



Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States

Amy Blair

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A person who reads a book for self-improvement rather than aesthetic pleasure is “reading up.” *Reading Up* is Amy Blair’s engaging study of popular literary critics who promoted reading generally and specific books as vehicles for acquiring cultural competence and economic mobility. Combining methodologies from the history of the book and the history of reading, to mass-cultural studies, reader-response criticism, reception studies, and formalist literary analysis, Blair shows how such critics influenced the choices of striving readers and popularized some elite writers.

Framed by an analysis of Hamilton Wright Mabie’s role promoting the concept of “reading up” during his ten-year stint as the cultivator of literary taste for the highly popular *Ladies’ Home Journal*, *Reading Up* reveals how readers flocked to literary works that they would be expected to dislike. Blair shows that while readers could be led to certain books by a trusted adviser, they frequently followed their own path in interpreting them in unexpected ways.



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From reader reviews:

Raymond Childers:

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Roberto Fetter:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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