

# Film Fanatic to Bookworm

By Carrie Sheldrake

## *A look into how you can develop from an experienced film buff to avid book reader*

This article focuses on the difficulty that new readers, or unexperienced readers, have with kickstarting their journey into discovering literature that they can enjoy. My advice here, is to stick with what you know until you are ready for something else. By reading the book adaptations of your favourite films, you already know that you love the storyline and the characters, and it will be easier to follow.



<https://manybooks.net/articles/5-books-that-were-featured-in-movies>  
*'5 Books That Were Featured in Movies'*

If you are an avid bookworm, you will understand the struggle of watching your favourite books be transformed into films, sitting nervously in front of the screen to see whether it lives up to your expectations. Although most of the time these films probably include everything you could have wished for, a lot of literature fans will tell you that they often miss out key details which are included in the book. Therefore, if you consider yourself a 'reluctant reader,' why not try reading the book of your favourite film? This way, you will discover even more information and about your favourite plots, get to learn more about your favourite characters, and it may finally encourage you to open up the world of literature in all its greatness.

Depending on which genre of movie you tend to steer towards, many of the classics have been adapted into films, TV series and spin-offs. For example, *Clueless*, directed by Amy Heckerling, was a 1995 teen romance film that is still widely popular today. However, this film was actually an adaptation from Jane Austen's novel *Emma*, which has a similar light-hearted comedy to it, and is an easy read for those who struggle with the language of the classics. If you like a dystopian or a bit of action, *The Hunger Games* and the TV series of *The Handmaid's Tale* have both been adapted from novels. Although a literature-lover may argue that *The Hunger Games* is not the most advanced of the dystopian tales – as opposed to, for example, *1984* and *Brave New World* – it is an interesting read and a good start for a 'reluctant reader' who loves the films. It may surprise you that even some of the highest acclaimed horror films have been adapted from best-selling novels. For example, Stephen King's *The Shining* and *IT* are said to be two of the scariest books of all time and will most certainly give you the creeps just as much as the movies.

Some of my best experiences with reading the novel after loving the film, have been Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*, which was adapted by Luca Guadagnino in 2017. This was a different sort of read for me, as it was written in first person through the perspective of a young boy, yet most novels I read are from the narrative of a woman in a heterosexual relationship. The innocence and beauty of the film are just as prominent in the novel and will definitely make any fan of this film experience the same joy, emotion and heartbreak. Sticking with the theme of love, *Lolita*, written by Vladimir Nabokov, is a twisted love story (if you'd even call it that), that was adapted from a dark but witty novel. Although a slightly more challenging read for a beginner, the novel delves into the mind of Professor Humbert, and his ability to manipulate his reader through his intelligent and artistic language. Everyone's favourite romance – *The Notebook* – was also adapted into a movie, from a novel by Nicholas Sparks. A beautiful story as well as film, this tear-jerker is ideal for early readers, who long to experience true love.

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A rather stereotypical example, but definitely one that shouldn't go forgotten, is the Harry Potter series written by JK Rowling. As a franchise which generated near a billion dollars per film, it is easy enough to forget where the magic first came from. As spectacular as they are, they aren't able to capture every little detail of the seven books, and any Harry Potter fan should definitely target this series if they are trying to enjoy reading more. The detail of the novels does not even compare to the films, and as you embark on the journey of discovering the 'Wizarding World' with Harry, you feel a connection to him far greater than you could have realised.



[https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Harry\\_Potter\\_and\\_the\\_Deathly\\_Hallows](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Deathly_Hallows)  
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows



<https://search.creativecommons.org/search?q=coraline989>  
Coraline

Another of my personal favourites, a little more of an obscure novel, is Coraline, written by Neil Gaiman in 2002. Simultaneously innocent and complex, it was awarded the 2003 Hugo Award for Best Novella, the 2003 Nebula Award for Best Novella, and the 2002 Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers. Through the twisted plot and ominous suspense throughout, Gaiman is able to create a cautionary tale for younger readers, taking a turn on the common phrase of 'be careful what you wish for.' These are only a few examples of some of the best books/films that can spark an interest in literature. There are many, many more and talking to others about their personal favourites is probably the best place to find them out. You'll be a bookworm before you know it!

