

The Little Library was a web-based puzzle which I designed and coded (with some help from a fellow Hunt Staff member who is much better at programming than I am, Dillon Lareau). Unfortunately, the PHP we used is now deprecated, so you can't actually play this puzzle since it used drag-and-drop elements.

Below is a screenshot of what the web puzzle looked like: a title, flavor text, and three "bookshelves" represented by columns. The "books" (colored rectangles with author names) were moveable elements which could be rearranged within a shelf or moved to a new shelf. Once a shelf had the correct books in the correct order, the books turned white.

When all of the bookshelves turned white, text appeared at the bottom of the screen with the answer.

The Little Library

In your pursuit of the elusive humans, you enter the next room. It is fairly small, and oddly enough, there doesn't appear to be another door aside from the one you just entered.

To your left there is a normal wooden desk with a chair. The drawers are all locked and thus inaccessible. There are a few items on top of the desk: a computer which is set up such that it can only access Wikipedia and a notepad with a pen. There is a note scribbled on the pad: "Please sort the books in order to leave. -Head Librarian"

Across the room are three bookshelves. Each shelf has a bronze placard above it displaying two names. There are twenty books strewn across the shelves.

D. H. Lawrence Marcus Pfister	Lois Lowry Pittacus Lore	Myla Goldberg Robert Bolt
Fannie Flag	Liz Kessler	Wilson Rawls
Alice Walker	Louisa May Alcott	Toni Morrison
Isaac Asimov	C. S. Lewis	Rudyard Kipling
Ken Kesey	James Grady	Alexandre Dumas
Meg Wolitzer	Rachel Carson	Mitch Albom
Charles Dickens		Barbara Kingsolver
John Steinbeck		Anthony Burgess
Charlotte Perkins Gilman		

Jump down for a solution to this puzzle.

The flavor text on the notepad clues that you need to order the books somehow (and then a door will “appear” so you, a zombie, can pursue the humans... or really the answer to the puzzle will appear on the webpage). First, you need to determine what the ordering mechanisms are. To do this, look at the “placard” names in bronze. The computer with Wikipedia open hints that you should use Wikipedia to learn more about these authors. The idea is to look at their bibliographies and hopefully notice that they have something in common. For example, Marcus Pfister is really only known (in America) for his *The Rainbow Fish* series, so hopefully noticing that D. H. Lawrence wrote *The Rainbow* will clue you in that the thing they have in common is the word Rainbow.

D. H. Lawrence
Marcus Pfister

The Rainbow
The Rainbow Fish series

Lois Lowry
Pittacus Lore

Number the Stars
I Am Number Four series

Myla Goldberg
Robert Bolt

Bee Season
A Man for All Seasons

The books the player should connect from each pair of authors is listed above. So, each bookshelf should have books in this order:

1. Rainbow order (ROYGBP in this case)
2. Number order
3. Season order (starting with Spring, which is pretty easy to figure out with only four seasons)

Bookshelf #1: Color Order

Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls
A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess
The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café, Fannie Flagg
The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
The Color Purple, Alice Walker

Bookshelf #2: Number Order

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Ken Kesey
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas
The Four Loves, C. S. Lewis
The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom
Six Days of the Condor, James Grady
The Seven Seas, Rudyard Kipling
Eight Cousins, Louisa May Alcott
Nine Tomorrows, Isaac Asimov
The Ten-Year Nap, Meg Wolitzer

Bookshelf #3: Season Order

Silent Spring, Rachel Carson
Prodigal Summer, Barbara Kingsolver
A Year Without Autumn, Liz Kessler
The Winter of Our Discontent, John Steinbeck