world and how things worked.

And then you started reading.

Maybe the first few books weren't such a big deal. They probably kept you safely in your comfort zone. But then one of the members of your new reading family gave you a recommendation.

“You've got to read this,” she said. “It's so great. Really.” So you did.

And you realized that something you thought you knew—really knew, truly and certainly—was not right at all. You felt the edges along your mind begin to crack open a little bit.

You felt a little light seeping in and you started seeing the interior of your mind the way it really was: dim, dusty, and crowded with a lot of assumptions.

You kept reading, and the more you read, the more those cracks opened up. One by one, those assumptions slipped and slid out of the cracks. The light grew. The air cleared.

You started populating your mind with different things: images, conversations, perceptions, insights, data. Poetry. Fragments of lives you didn't live, but somehow experienced through a book. Emotions that didn't belong to you, but that you felt just as strongly.

Real things, from the real world, instead of that crumbly old stack of assumptions and expectations.

9. You will be more creative.

As you fill your mind with fresh material from all these books, something wonderful starts happening.

Your mind wakes up.

Creativity is really all about making connections. The creative people in life, the ones we admire for their ingenuity, are the ones who can make those connections really well. They have a broad database of knowledge, and they don't bother keeping the categories separate. They let poetry seep into science. They let faith and history hang out together.

They understand, in fact, that all those categorizations are imposed. We put labels on things so that we can feel like we understand them, but sometimes the labels are counterproductive. Reading helps you tear the labels off.

Reading helps you to fill your mind from as many sources as you want, and then let all of that beautiful stuff mingle and mix in anyway it wants.

10. You will become more imaginative and less afraid of being weird.

When you read books that are the product of someone else's imagination, you start to trust your own imagination, and use it.

What a great idea! Using that brain, in all of its crazy, unnerving, glorious potentiality.

Reading will help you do that. If you feel like your mind is strange, start reading. After a few runs through the world of surrealism or science fiction (or surrealistic science fiction), you will feel like the most normal person in the world. Who are these crazy people who come up with these weird, fantastical ideas?

Of course, you'll want to read more. So you will. And then your own imagination will start to blend what you've read with the real life you're living, and you'll add in your own unique collection of information, experience, education, and personality. Who knows what will result?

Don't you want to find out? Why don't you have a book open yet?

What does Obama read?

Hussein Obama with a book in his hands. He's reading "The Post-American World" — it's a Muslim's view of a defeated America!



Origins: The above-displayed photographs of Barack Obama carrying (and presumably reading) the best-selling book, *The Post-American World*, is a real one, snapped by Doug Mills of the *New York Times* in Bozeman, Montana, in May 2008. However, the characterization of the pictured book as "a Muslim's view of a defeated America" is erroneous: The book does not posit a "defeated America," nor does it express a Muslim point of view.

The *The Post-American World* was written by [Fareed Zakaria](#), an Indian-born political journalist (commonly described as a "political moderate") who specializes in world affairs and has [written](#) for (and edited) U.S. national news publications, [hosted](#) U.S. television news programs, and [authored](#) several books on international issues. A *Village Voice* profile described Zakaria (a naturalized citizen of the United States) thusly:

Although he was a rising star in the serious foreign-policy world of the '90s (*The Nation* once described him as a "junior Kissinger"), it was his post-9/11 *Newsweek* cover story "Why They Hate Us" that put him on the mainstream map as someone who could make sense of the now threatening outside world. And he has continued to win himself a substantial following with his thoughtful critiques of the Bush administration's activities in Iraq. He is America's go-to man for global chaos, providing some urgently needed outside perspective on our never ending war on terror.

His own upbringing was open-minded and secular; he sang Christian hymns at school and celebrated Hindu as well as his own Muslim holidays. "I do know a lot about the world of Islam in an instinctive way that you can't get through book learning," he says thoughtfully, but admits he finds the role of token Muslim explainer in the American media slightly uncomfortable. "I occasionally find myself reluctant to be pulled into a world that's not mine, in the sense that I'm not a religious guy."

The following review (from *Publishers Weekly*) summarizes the thesis of *The Post-American World*:

When a book proclaims that **it is not about the decline of America** but the rise of everyone else, readers might expect another diatribe about our dismal post-9/11 world. They are in for a pleasant surprise as *Newsweek* editor and popular pundit Zakaria (*The Future of Freedom*) delivers **a stimulating, largely optimistic forecast of where the 21st century is heading**. We are living in a peaceful era, he maintains; world violence peaked around 1990 and has plummeted to a record low. Burgeoning prosperity has spread to the developing world, raising standards of living in Brazil, India, China and Indonesia. Twenty years ago China discarded Soviet economics but not its politics, leading to a wildly effective, top-down, scorched-earth boom. Its political antithesis, India, also prospers while remaining a chaotic, inefficient democracy, as Indian elected officials are (generally) loathe to use the brutally efficient tactics that are the staple of Chinese governance. Paradoxically, India's greatest asset is its relative stability in the region; its officials take an unruly population for granted, while dissent produces paranoia in Chinese leaders. **Zakaria predicts that despite its record of recent blunders at home and abroad, America will stay strong, buoyed by a stellar educational system** and the influx of young immigrants, who give the U.S. a more youthful demographic than Europe and much of Asia whose workers support an increasing population of unproductive elderly. A

lucid, thought-provoking appraisal of world affairs, this book will engage readers on both sides of the political spectrum.

