**“How do I find a book I will enjoy?”**

Have you ever been explicitly taught how to pick a book that interests you? Have you ever been shown strategies and tricks to pick a book? If the answer is, “No”, you are not alone and we are here to help.

**MISSTEPS to picking a book that you will enjoy**

1. Pick the shortest book you can find.
2. Mindlessly pick the first book you find.
3. Pick the same book your friend is reading just because he/she is cool or smart or attractive.
4. Not pick a book on your own and just grab a random book of the shelf two minutes before class.

**Steps to picking a book that you will enjoy**

1. If you are already reading a book for pleasure that you enjoy, keep it. Read it and enjoy! Then, consider other books by that author in or that genre for your next book selection.
2. If you have a book that you have really enjoyed, please write the title (and author, if you can remember) on the board and be ready to tell people how awesome it was. As other classmates share books, maybe choose one of those books to read.
3. Feel free to browse [this list](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dfTXH10XX5BFQzBgFKTaLNHVBANYvfzIM5NO1QWfTaI/edit) created for you, based on YA novel searches
4. Listen to teacher (s) talk about awesome books they have read. During these books talks, maybe choose of those books to read.
5. Listen to the class chat about genres of novels. Watch the teacher(s) explain the in-class library. Search this library for books in a genre that interests you.
6. Join the teacher(s) for a field trip to the bookstore to find books that might interest you. At the bookstore, try the following strategies…
	1. Consider the kinds of movies you like. Find a bookstore employee. Tell him/her your preferences and he/she can help you.
	2. Visit the displays in the book store. Book store employees put a lot of time and effort into making books that you will probably like appealing.

**When you find a book that you might like, do this to help ensure your reading enjoyment.**

1. Read the inside cover for a preview of the book. This is usually a quick, spoiler-free summary of the book and should give you a good idea of whether or not you will enjoy it.
2. Ask a friend or teacher or librarian or bookstore employee about the book.
3. Search for the title at amazon.com by specifically searching for the “Kindle Preview” of your book. Be sure to click on the “read more” blue text at the bottom of the preview to read about two paragraphs that make the gist of the book clear. An example for *The Handmaid’s Tale* (one of Foster’s favorites) is here:

*The Handmaid's Tale* is a novel of such power that the reader will be unable to forget its images and its forecast. Set in the near future, it describes life in what was once the United States and is now called the Republic of Gilead, a monotheocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by reverting to, and going beyond, the repressive intolerance of the original Puritans. The regime takes the Book of Genesis absolutely at its word, with bizarre consequences for the women and men in its population.

The story is told through the eyes of Offred, one of the unfortunate Handmaids under the new social order. In condensed but eloquent prose, by turns cool-eyed, tender, despairing, passionate, and wry, she reveals to us the dark corners behind the establishment’s calm facade, as certain tendencies now in existence are carried to their logical conclusions. *The Handmaid's Tale*is funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing. It is at once scathing satire, dire warning, and a tour de force. It is Margaret Atwood at her best.

1. Read at least the first 25 pages of the book. If you don’t like it, find a new book using the strategies you just learned.