



Literacy News

February 2016

Kelmscott Literacy department

What lessons should we learn from fairy tales?

Fairy tales have a lot to teach us but be careful what you choose to learn. Fairy tales nourish our imaginations, proving enchanting forests filled with sleeping beauties, cunning wolves and charming princes. They may take place in magical kingdoms far removed from our own but these stories teach us important life lessons.

Remember Beauty and the Beast? A young girl sacrifices her freedom for her father and must leave her family to live in the house of a monster. Eventually she falls in love with this monster, believing that he is not who she originally thought and this new found love transforms him into an eligible handsome prince. Convenient.

The Beast may get kinder as the fairytale progresses, but the fact remains that Beauty falls for her captor - it's like a fairy tale version of the Stockholm syndrome. The Beast does finally let Beauty return to her family, but he doesn't truly set her free, instead placing limits and conditions on her departure like a controlling boyfriend.

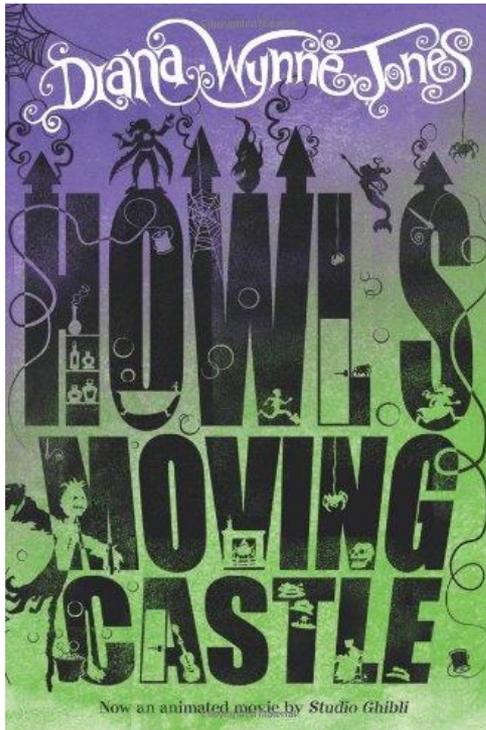
The Beast could be viewed as good but misunderstood, the fact remains that his otherness is viewed as negative: the fairy tale forces him to change. As long as the Beast is different, beauty cannot accept him. The only way they can have their happy ending is for the Beast to conform to the handsome, royal fairy tale norm.

Don't wait for a fairy godmother, rescue yourself instead. Finding a true fairy tale role model involves shifting through different versions of the same tale. Cinderella must depend on outside help and unable to shape her own fate. We must not wait for a fairy godmother to appear and magically solve our problems, instead we must take the first steps towards helping ourselves.

What are your favourite lessons from fairy tales? Tweet us @kelmscottbooks#fairytale

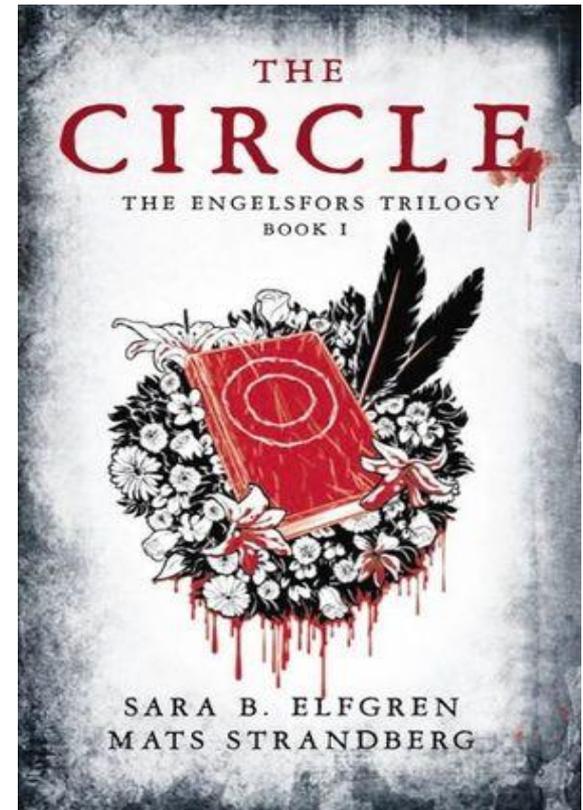
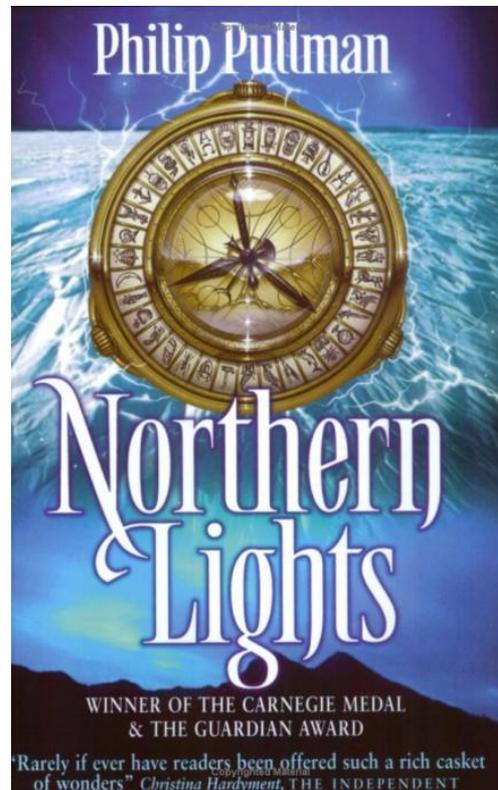
Top 10 feminist heroes in fiction

