

Greetings, Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Literary Leanings*. I'm excited to bring you a magazine whose purpose is to enjoy new literature. This issue is also focused on encouraging new ways of experiencing literature, and helping you help others love literature.



Did you know that only "half of all American adults read 0 or 1 book a year for pleasure"? Most book readers tend to be "older, more affluent, at a higher education level, and urban dwellers." While this is flattering to those of us who love to read, we should ask ourselves if it is enough. Shouldn't more people experience the joys that come from reading? Shouldn't more people be able to develop a love for novels, short stories, poetry,

non-fiction and creative non-fiction? Why is our culture turning away from literature?

With today's technology, there are many options for experiencing literature. E-books, audiobooks, and internet programs have given the public access to many resources that were previously only available in book form. This is exciting because those who prefer not to pick up a book and read have other options available to them.

While these technological advances are important and useful, we must not forget the sheer joy of holding a book in our hands and reading, imagining for ourselves what "scenes" are playing, what the characters look like, what it feels like to be in their shoes.

An English professor whose class I took at BYU-



Idaho often told us that half of her job is to get other people reading and loving books. What a great job!

Even if we can't convert the whole world to loving literature, hopefully we can inspire those close to us to pick up a book or explore a genre hitherto unappreciated. Maybe we can even do that for ourselves.

I hope you enjoy reading this magazine as much as I have enjoyed putting it together, and remember--stock that bookshelf and keep reading!

Emily Newman
Creator and Editor

Statistics and facts from: John Vivian's "The Media of Mass Communication, Ninth Edition."
Opposite: Pablo Picasso's "Girl Reading at a Table."