As for what the chief executive reads in his spare time, according to deputy press secretary Bill Burton, President Obama brought the following books with him to his August 2009 vacation at Martha's Vineyard:

- *The Way Home* by George Pelecanos, a crime thriller based in Washington, D.C.
- *Lush Life* by Richard Price, a story of race and class set in New York's Lower East Side.
- *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Tom Friedman, on the benefits to America of an environmental revolution.
- *John Adams* by David McCullough, a biography of the Founding Father and 2nd U.S. President.
- *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, a drama about the life of eight different characters living in a Colorado prairie community.

In 2015, President Obama's summer reading list, as announced by the White House, included the following books:

- *All That Is*, a novel by James Salter, whose "intimately detailed novels and short stories kept a small but devoted audience in his thrall for more than half a century."
- *All The Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr, the story of a blind French girl and a reluctant German soldier whose lives converge in the French coastal town of Saint Malo.
- *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, a work that explores the harmful impact of humans on the planet.
- *The Lowland*, by Jhumpa Lahiri, which tells the story of two brothers in Calcutta India in the 1960s who share everything but begin to pull apart as they grow older.
- *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a meditation of race in America in the form of a letter from the author to his adolescent son.
- *Washington: A Life*, by Ron Chernow, the historian who penned the biography of Alexander Hamilton that the musical "Hamilton" is based on.

Politics | Sat Aug 20, 2011 2:19pm EDT Related: [Election 2016, Politics](#)

Obama summer reading list leans toward fiction



U.S. President Barack Obama walks out of the Bunch O Grapes bookstore after shopping with his daughters in Vineyard Haven on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts August 19, 2011.

Reuters/Kevin Lamarque

President Barack Obama, perhaps seeking a break from harsh reality after a tough summer battling the economy and Republicans in Congress, has picked a summer reading list that is long on fiction.

The White House says four of the five books that Democrat Obama has to choose from during a nine-day family vacation here are novels.

Obama's reading list -- like the criticism from Republicans for vacationing while the economy is stumbling -- is a rite of the summer.

But his choices ignored the weighty biographies of great Americans typically on a president's reading list.

Obama picked up two of the books on an outing with daughters Sasha and Malia on Friday: "The Bayou Trilogy," a mystery collection by Daniel Woodrell set in Louisiana, and "Rodin's Debutante," a novel by Ward Just with a character who becomes politically conscious after moving to a rough neighborhood on Chicago's south side, echoing Obama's time there as a community organizer before he entered politics.

The president also bought along books: "Cutting for Stone," a novel by Abraham Verghese that traces the lives of two boys who are born joined at the skull in Ethiopia, and "To the End of the Land," a novel by David Grossman of a mother who tries to keep her son alive while he is at war by hiking the length of Israel, hoping that if she cannot be reached to be told of his death, he won't die.

He also brought "The Warmth of Other Suns," by Isabel Wilkerson, the only non-fiction work on the list, which describes America's migration of blacks from the South.

Republican critics have slammed Obama for vacationing for the third consecutive summer on Martha's Vineyard, an upscale island off the Massachusetts coast which was also favored by Democratic presidents John Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

They say vacationing at the scenic island, a stomping ground for movie stars and other wealthy Democratic Party backers in August, shows Obama is out of touch while 14 million Americans are out of work and unemployment is pinned above 9 percent.

The White House says the country does not begrudge Obama some time with his family, but it has been careful to allow no pictures so far of him at play on the golf course.

(Reporting by Alister Bull and Laura MacInnis; editing by Vicki Allen)

Obama's winter vacation reading list: Heavy on the dark fiction

By [Juliet Eilperin](#) December 31, 2015

Touched By The Light Publishing P.O. Box 7267, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107 734 686 1444 www.touchedbythelight.us

HONOLULU -- President Obama is spending his winter vacation in sunny Hawaii. His reading list while he's there skews a bit darker.

Four books, three of them novels, have made the presidential reading list just before 2015 becomes history. They include *The Whites*, by Richard Price; *Purity*, by Jonathan Franzen ([purchased](#) a few weeks ago at D.C.'s Upshur Street Books); *The Three Body Problem*, by Liu Cixin and *The Wright Brothers*, by David McCullough.

Franzen is a long-time favorite of the president — his book “Freedom” made Obama’s summer 2010 list during the First Family’s vacation in Martha’s Vineyard that year. And for a fan of “The Wire,” it’s not surprising that Obama selected noir writer Price’s most recent work.



