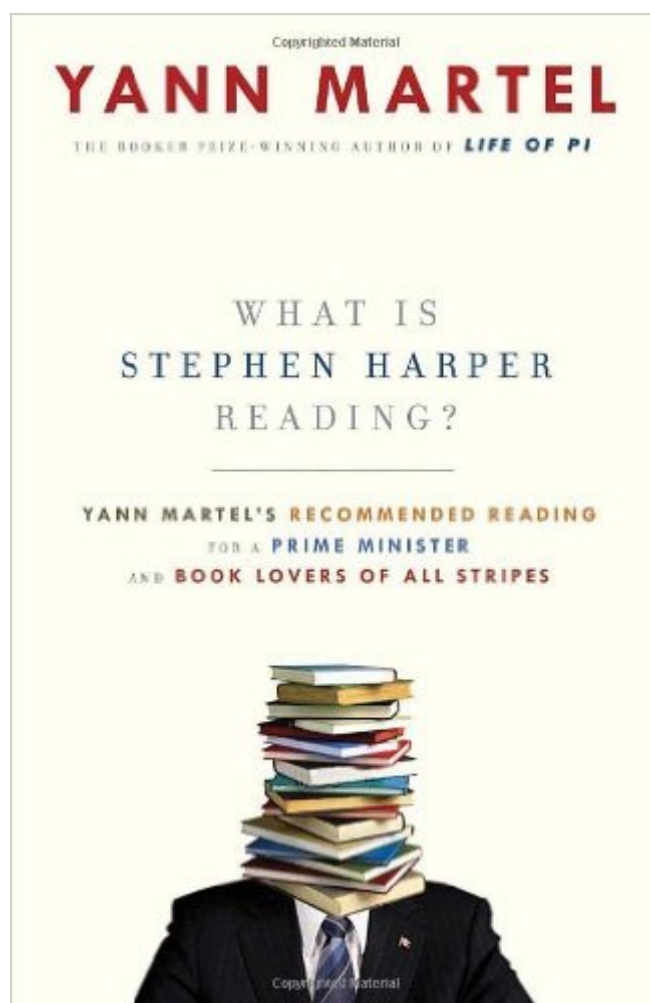


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# What Is Stephen Harper Reading?: Yann Martel's Recommended Reading For A Prime Minister And Book Lovers Of All Stripes



## Synopsis

“I know you’re very busy, Mr. Harper. We’re all busy. But every person has a space next to where they sleep, whether a patch of pavement or a fine bedside table. In that space, at night, a book can glow. And in those moments of docile wakefulness, when we begin to let go of the day, then is the perfect time to pick up a book and be someone else, somewhere else, for a few minutes, a few pages, before we fall asleep.”

From the author of *Life of Pi* comes a literary correspondence “ recommendations to Canada’s Prime Minister of great short books that will inspire and delight book lovers and book club readers across our nation. Every two weeks since April 16th, 2007, Yann Martel has mailed Stephen Harper a book along with a letter. These insightful, provocative letters detailing what he hopes the Prime Minister may take from the books “ by such writers as Jane Austen, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Stephen Galloway “ are collected here together. The one-sided correspondence (Mr. Harper’s office has only replied once) becomes a meditation on reading and writing and the necessity to allow ourselves to expand stillness in our lives, even if we’re not head of government.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you haven’t done so already, here is the best reason yet to click on the link at the bottom of this page and get yourself an account at .ca, ’s slightly chillier version of everyone’s favorite website. Several year’s ago Canada’s then new Conservative Prime Minister bragged that he really wasn’t much of a reader of literature. Quite a few northern book lovers bemoaned the fact but one of

them, Yann Martel, Booker-winning author of Life of Pi decided to do something about it. Starting in April of 2007 he has sent a different book every two weeks to Mr. Harper with a cover letter explaining why he should read it. The letters have appeared (in English and en francais naturally) on his website. This volume collects and reprints the first 50 or so letters of the 70 delivered as I write this in Dec '09. The collection is eclectic and covers of broad base of writers of all nationalities and styles, from Marcus Aurelius to the present. There are some kid's books and some (very) adult books. All are of uniformly high quality. For American book lovers it is interesting in that it gives us a peek into what is popular in a different but similar country. Many books (e.g To Kill a Mockingbird (#13)) are classics on both sides of the border but others such as the excellent The Tin Flute (#60) by Quebec writer Gabrielle Roy are so little known south of the border that you will have to order it from .ca.

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