What is a literacy feminist hero? It's a girl who gets to be anything she wants. A feminist hero is a well-rounded character, with real assets and real flaws, whose story does not revolve around a man and his wishes. She makes her own choices, good or bad.



Sophie Hatter in [Howl's Moving Castle](#) by Diana Wynne Jones
The book is a wonderful parable about what age can do to a woman's confidence.

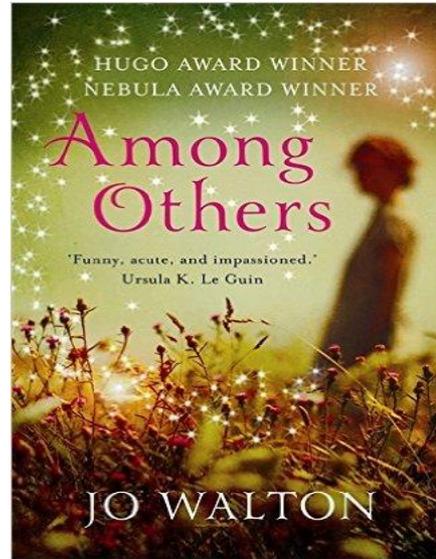
Lyra Belacqua in the [His Dark Materials](#) by Philip Pullman



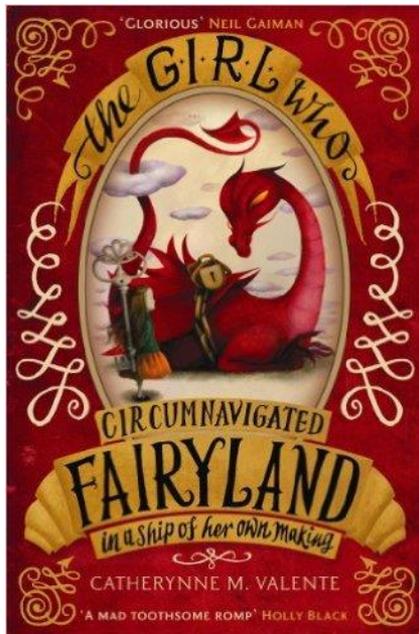
The girls in [The Circle](#) trilogy by Sara Bergmark Elfgren and Mats Strandberg

Top 10 feminist heroes in fiction

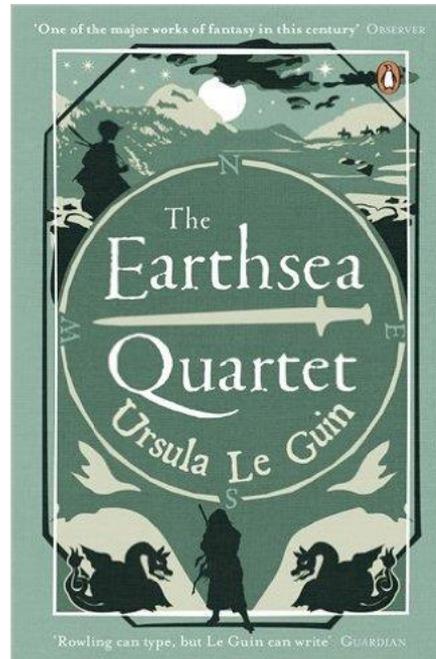
Morwenna 'Mori' Phelps in *Among Others* by Jo Walton



