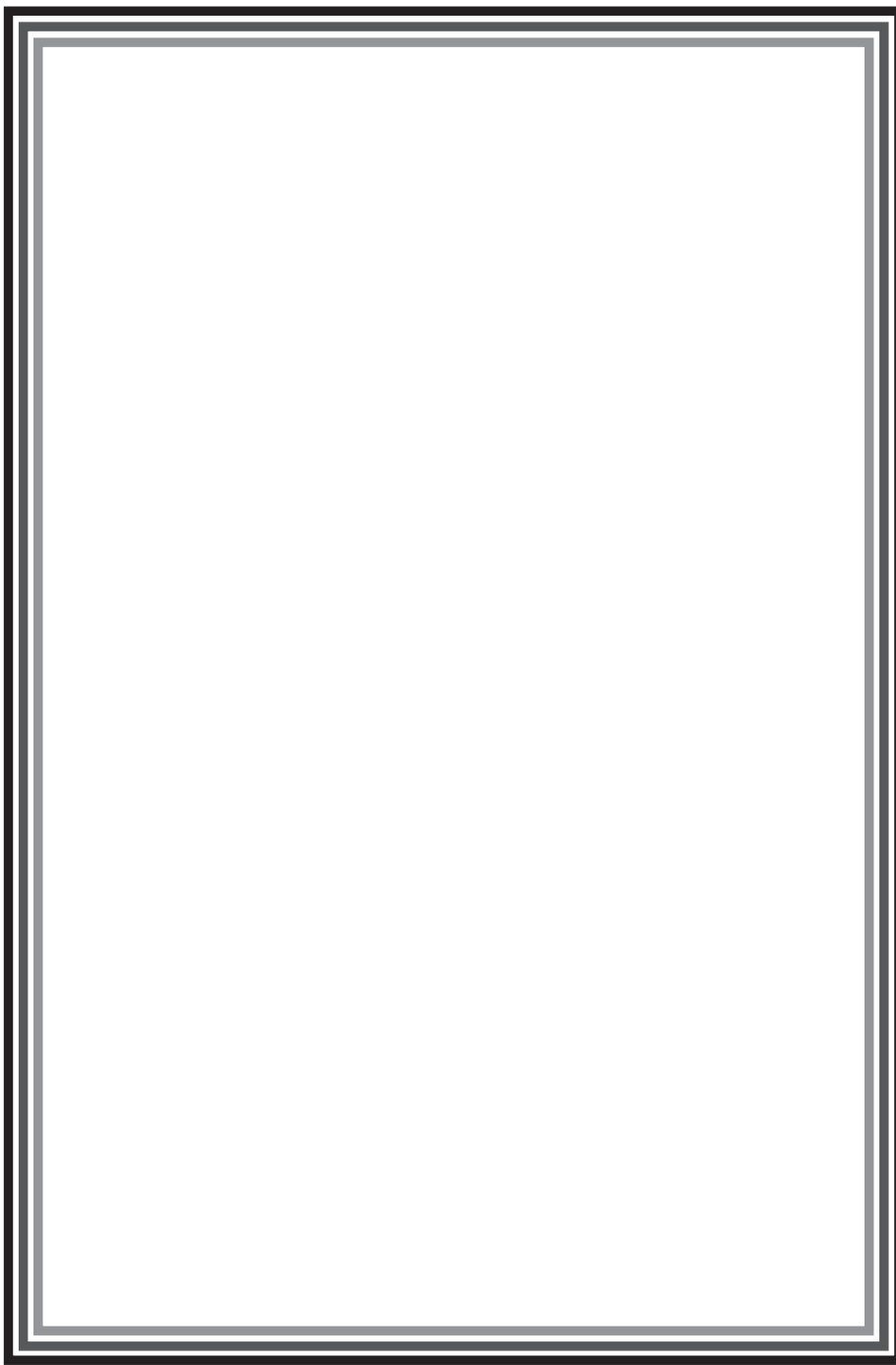


claudia de la torre
books you cannot read on a kindle



For example, as the words describe a trip through tunnels under the house, the tunnel is physically represented through multiple pages in the book by appearing as a square on each page.

On a Kindle, you'd see the square on each page, but they wouldn't form a 3-d tunnel through the pages the way that they do through the physical book.

In addition to what others have mentioned there are sections of the book where the story bleeds through onto other pages and its helpful to be able to turn pages to see what is happening, or pages will be written in mirror writing. Or the number of words per page will arbitrarily change. Some of the words in the book are written in colored fonts, and not all e readers are in color. It is clear the author took a lot of time crafting a book experience that doesn't go well with e-reading. Think of how easily you can change font size on an e-reader. Well that doesn't go well with a page that's written in a spiral. You can't change the font of the spiral, and even if it's a pdf where you can zoom in, then you have to scroll around awkwardly trying to read it.

The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy
(a book (about books) with a story (about story-telling) that
asks the reader to skip sections, close the book, change words,
draw their own pictures, etc.)

Hundred Thousand Billion Poems by Raymond Queneau would be impossible.

The Neverending Story by Michael Ende. All of the text is either green or maroon, depending on which world you are reading about. To read it in all black would take away one of the great parts about the book.

Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace would be a bitch to read on a Kindle. I can't imagine having to flip back to the footnotes every couple pages.

Fahrenheit 451. The book just hits too close to home on a Kindle Fire.

Hopscotch by Julio Cortazar. You can read the book either progressively through the first 56 chapters or follow the suggested order, skipping around the book with supplemental materials. Although this can be made easy with a choice of links at the end of each chapter, there are some chapters, particularly one where one line is text from a book the narrator is reading and the next line is what the narrator thinks, would be impossible in the digital format.

There a new book out called S. It's a collaborative piece by JJ Abrams and Doug Dorst. It's hard to describe, because its such a interesting piece of media. It comes in a nice sleeve, inside of which is a book called Ship of Theseus, a fictional book by a fictional author, but with a complete story. This fake book is filled with margin notes between two college students who form a bond because of the book, and work together to uncover a conspiracy involving the author. Also in the book are all kinds of little pictures and notes that pertain to both the text and the external story.

Apparently it does have a kindle version, but I have no idea how they handle all the physical stuff (especially since on of the inserts is a code wheel).

Impossible to Kindle-size: Tree of Codes by Jonathan Safran Foer.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. It just isn't the same unless the reader can actually stick his fingers into the holes that the caterpillar has eaten through the pages.

(More generally, I think that physical books will always make more sense for very young children. They often use non-standard media and/or page dimensions, and in any event it's probably not a good idea to entrust a five-year-old with an expensive electronic device.)

The Unfortunates, by B.S. Johnson. It's a 'book in a box' where every chapter is a separately bound pamphlet, so that you can read them in whatever random order you choose.

Technology promised us so much, but all of my pop-up books are so flat and lifeless on the Kindle.

Boo on you, Amazon. Boo.

Photography books. I just got Understanding Exposure and The Photographers eye in paperback after comparing the Kindle preview with the look inside preview.

Kindle version had low resolution pictures with non of the layout the paperbacks had.

A Clockwork Orange. They use an odd mix of British and Russian slang so it's impossible to read the book without constantly flipping to the back of the book where all the slang is deciphered.

The Selected Works of TS Spivet has all sorts of notes, drawings and asides. Would be awful on a screen!

Hmm...All of them?

a selection on a reddit discussion

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books_you_cannot_read_on_a_kindle/](https://reddit.com/r/books/comments/246yec/books_you_cannot_read_on_a_kindle/)

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