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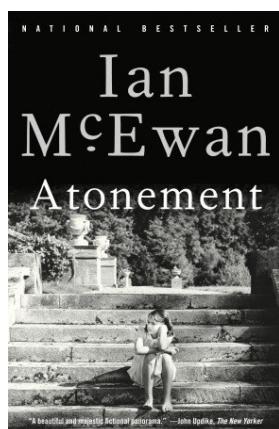


Re-Visioning Our Newsletter: February 2022

After almost two years without a good reason to invade anyone's inbox, I've finally figured out how add value to the City Books experience. Our new Shelf Life newsletter will not only be about supporting the bookstore, but also about how the bookstore can support its audience in the reading and writing life that so many of us returned to over the last two and a half years. Our monthly letters will now include book reviews, suggestions for how to spend more quality time with books, and writing prompts for writers & non-writers alike. If there is anything else you would like to see that would keep you anticipating hearing from City Books, please let me know.

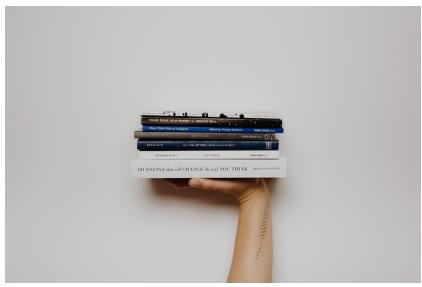
Arlan

[Shop City Books Merchandise](#)



[Book Review: *Atonement*](#)

Atonement by Ian McEwan is the first in an ongoing series of book reviews that I will be including in our newsletter and posting on social media. The 2001 novel is about jealousy and self-deception, and the lies we tell ourselves and others in order to survive. Click [here](#) to watch and subscribe to our YouTube channel for future reviews.



Featured Book List: How to Get Your Reading Mojo Back

If you have lofty reading goals for 2022 but are having trouble getting started, regain your reading mojo by browsing our list of books most readers can finish in a few hours.

Second-hand books are wild books, homeless books; they have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather, and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.

Virginia Woolf



Reading practice: SSR

When I was in junior high school, our school district implemented a 15-minute reading period during homeroom called Sustained Silent Reading (SSR). For me it was a oasis in the chaos of my mornings. For others, not so much. I recently re-introduced SSR into my daily routine and it has helped with the daily burdens of rolling lockdowns. If pleasure reading has become a struggle for you during the pandemic, try setting aside a specific time of day to read. Doesn't matter when. Start with 10-15 minutes and go from there.



Getting it in writing

Content is all around us these days, but sometimes poetry can be found in the least likely places. I once visited an exhibition at the [Morgan Library & Museum](#) that consisted of famous peoples lists: to-do lists, packing lists, book lists. They were displayed in books, on the backs of envelopes, and on

scraps of paper. Some were in writing; others were doodles. I thought they were absolutely divine. Consider writing your own list poem by choosing a subject and writing an introductory line. Then add a list of items--as many as you can think of--that expand on your theme. The items can be in complete sentences or short phrases. Finally, and here's the twist, conclude with a line that is about an adjacent subject, something similar to your topic but not entirely relevant. How does that final line both resolve and extend your original idea? If you try this exercise, I'd love to read it. Share it with me at citybookspgh@gmail.com.



Final thoughts

When City Books reopened at the beginning of February after a temporary 6-week lockdown, I began to feel as if the shop was entering a new era. Online shopping is driving a significant portion of our business these days, and I am amazed by the reach social media allows us to have both locally and nationally. Look for an expansion of our digital footprint--including on Pinterest & YouTube--in the coming months, and follow on multiple channels for a variety of content that will enhance the City Books experience. You can find us almost everywhere at [@citybookspgh](https://www.instagram.com/citybookspgh).

Coming next month: Review of *A Thousand Pieces of Gold* by Adeline Yen Mah, March Book List, and the joy of marginalia.

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