President Barack Obama tips his hat to the crowd after finishing a round of golf at Mid-Pacific Country Club during his family vacation on Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, in Kailua, Hawaii. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The Three Body Problem is a translation from the original Chinese science fiction novel that has won critical acclaim in the United States. Since it focuses on a young astrophysicist who suffers during the Chinese Revolution, it seems unlikely that this particular reading recommendation came up during Obama’s discussions with President Xi Jinping during this fall’s state visit. But it could make for an interesting conversation starter during Obama’s visit to China next fall.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/12/31/obamas-winter-vacation-reading-list-heavy-on-the-dark-fiction/>

Obama promotes reading in meeting with students

David Jackson, USA TODAY 9:29 a.m. EDT May 1, 2015

Touched By The Light Publishing P.O. Box 7267, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107 734 686 1444 www.touchedbythelight.us



(Photo: MANDEL NGAN, AFP/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — President Obama unveiled new reading programs and plugged the value of the desire to learn Thursday during a "virtual field trip" for middle school students.

"The most powerful engine for learning is between your ears," Obama told students gathered at the Anacostia Library in southeast Washington.

Taking questions from audience members and from other middle school students following online, Obama said at one point that books, computers, and other can technology can only take people so far.

They have to retain "a passion for learning," he said during the event facilitated by Discovery Education.

Speaking in front of packed book shelves, Obama announced a commitment by major publishers to make more than \$250 million in free eBooks available to low-income students.

The president also announce the "ConnectED Library Challenge," a commitment by more than 30 communities to supply library cards to all students. It's part of Obama's project to have provide Internet access to all the nation's classrooms.

Obama spoke about his favorite books growing up — a list that ranged from Hardy Boys mysteries to *The Lord of The Rings* to *The Great Gatsby* — and his own writing career as the author of three books.

[USA TODAY Obama to push for more Internet access in schools](#)

The president also took a question about how to overcome to occasional writer's block.

"There's only one way to overcome writer's block," he said: "To just write something ... It's not as intimidating as if the page is just blank."

After a while, the student moderator cut him off by saying, "I think you've sort of covered everything about that question."

At one point, Obama noted that his presidency will end in less than two years, and that he planned to do some kind of community work during his post-White House years.

"That's the kind of work that I really love to do," Obama said.



“Don’t bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.”

William Faulkner

President Barack Obama is now greying because in 8 years he tried to be better than himself. He fought a mental battle against some of the meanest virulent racists in this country and he won. How do you know he won? He is still standing. He accomplished his goal because he could read. He took time out of his busy schedule to read. Why, because he used reading to relax. He laid his troubles aside for a moment and he also knew through reading he would find the answers he was looking for. If you read enough stories of how wars were won, how men got a woman to marry them, how some men failed in life surely you would have gained useful knowledge to conduct your life. Autobiographies and fantasy novels and mysteries are excellent sources to stimulate the imagination.

If you are not ready to die then you need to change. You need to start reading. Do not say you love your child then refuse to change. Your child’s destiny depends on your ability to compete. And you cannot compete if you cannot or do not read. Do not say you love your child when you purchase a bag of weed for the weekend to smoke with your lover yet your child cannot read (pay for a tutor). Do not say you love your child when you are not working to bring your child out of poverty by learning to read. Do not say you love your child yet you while away your time playing video games instead of attending to your mental health. You are playing video games to stimulate yourself, to drum out the noise in your head to fill the boredom in your life. Why not try your hand at creating something that is what God did. Just do not say you love your child because children know when they are loved. Love shows through your actions. Spend time tending to the garden God gave you, your family.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. If God said my people are dying for lack of knowledge, why don’t you change and start reading for knowledge. Your life is hard because you lack the knowledge to manage your life and make appropriate decisions. You miss employment opportunities for lack of knowledge and your children are suffering for your lack of knowledge..

“No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.” Confucius

“You have one goal in life and that goal is to survive.” Gloria G. Lee

To further our outreach please email us at yithril11@netzero.net and request a pdf files of this booklet and email it to friends and family so they too can share in the message. Join us in the Wall Project. Purchase a set of books for a prisoner. Go to youtube.com and search under The Touched By The Light Wall Project 2015 – to watch the 1.5 hour Video. **It is a must for Black juveniles.** Our work is all about saving children so they do not end up as Prisoners as Prostitutes or as Addicts for Lack of Knowledge or because they lived in a violent situation. Violence is founded on poverty, ignorance, jealousy envy, anger, denial and depression. We can do better by eliminating these factors in a child’s life. Thank you for your attention. I asked the Lord that you do not return home the same man that you were when you left home today. Read the information in this packet carefully and often because sometime in your life this information will apply to you Do Not Ignore This Information – Black People have one problem – They Do Not Read- They Do Not Value Reading