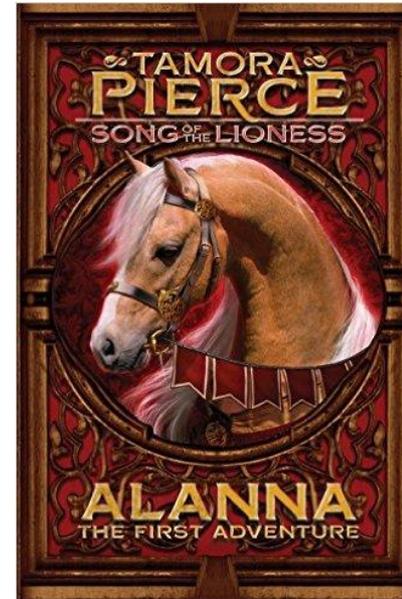
September in *The Girl Who Navigated Fairyland in a Ship of her own Making* by Catherynne M Valente.



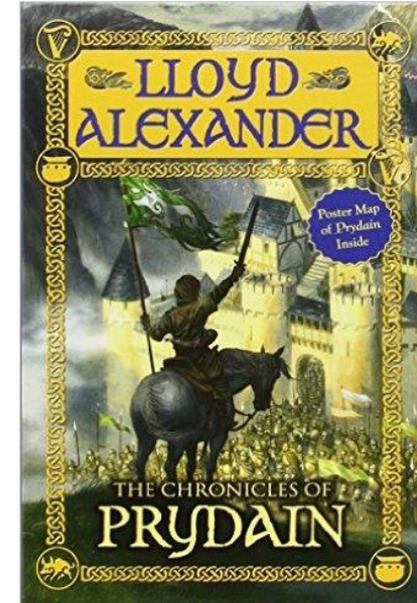
Tenar in the *Earthsea* series by Ursula K. Le Guin



Alanna in *The Song of the Lioness* by Tamora Pierce

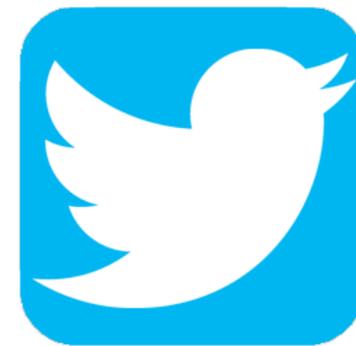


Princess Eilonwy in the *Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander



Little My in the *Moomin* books by Tove Jansson

The Kelmscott School literacy department and library are now on Twitter.



Tweet us your book reviews and suggestions:

@kelmscottbooks

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Twitter profile for Kelmscottbooks (@kelmscottbooks). The browser's address bar shows the URL https://twitter.com/kelmscottbooks. The profile header features a large image of a Stormtrooper figurine next to an open book. Below the header, the profile name 'Kelmscottbooks' and handle '@kelmscottbooks' are visible. A 'Photos and videos' section shows a book club week poster and photos of a library. The main content area displays a tweet from Kelmscottbooks: 'Boy 23 by Jim Carrington – review gu.com/p/4f5ha/stw Book suggestion no3'. The tweet has 7 replies, 8 retweets, and 1 like. On the right, a 'Who to follow' section lists 'Transport for London', 'BBC School Report', and 'Maslaha'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 12:02 AM on 1/17/2016.



