



RTC- LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO THE RTC- LIBRARY NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2023





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Many people commonly believe that reading has the potential to enrich our vocabulary, expand our knowledge, enhance concentration, boost communication skills, stimulate imagination, and relieve stress. These aspects are all tied to cultivating particular skills that are crucial in our daily lives. The pressing question I want to delve into here is, can reading transcend its supposed role as merely a skill-building exercise or a means of relieving stress?

Reading as Cultural Extension of Our Innate Capacity

For much of known history, literature and reading were not integral components of human civilization. The emergence of reading is commonly attributed to southern Mesopotamia around 3,000 BCE. In this context, the act of writing and engaging with written texts is a relatively recent development. However, there is a compelling rationale behind the rapid proliferation of writing and reading, which has its imprints in the course of human history and its flourishing.

We humans, like any other non-human beings, are beings of sensors (five senses) and interpreters. These senses are interpreted through our volitional receptors, like our emotions, mental states, experiences, and so on. In this regard, our bodies function as complex systems that constantly receive, emit, and decipher a myriad of information. This complexity underscores the intriguing question of whether reading is an inherent trait in human beings, a query whose answer hinges upon the specific form of reading under consideration. While 'sensory reading,' as discussed earlier, is innate to human beings, the particular action of sitting down and reading a book is not necessarily inherent. Even though the latter act of reading is not innate to us, it is a "cultural extension" of our innate capacity through which we navigate and locate ourselves in time and place - it is a learned skill that we have developed.

By "cultural extension," I mean that, given our innate capacity for sensory reading, we humans have developed a particular form of reading and writing that is acquired through learning. In this form, we write and engage with written texts in a structured manner. This process broadly serves two essential purposes: firstly, it enhances and expands our capacity for sensory reading, deepening our comprehension of the world; secondly, it serves as a valuable tool for self-discovery and existential exploration. Thus, the act of reading and writing is a tool that we developed to aid in our existential exploration/quest and well-being.

Reading Help us Transcend our Transient Life

Another compelling reason why I consider reading (books) as a cultural extension is its capacity to transcend the transience of our lives. Books possess the remarkable power to transport us to different places, times, and spaces, enabling us not only to exist in multiple dimensions but also to live out and experience our most profound desires. We human beings are confined to our physical existence in time and space. This confinement not only limits us physically but also limits our innate capacity for sensory reading. Through reading as a culturally cultivated process, it is as if we have found a way to unlock ourselves from the confines of our physical existence.

In a lifetime, you may not be able to visit all the places you desire, savor all the foods you want, witness all the things you wish to see, or partake in all the experiences you aspire to have. However, reading provides a means to vicariously experience all these aspects within the span of a single lifetime. Every act of immersed reading is like going through the process of endless discovery and understanding. Contrary to some beliefs, I don't perceive books as a mere escape from life's physical, emotional, and psychological challenges; rather, they are a means of enriching and expanding our engagement with life itself. Life brings with it its never-ending challenges, but reading, as a tool, represents a cultural extension that helps us reexamine, reinvent, and relive ourselves in the face of these challenges, enabling us to emerge from them with renewed perspective and resilience. Thus, reading is a tool we have crafted to transcend our physical boundaries and perpetually rejuvenate ourselves within the framework of our transient existence.

Navigating Through Sound and Visual Bites

In our contemporary existence, we are surrounded by visual and auditory stimuli. The digital age has brought us to a juncture where a plethora of information lies just a click or a tap away, waiting to be accessed and explored at our convenience. On one hand, this easy accessibility to a plethora of information is undoubtedly advantageous. But on the other hand, it continues to undermine the act of reading as a cultural tool. In today's context, we read more than ever, but reading is often regarded merely as a means to consume information. This perspective and approach to reading leave us increasingly hungry for quick soundbites and visual snippets, ultimately leaving us more dissatisfied despite our apparent consumption of a significant amount of information and entertainment.

As we strive to navigate life's challenges and fill the emptiness within our hearts, we often pursue fleeting moments of satisfaction, which ultimately fragment our sense of self. This fragmented self continues to yearn for lasting fulfillment. Thus, enduring satisfaction can only be attained through reading, as it provides a steady and profound connection to our inner selves and the external world, meeting our need for ongoing engagement.



