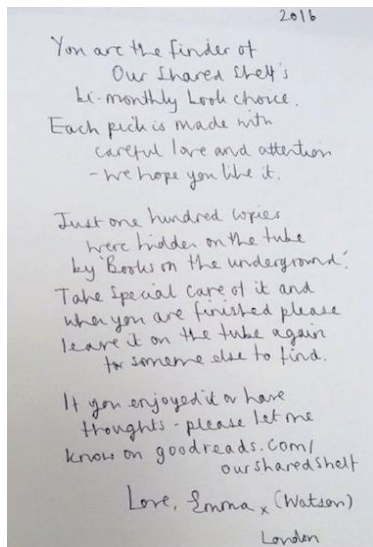


Hermione's underground library

Since 2015 famous actress Emma Watson has been venturing into the Underground and hiding inspiring feminist books for people to “pick up and have a good read”. Watson works with UN Women and is constantly trying to promote gender equality throughout the world. She started the book club



called 'Our Shared Shelf' which is dedicated to this cause by encouraging everyone to read texts and books that push for gender equality.

Each month the twenty-six-year-old distributes one hundred books in the subway. She handwrites a note in the front of each edition explaining why it is there and what to do with it. (A picture of this note is displayed to the right of the article.) The idea is to find a book on the subway and to read it then to hide it again somewhere in the underground for someone else to find. This way the positivity and knowledge around this topic is being shared and hopefully if people understand why inequality is a problem we can begin to think of ways to stop it.

A few of the books that have already been found are Gloria Steinem's "My Life on the Road," Alice Walker's "The colour Purple," and Maya Angelou's "Mom & Me & Mom" which Emma Watson describes to be "one of my favourite books of all time".

Personally, I feel that 'Our Shared Bookshelf' is an excellent idea because there are so many people who miss out on the opportunity to read, whether it's because they're too busy or they simply forget how important and magical reading is. For the books to be placed in a busy subway is perfect as most people there are rushing around and to come across one of these books could lead them to put down their phones and take some time for themselves to get lost in a story. Also, these are positive, encouraging books that spread an important message that can really impact people's lives for the better. Furthermore,

with more and more libraries being closed down due to cutbacks I think it is fantastic that this project allows people to enjoy amazing books without having to worry about the cost.

Books can benefit you in so many ways from helping you relax, to improving your writing and creativity, to making you a statistically more open minded person.

Reading is an amazing, positive, use of time that can really change how you view the world. So, next time that you're about to get on the tube just stop for a moment and you may be the next lucky finder of a hidden book!



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