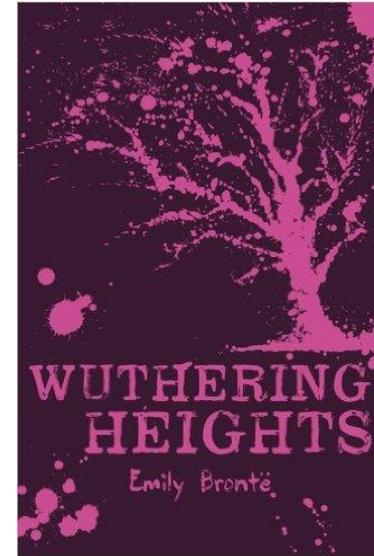
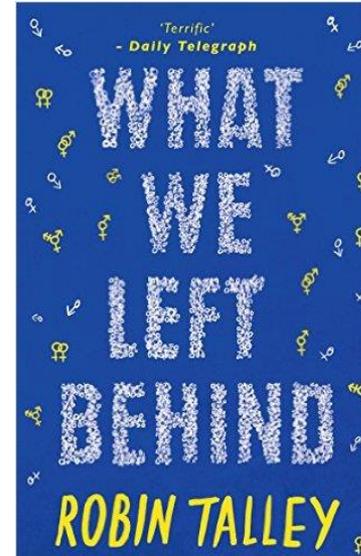
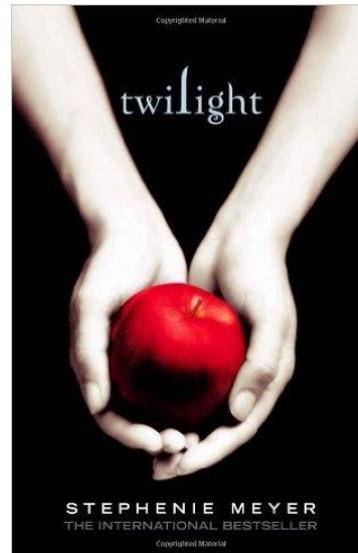
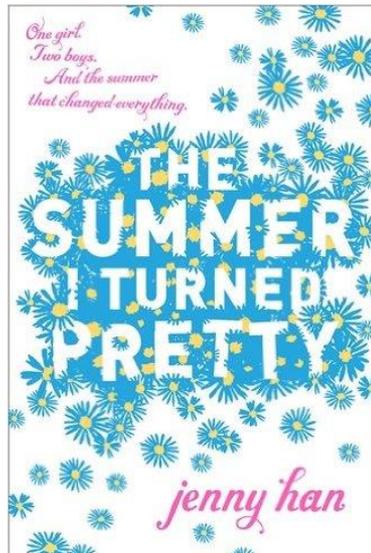
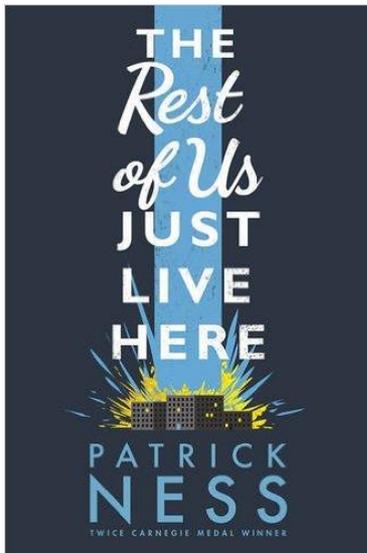
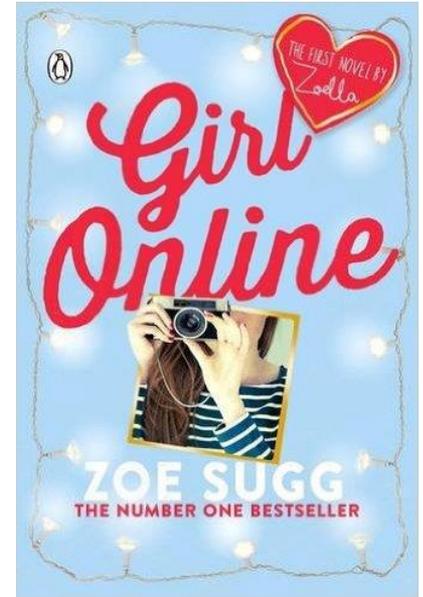
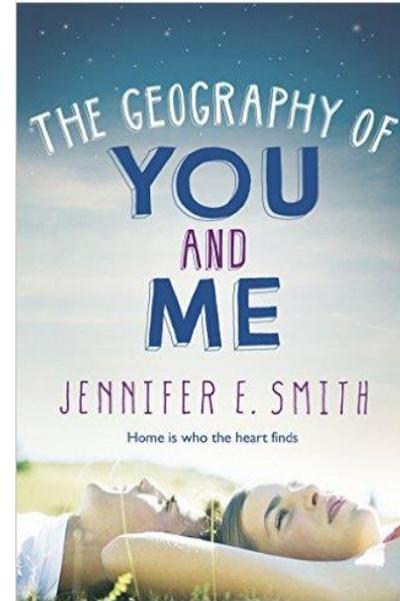
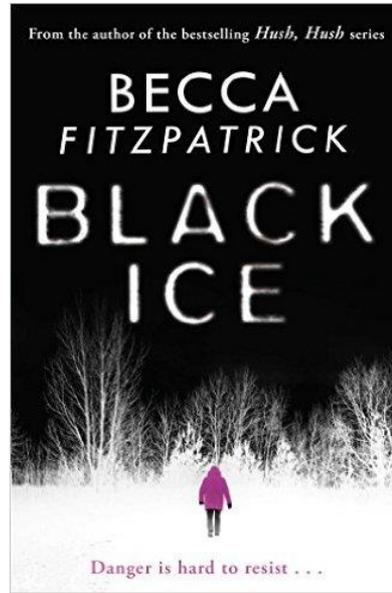
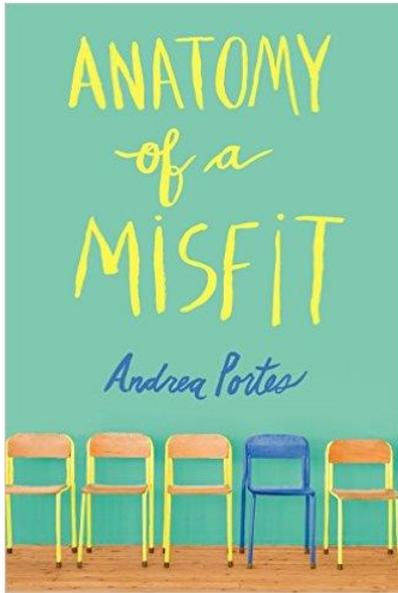
The Library's Film event for February 2016

