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Advantages of Real Books

Yes, of course, there are advantages to using an eBook:

- Easy to enlarge the font
- Smaller carbon footprint
- Lighter for carrying multiple titles while traveling*

* Note, however, that you cannot distract yourself through a turbulent takeoff with a gripping thriller - all electronic devices, including e-readers, need to be turned off for take-off and landing.

Advantages of Real Books

- *Science Daily* published an article entitled:

Storybooks On Paper Better For Children Than Reading Fiction On Computer Screen, According to Expert *

- Real books are real. In the end, an eBook library is simply a collection of digital files, able to be wiped clean in some dystopian universe.
- You can giftwrap it and choose it with care as a personal gift to give. You can inscribe the inside cover to your gift recipient with the date and occasion, marking it for posterity.
 - You can lend it to your friends.
- You can enjoy the prestige that comes with reading something cool, timely, or intellectually challenging when others can view the book cover, instead of masking your title behind a generic screen.
- You can make connections when you see that the stranger nearby is reading a book you love... or a book you are reading at the same moment!
 - You can have it signed by the author. You can have it personalized to your grandchildren. You can write notes to your children in the margins.
- Your favorite books reflect your life. Physical books can line your rooms to be picked up for solace and wisdom. Their creases and stains mirror your time together, and your memories of how that that particular book came to you, where you were when you read it, your posture as you finished it all add color to your reading life.
- Physical books appeal to the tactile creatures we humans are. The cover design, the font choice, the weight and smell, the thickness of the paper, all engage our senses and heighten the reading experience.
- Real books let you lose yourself in the reading experience. We are hearing more and more people saying that they get more than enough screen time through long work days, and they would rather relax without staring at another screen, especially one with capabilities of blinking and flashing and underlining and connecting them to a never-ending warren of information in cyberspace.
- Real books allow real bookstores to exist, places where you can wander shelves and encounter the **MAGIC** of picking up the right book at the right time.

Real bookstores will not survive if they are treated as simply a showcase for Amazon, instead of the carefully curated shelves and space for community that they really are.

* The University of Stavanger (2008, December 22). Storybooks On Paper Better For Children Than Reading Fiction On Computer Screen, According to Expert. ScienceDaily. Retrieved October 18, 2011, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081219073049.htm>