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## Book Worms? A Profile of the Reading Lives of English Majors

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# Book Worms? A Profile of the Reading Lives of English Majors



Claire Atwood, Virginia Beikmann, Mya Bethers, Cayla Cappel, Ryan Collins, Jill Fletcher, Felicity Gotsch, Drew Kotter, Andrew Milliken, Autumn Miskin, Kerrin Mountcastle, Amrutha Obulasetty, Sam Richens, Josie Rivera, Sara Robinette, Tiffany Sanderson, Bonnie Swenson.

*Dr. Joyce Kinkead, Utah State University*

## Introduction

English Majors have a love of reading that begins at an early age and continues through higher education.

**This study focuses on English Majors at Utah State University and how their reading lives have developed from their childhood.**

A survey of English Majors investigated favorite genres, preferred reading environments, and methods of delivery. Interviews with alumni provided retrospective. A faculty member offered perspective on teaching literature classes to English Majors.

## Methods

1. Autoethnography revealed:

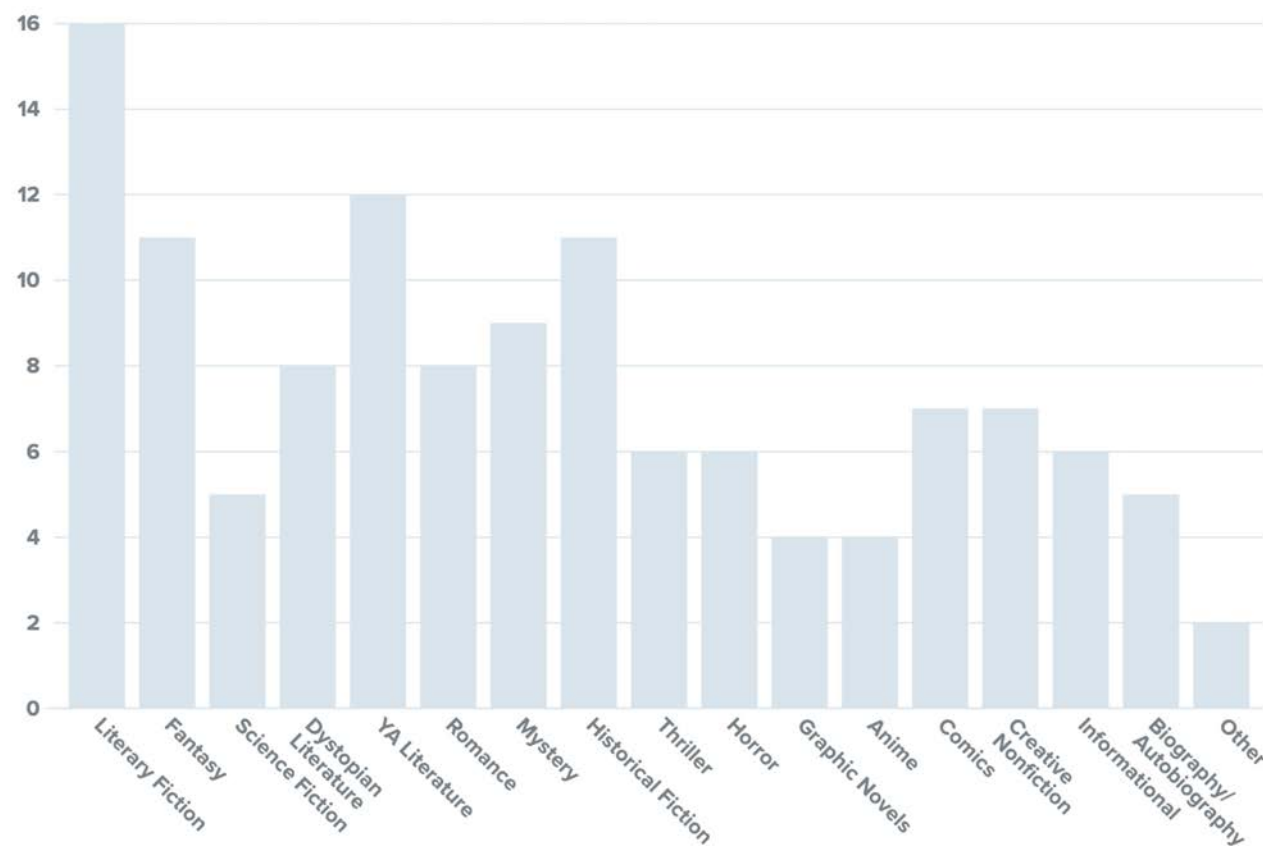
- Early reading habits of English Majors
- Influences and mentors
- Academic reading habits
- Leisure reading habits

2. Qualtrics survey queried college English Majors;  
3. Two interviews conducted with a literature faculty member and an English alumna