The Fault in our Stars

Date: 24th February

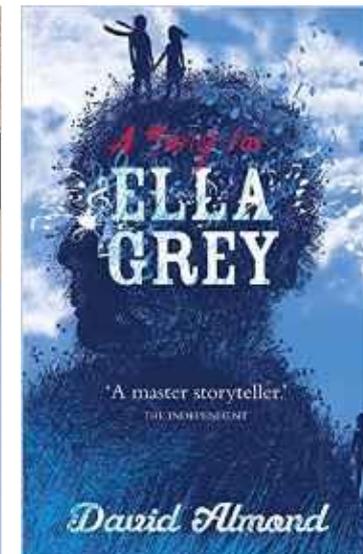
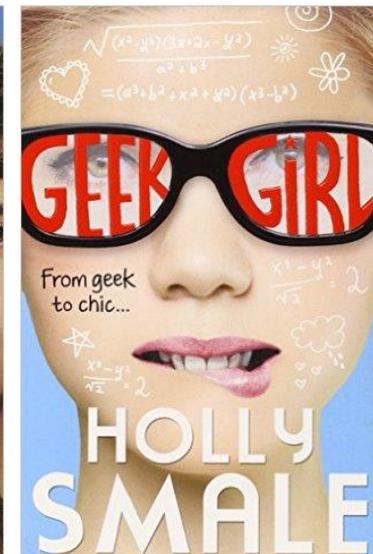
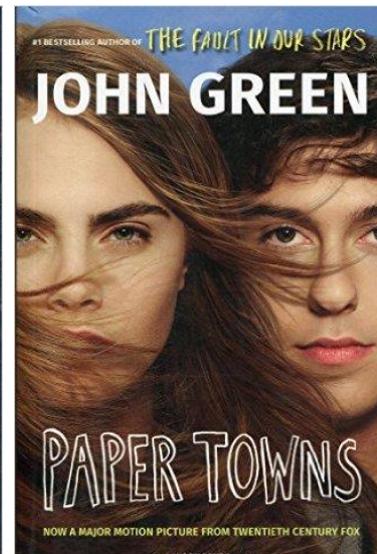
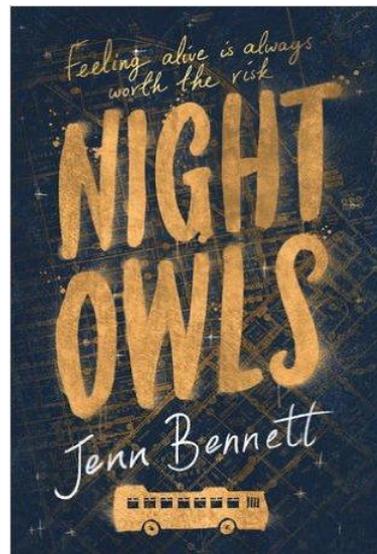
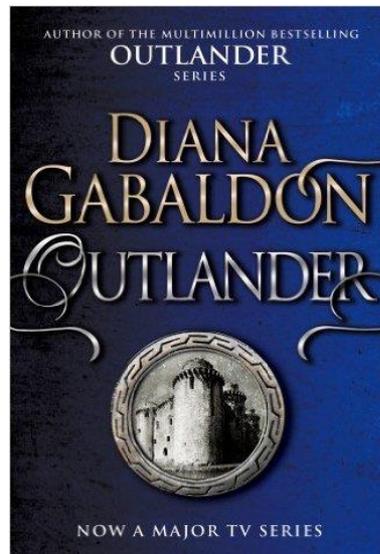
