

The Unofficial Bookworm's Dictionary

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ARC: Advanced Reader Copy. ARCs of new novels/stories will often be requested or sent out in exchange for a review of the book.

Auto-Buy Author: an author whose books you will buy no matter what even if you don't know what they're about or how good they are because you love that author so much.

BEA: (definition from [Confessions of a Book Geek](#)) Stands for Book Expo America. An apparently phenomenal experience for book lovers and bloggers, where lots of fun is had, and lots of ARCs (see above) are distributed.

Book Hangover: the feeling of emptiness you feel after completing a book or series that disrupts your entire mood and day because you can't believe that the story is over. Often results in a reading slump.

Binge-read: when a book or series is consumed very quickly in a short amount of time. Normally these kinds of sprees will keep you up at night or derail all your activities for the day because the story is *just that good*.

Book Shimmy: (definition from [off the beaten shelf](#)) that shake of the shoulders and torso that book nerds do when they get really excited about a book. Book shimmying is often induced by opening book mail. Or learning that your favorite author is writing a new book. Or learning that the latest book in your favorite series is out. Or really anything to do with books.

Book Sniffing: when you sniff a book and intake the wonderful aroma of paper and ink and all of your wants are satisfied. Often done in private as people will definitely look at you weird (they're missing out).

Bookternet: the areas online where books are the prominent topic discussed. This includes book blogs, Booktube (on Youtube), BookTok (on TikTok), and possibly the most popular, Bookstagram (on Instagram). Can be found by using hashtags. I'd want to include Facebook but then you'd probably end up saying "BookBook" or "BookFace" and it's probably not going to catch on...

Bookworm: a person devoted to reading. See also, "book nerd", "bibliophile" and "book dragon".

Canon: Events or plot points in a story that is part of the complete work and confirmed to be true. Sometimes statements made by the author about the work will be considered canon, but not often. For example, you may ship (see "ship") Susan Pevensie and Prince Caspian, but according to canon, they never got together. Movie adaptations of books do not count as canon (they are "non canon").

DNF: Did Not Finish. This term is used when a reader does not finish a book. This is considered worse than a one star review in most situations, as DNFs most often occur when the book was so terrible the reader could not bear to finish it.

Dog-ear: To fold over the corner of a book's page to mark your place in the book. Can be considered normal or the most vile thing you can do to a book. Tread carefully.

Fandom: can be short for "fanatic domain" or "kingdom of fans". A group of people who congregate in person or online who are all fans of the same work. Fandom members can be found just about anywhere to talk about their favorite stories, but you won't typically find them in the real world unless they are at a convention, movie theater, or theme park, as they tend to stay holed up in their house or bedroom. Most fandoms are pretty chill but some are...terrifying.

Feels: feelings of extreme happiness, elation, confusion, bafflement, joy, anger, heart-wrenching sadness, or mind-boggling shock. Often expressed by making inhuman noises, crying, or squealing, and in text form can be expressed by jamming on the keyboard sporadically or "asdfghjkl".

FOMO: (definition from [Confessions of a Book Geek](#)) Stands for Fear Of Missing Out, and is the reason why many Book Geeks refuse to DNF. What if it gets really good just after the point where I stop reading?! It's also the reason why Book Geeks buy a book they've never heard of, because all the other Book Geeks are reading it.

Indie: An independent or self-published author. Supporting indie authors is pretty cool because they work really hard and you can help get their book out there! They don't typically get as popular as other authors but their work could be just as good. (And then there's me, who tried to indie publish in middle school. I was not one of the good ones lol, but that's okay.) It's a great option if you're just getting started!

Info Dump: when the writer dumps a whole chunk of information on the reader instead of spreading it throughout the story. Typically hard to read, and is most often associated with fantasy novels.

Love triangle: When person A and person B both like person C, but person C doesn't know if they like A or B more and takes forever to decide. Typically very frustrating.

MC: The Main Character of a work.

OC: An Original Character, created by the author or artist of a fanfiction, WIP, or fanart.

OTP: One True Pairing. Your favorite ship (see "ship") of all time. You get a *lot* of feels about them.

POV: A character's Point of View. Some stories will switch POVs. Can be in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person, but it will be focusing on one specific character and how they see things. (In 1st or 2nd person that means they would become the narrator.)

Reading Slump: Often the result of a book hangover. When experiencing a reading slump you may feel that you can't start a new book for a certain period of time, or you can only reread books you have already read.

Shelfie: a photograph of a bookshelf, normally your personal shelf or shelves, or a photo of yourself in front of your shelves.

Ship: short for "relationship". If you ship two characters, that means you want them to be in a relationship. Ships can be canon or non canon.

TBR: To be read. People often talk about their "TBR pile", referring to the fact that they have a lot of books they are planning to read. Can be a list, an actual pile of books, or both.

WIP: Work in Progress. An author will sometimes share about their WIP before it is published.

YA: The Young Adult Genre. Aimed at 13-19 year olds, but you can still enjoy them if you are older. (9-12 year olds probably read Middle Grade.)