

## Are books becoming extinct?

While this may seem like a radical question, books really are a dying species. People today would rather read on an electronic device than the classic paperback. Kindles and iPads are currently taking over the literary world.

Lately the passion for reading has been slowly dying out; children would rather bury themselves in technology than get lost in a good book. There is something about a book that a kindle just cannot capture; the satisfaction of being able to turn every page, as if you



are going on a journey with this pile of paper. The way the front cover gets tatty with age. Being able to write your name on the first page, knowing it will be forever yours. These things are something words on a screen will never be able to capture. When you see a person on a train reading a book you love there is a strong kind of connection with this stranger that can't be felt with an e-book. For example on World Book Day I was sorting through the books for our schools book sale and I picked up a copy of *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. I got home and when I opened the book a Kit Kat rapper fell out. I picked it up and it was made in 1997. This is only one example of the undeniable history that that is locked up in books, waiting to be discovered.

Some might argue that, when traveling kindles really do come in handy, being able to take your favourite books on life's many journeys with you. Yet when battery life is running low can you really afford to have your kindle run out of juice in the middle of the climax?

The fact that there are all these books in one device doesn't seem right. All these different genres and all these different authors telling their different stories, it almost seems wrong not to give them a space of their own. A book shelf can almost tell your life story. You are able to look back at all the books that you fell in love with at different times of your life. When everything seems wrong and nothing is going your way, sometimes you just need to snuggle with a copy of "The Notebook". This is why e-books cannot compare to feeling of reading a real book.

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