

RT2: Abandoning Books

What are the signs to abandon a book? How long should you wait before abandoning it? What strategies do you use to make sure you should or shouldn't abandon it?

“But if a book is tedious to you, don't read it; that book was not written for you. Reading should be a form of happiness.”

—Jorge Luis Borges

Reasons we might abandon a book:

- It's boring or doesn't grab our attention: there isn't enough action or it takes too long to introduce the main character or for the plot to get going
 - It moves at too slow of a pace, takes too long on the same topic, or is too detailed or descriptive
 - It's too predictable, too repetitive, too weird, too sad, too _____
 - There isn't enough variety: the setting stays the same the whole time
 - There's no depth to the characters, we don't like the main character, or the character doesn't seem to be developing
 - The style of narration or point of view might not fit what we like
 - The book is too long or it's taking us too long to make progress in it
 - We are confused because of the vocabulary, too many storylines or characters, or a challenging structure (too many flashbacks).
- *Remember: many books are confusing at the start: avoid abandoning a book before we've had a chance for things to start making sense
- We read the book because a friend wanted us to but don't like it
 - We liked the movie, but the book isn't as good
 - The sequel isn't as good as the first book was
 - There's another book we want to read more
 - We spent too much time away from the book and can't remember enough about it
 - There is content we aren't comfortable with or that is too upsetting

Signs we should abandon a book:

- We have to force ourselves to read it
- We get easily distracted while reading it
- We have to keep rereading the same part
- We find ourselves skimming a lot

Before abandoning a book, make sure by...

- reading far enough into the book: until the main storyline begins? until we get to know the main character? at least 30 pages? more? less?
- reading the end to see if it'll be good
- reading or skimming a bit more or looking ahead to see if it gets better
- taking a break and then reading a little more

- asking a friend to see if it gets better