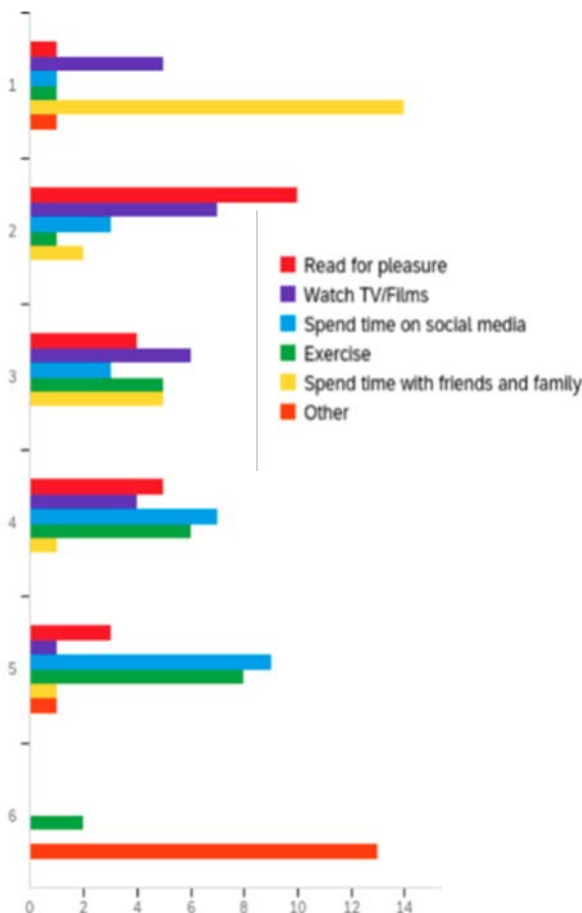
## Results

- 58% cited mothers as most influential when learning to read
- A few had difficulty learning to read
- 78% of students prefer traditional print books to e-books
- Preferred genre: Literary Fiction
- Faculty perspective: reading is a tool for learning and connecting with the world around us
- Literature classes provide critical perspectives

## Preferred Genres



## Leisure Priorities



## Conclusions

- English Majors start devouring books at a young age
- Parents' investment in early reading pays big dividends; fathers could do more to avoid gendered perception
- World Literature broadens worldview
- English Majors expect a heavy reading load. Although this may feel overwhelming, most do not consider switching majors
- Former USU English Majors should take advantage of reading and peer discussion while in college, especially if their career may include teaching



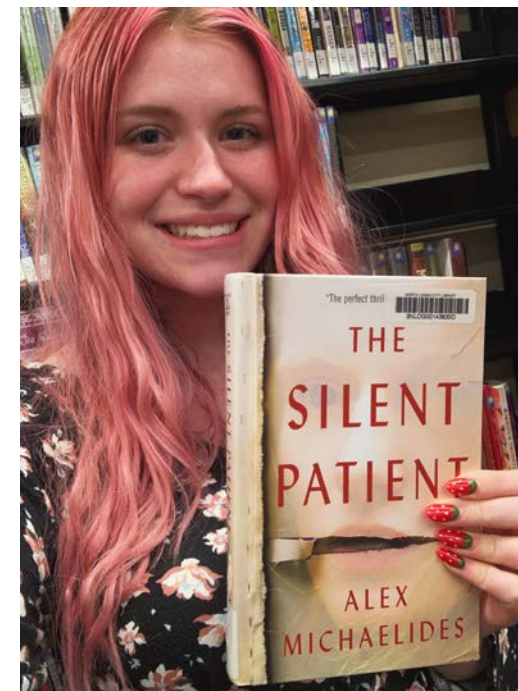
This project is in compliance with USU's Policy 584: Protection of Human Participants in Research.

# Meet the Researchers of ENGL 3470 & their Favorite Books

Jill Fletcher,  
*Brave Cowboy*



Tiffany Sanderson,  
*Girls of Paper and Fire*

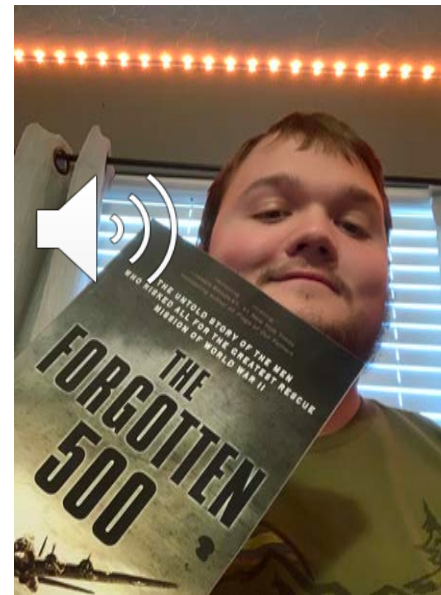


Mya Bethers,  
*The Silent Patient*



Felicity Gotsch, *Jane Eyre*

Ryan Collins,  
*Lord of the Rings*



Sam Richens,  
*The Forgotten 500*



Claire Atwood,  
*On Writing*

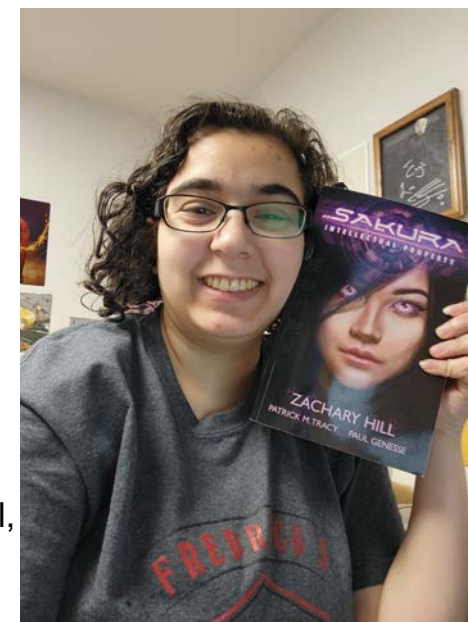


Virginia Beikmann,  
*Artemis Fowl*



Absinthe,  
*Catwoman's Classroom of Claws*

Cayla Cappel,  
*Sakura*



Kerrin Mountcastle  
"Just ONE favorite book?!"

