

Interactive Reading Guides

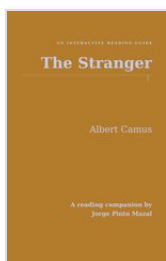
A series of companions to enduring works and ideas, in four strands: Literature · Film · Philosophy · Themes.

By Jorge Pinto Mazal · Jorge Pinto Books Inc. · Fourteen titles · \$0.99 each on Apple Books

These guides grew from a simple conviction: that the great books and films are not monuments to be admired from a distance but companions to think with. Each guide is a way in — to a novel, a philosopher, a body of films, or an idea traced across many minds — offering brief original commentary and questions meant to be argued with, never a substitute for the work itself. The sources are mostly free or easily found; what these companions offer is direction: where to begin, what to notice, and how to think alongside the work. Read closely, watch the classic films with a curious eye, and let one guide lead you to the next. The aim is not to tell you what to conclude, but to make the encounter richer — and to send you back, always, to the reading and the watching themselves.

Literature

The novel as a way of thinking about love, freedom, society, and the self.

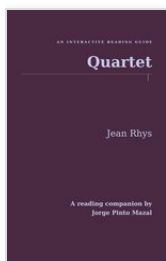


The Stranger

A companion to Albert Camus's novel of the absurd, moving through Meursault's story section by section with original commentary and reflection prompts on alienation, honesty, and the indifferent universe.

ISBN 979-8-9963862-4-6

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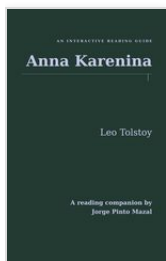


Quartet

A companion to Jean Rhys's novel of dependency and displacement in bohemian Paris, with a principal-characters guide and prompts on vulnerability, power, and the outsider's eye.

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Anna Karenina

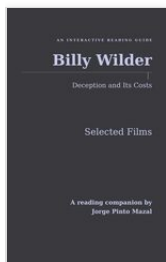
A companion to Tolstoy's great novel of love, jealousy, and society, with a who's-who of the principal characters and reflection prompts on passion, marriage, and moral freedom.

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Film

Cinema read the way one reads literature — for the ethical situation at its core.

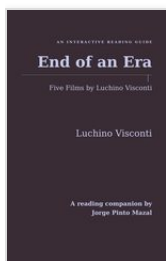


Billy Wilder: Deception and Its Costs

A companion to eight Billy Wilder films, read for the theme of deception and its moral price, with cast notes and prompts that treat cinema the way one reads literature.

ISBN 979-8-9963862-5-3

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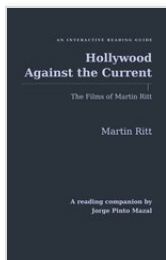


Luchino Visconti: End of an Era

A companion to five late Visconti films on the decline of the aristocratic world, with cast and music notes and prompts on beauty, decadence, and historical change.

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Martin Ritt: Hollywood Against the Current

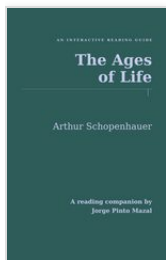
A companion to six Martin Ritt films read across five dimensions, on conscience, blacklist, and dignity, with a film-by-film matrix and prompts on integrity under pressure.

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Philosophy

Ideas as tools for living — read closely, argued with, put to use.

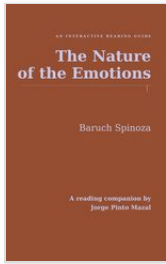


The Ages of Life (Schopenhauer)

A companion to Schopenhauer's reflections on the ages of life, with original commentary and reflection prompts on youth, age, happiness, and the shape of a human life.

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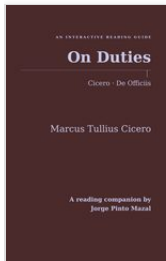


The Nature of the Emotions (Spinoza)

A companion to Spinoza's analysis of the emotions, moving through his account of the passions with original commentary and prompts on freedom, understanding, and the examined life.

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On Duties (Cicero)

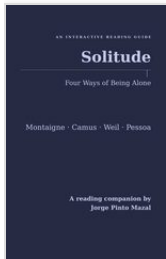
A companion to Cicero's De Officiis, following its three books on the honorable, the expedient, and their conflict, with the cardinal virtues and prompts on what we owe one another.

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Themes

A single idea, condition, form, or question read across several thinkers at once.



Solitude: Four Ways of Being Alone

A thematic companion reading solitude across four thinkers — Montaigne, Camus, Weil, and Pessoa — as a spectrum from the fortified self to the dissolved self.

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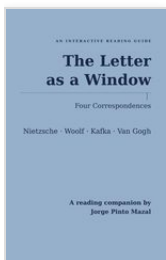


Exile: Four Lives Driven Out

A thematic companion reading exile across four thinkers driven from Nazi Europe — Zweig, Freud, Mann, and Arendt — as a spectrum from exile as loss to exile as insight.

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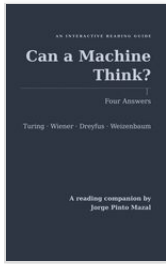


The Letter as a Window: Four Correspondences

A thematic companion reading four famous correspondences — Nietzsche and Salomé, Vita and Virginia, Kafka, and Van Gogh and Theo — from the letter as intimacy to the letter as evasion.

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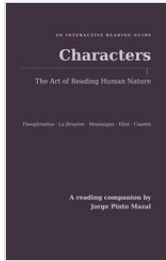


Can a Machine Think? Four Answers

A thematic companion on machine intelligence across four thinkers — Turing, Wiener, Dreyfus, and Weizenbaum — from intelligence as mechanism to intelligence as irreducibly human. The question left open.

ISBN 979-8-9976915-5-4

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Characters: The Art of Reading Human Nature

A thematic companion tracing the character sketch across 2,300 years — Theophrastus, La Bruyère, Montaigne, George Eliot, and Canetti — the outer art of reading human nature, with Montaigne as the hinge.

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* A note on method. These guides are companions to the works they discuss, never substitutes for them. They contain no copyrighted material from those works: every description, summary, and commentary is original and written afresh, and the guides quote no passages, even from works in the public domain. The aim throughout is to send the reader back to the source — the novel, the essay, the film, the letters — most of which are freely or readily available. What the guides offer is not the work itself but a way into it: direction, context, and questions to think with.

Each guide was created by Jorge Pinto Mazal with the assistance of AI tools (Claude, by Anthropic). The tool assisted with drafting and research; the selection of subjects, the arrangement, the judgments, and the editorial voice are the author's own. This collaboration is disclosed openly, as a matter of principle — the guides are honest about how they were made.

All titles are available on Apple Books — to find any of them, search “Interactive Reading Guides” or “Jorge Pinto Mazal.”
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