



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

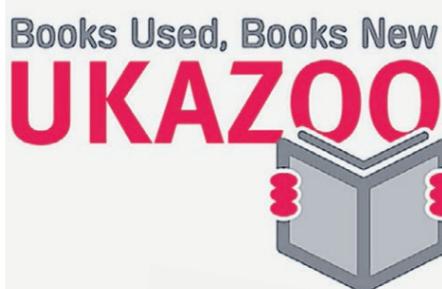
WHAT TO BUY A LOVER OF TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL BOOKS

Book lovers used to be easy to shop for around the holidays. The latest tome or a vintage edition always made an acceptable gift. But with the proliferation of e-readers starting in the mid-2000s, book lovers have gone three ways: those preferring traditional bound volumes, those who prefer digital e-books, and those who like both. Fortunately, there's a variety of gift choices available this year to surprise and satisfy all three types of book lovers.

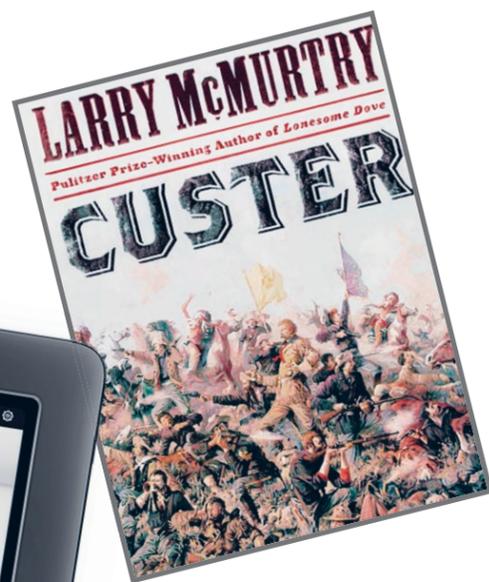
— By Jon Chavez
Blade Business Writer



Some scholars believe parts of the Holy Bible are more than 10,000 years old. How do you make a holy book that old somewhat relevant to today's teenage girls? Evangelical publisher Zondervan may have found an answer with its line of **faiThGirlz! teen bibles**. Featuring striking cover designs in hot pink, lime green, and deep purple, this is not your mother's Bible. But it may just fit your teenage daughter's style. **\$40. Family Christian Store, familychristian.com**



Book gift cards — When all else fails, let them pick out the book they really want. **Ukazoo Books**, 1830 N. Westwood Ave., offers gift cards in various denominations for the purchase of new or used books. **Ukazoo.com, 419-537-2665.**



There have probably been more books written about **Gen. George A. Custer** than there were Indians at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. But now, famed *Lonesome Dove* author **Larry McMurtry** has entered the fray with his own book about Monroe's favorite son. Neither a biography nor a history, *Custer* is a different sort of book — a coffee-table-sized offering that contains McMurtry's own insights into the famed Civil War hero, plus a generous selection of archived photos, paintings, and other historical documents relating to Custer's life. **\$35. Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million.**



Sometimes a setting doesn't allow for undistracted reading, but will permit listening to audiobooks. In that case, get the full sound experience with a pair of **Bose OE2 Headphones**, which are a great addition to the next generation of e-readers. **\$135. Best Buy, Target, Sears.**

Early e-readers were simple, black-and-white devices. But the newest generation of e-readers, including the **Nook HD, Kindle Fire HD, and iPad Mini** allows you to read books, play audiobooks, play movies in high definition, and do an assortment of other computerlike functions. Best of all, they cost about the same as those early e-readers. **Between \$200 and \$350. Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, Target, and other stores.**



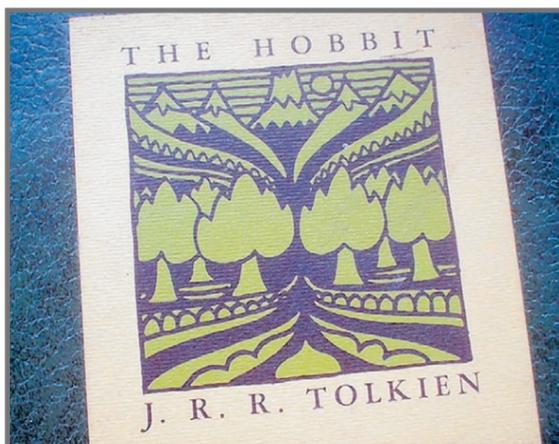
Who says reading can't be stylish? Display your flair for more than just words by using a **Vera Bradley book light** that features the designer's Dogwood pattern. **\$20. Fiddlestix Boutique & Gallery.**



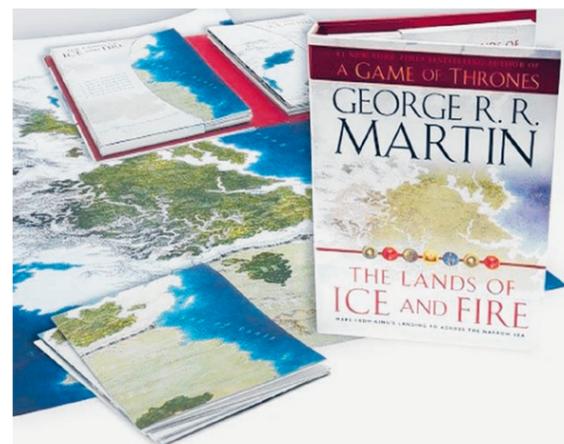
So you love your e-reader, but just like the look and feel of a real book. You can have both, sort of, with **Lightwedge's Verso Prologue Antique book covers** for e-readers. It protects your electronic device but when closed resembles a fine hardcover tome. **\$40. Best Buy.**



Audiobooks — If there's someone on your list who spends a lot of time in a car, or on an iPod, or an MP3 player, give him or her something different to listen to other than canned radio or dated playlists. Audiobooks are available in thousands of titles, and **cost \$10 to \$30. Barnes & Noble, 4940 Monroe St., or Books-A-Million at Levis Commons in Perrysburg.**



With Peter Jackson's newest Middle Earth trilogy debuting this month, it may be time to reacquaint family or friends with a lavish hardcover edition of *The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien's masterful adventure about plucky Bilbo Baggins, who wanders Middle Earth with a band of dwarves in search of riches and encounters trolls, elves, Gollum, and the dreaded dragon Smaug along the way. **\$35. Books-A-Million, Barnes & Noble.**



Can't wait for the next book in George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* book series? Get a better understanding of Westeros and beyond with *The Lands of Ice and Fire*, a new finely detailed series of rich, colorful maps from the *Game of Thrones* author. **\$40. Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million.**