Phuntsho Wangchuk Rinzin
BA Pol-Soc

For a moment I saw
I saw the mountains move
The river flow swiftly
The clouds billow high

Into Earth's warm embrace I fell
the cool air danced on my cheeks
Gravels spurned the asphalt
For which, they all whirled around me

Then the mountains wedged
Rivers turned into creeks
Clouds lit up the sky with lightning
All that's fair plunged into a void

Moments fled like mist
Leaving a hefty heart articulating
When all that was left alone
The Earth still embraced



THE LONGEST RIDE BY NICHOLAS SPARKS



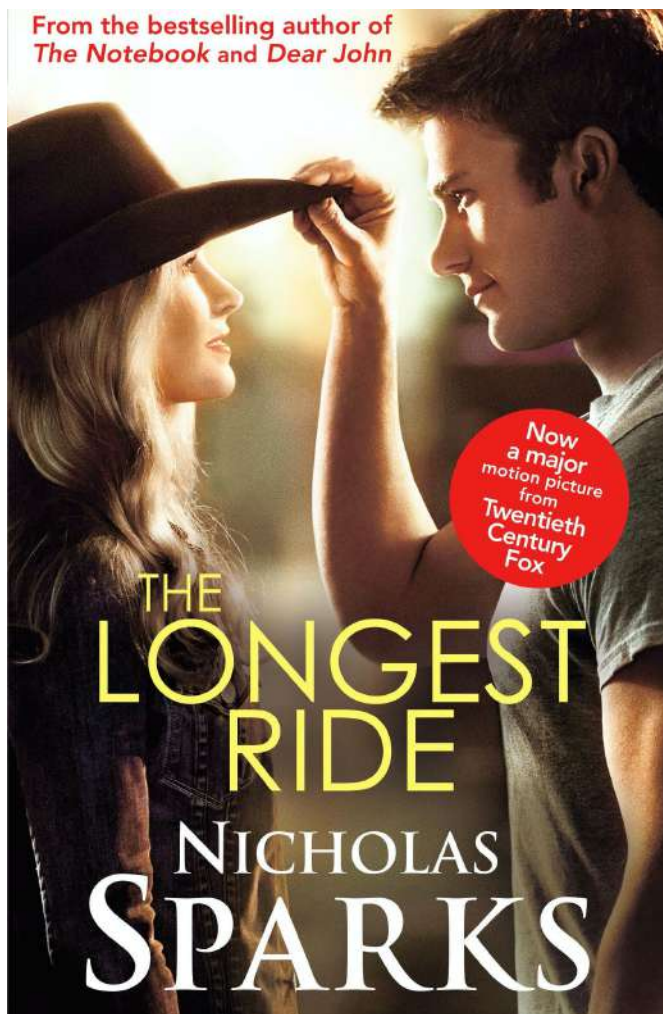
Nicholas Sparks' "The Longest Ride" is a literary masterpiece that will tug at your heartstrings. This enchanting novel tells the story of two couples, separated by decades but connected by love and destiny.

Luke and Sophia, with their vastly different backgrounds, embark on a passionate and chaotic journey. Their love unfolds against the backdrop of the exhilarating world of rodeo and the art galleries of New York City. Sparks beautifully captures the essence of their connection, leaving you rooting for their love story.

In parallel, the touching narrative of Ira and Ruth, portrayed through letters and flashbacks, adds depth to the novel. Their enduring love serves as a soul-stirring reminder of the power of true love to transcend time

This book is a rollercoaster of emotions, beautifully written, and impossible to put down. It's a testament to the enduring power of love, reminding us that it can conquer all obstacles, even time itself.

Prepare to be swept away by this enchanting tale that celebrates art, love, and the belief that sometimes, love really can conquer all.



**BY: KELZANG YANGCHEN
(BA DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS)**

LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SKY



In love with the sky, I find my delight
Its beauty so captivating, a wondrous sight
Blue and white, a perfect blend it does weave.
As clouds gracefully dance, in pattern they heave



Changing shape with each passing moment they dare.
A feeling inside me beyond words can compare
It fuels my dreams, ignites my soul so high
The earth from above a breathtaking sight.



Connecting us all beneath this endless sky
Showering us with love, in the grace of every raindrop
In the language of clouds I find my reply
Yes, I am in love, endlessly with the sky.



By Pritika Ghalley
(BA Eng Studies)



The Virtual Library



Digital Resources
Passwords

Research4Life

username: BHU523
password: 13313

Sage Knowledge

Log into Research4Life
Copy & paste URL in separate
window

ScienceDirect

Scopus

Log into Research4Life
Access through Institution:
Research4Life

The Economist

username: library@rtc.bt
password: bhutan2022

library@rtc.bt

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databases? Book an appointment*

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Research4Life (direct link)

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KOHA ACCOUNT

If you are interested in having access to your koha account, please visit the library front desk to get your username and password or send us an email at library@rtc.bt

RENEWAL OF LIBRARY BOOKS - CAN BE DONE THROUGH EMAIL

Step 1: You will receive an automated email from the library when the due is near.

Step 2: If you would like to renew, Please reply to the same email.

Step 3: Library staff will renew your book and send you the new due date.