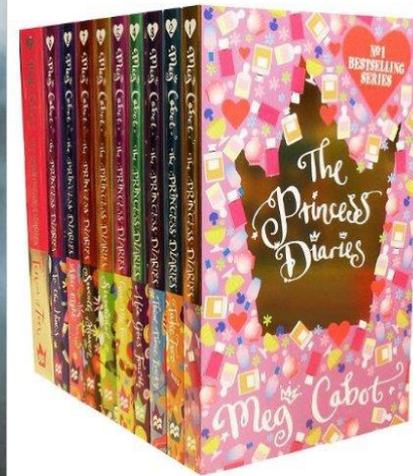
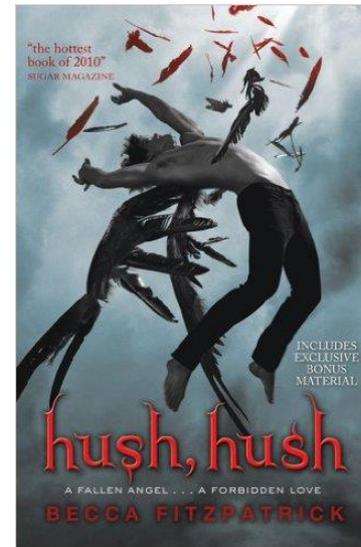
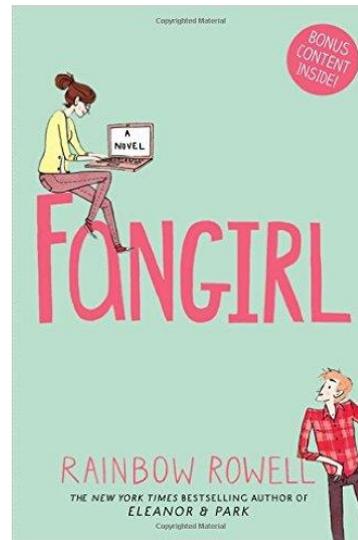
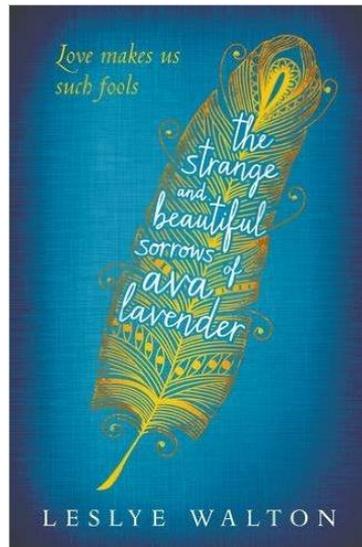
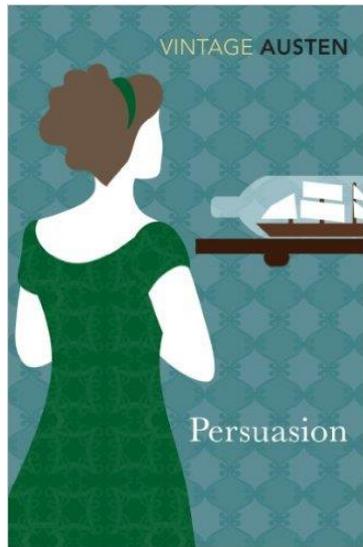
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