14 Ways to Reread a Favourite Novel

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1. Find the final sentence of the final page of your favourite novel, and begin reading backwards, sentence by sentence. This order describes the true passage of time: try to understand what is happening. For a further reread, repeat the process word by word.

2. Choose a significant word, common or uncommon, and reread your favourite novel while vigilant for every instance of that word. Take a clean page, and when your chosen word occurs write down the sentence in which it is found. When the novel is complete again, interpret the message.

3. Ask a friend or enemy to read your favourite novel to you while you are sleeping, then do the same for them. Now compare your dreams.

4. Take your favourite novel to a place that frightens you, a place that frightens you more than anywhere else, and read. After ten pages, ask yourself: How has this book changed? Ten pages later, ask: How has this place changed? Ten pages later, ask: How have I changed? Repeat if necessary.

5. Choose a letter as your nemesis, preferably a vowel, and find a small pair of scissors. As you reread your favourite novel, snip out every word containing that letter. When your nemesis is no more, read the resulting novel aloud to yourself, including any words seen through the new windows.

6. Whenever you encounter an instruction while rereading your favourite novel, whether in dialogue or narration, stop reading and complete that instruction to the best of your ability, before returning calmly to the text.

7. Choose a character in your favourite novel and, as you reread, write down every action your character performs. Now, do everything that they have done, with accuracy and dedication, as this is your new guide for life. You may condense the actions into a single day, or follow them over the same time period as the novel. Repeat until things are better.
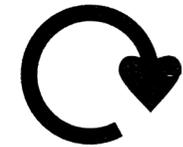
12. Read your favourite novel with a close friend or lover and, scene by scene, argue together about whether each scene should be included in the Reader's Digest Condensed Books edition of your novel. The result must be at least a third shorter.

11. Use a random number generator, such as random.org, to select a page of your favourite novel, then read that page, strictly without glancing at the preceding or following page. Repeat the process until you are satisfied, or until you are unsatisfied again.

10. Read your favourite novel whenever you are moving and stop reading whenever you are still. If you are a cyclist this may require some specialist equipment.

9. Rewrite each sentence of your favourite novel as a single new sentence, each having a maximum of five words, preserving as much of the original meaning as possible. Proceed throughout the entire novel until the work is complete, then read aloud.

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13. Read your favourite novel aloud with group of your peers. Take turns to read each sentence, speaking as though in conversation, debate, seduction, terrorist cell, or all four. Continue through the night.

14. Write out from memory everything you remember from your favourite novel: write as memories occur and without editing. Now reread that novel, using correction fluid to erase everything you had forgotten. Repeat the process every few years until there is nothing left.

8. Retype the first page of your favourite novel using a word processor. Now, between each pair of sentences, write a new sentence – a sentence that makes new connections with the sentences on either side. Repeat with each new pair, and again, and again, and again, repeating until your work is the same length as the original.