

OFF THE SHELF

A LOOK INSIDE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER 2016



THE SUMMER ISSUE

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY IS THE FIFTH-LARGEST PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES, SERVING THE BOROUGH'S 2.5 MILLION RESIDENTS AND OFFERING THOUSANDS OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS, MILLIONS OF BOOKS, FREE WIFI AND MORE THAN 1,100 INTERNET-ACCESSIBLE COMPUTERS.

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BOARDWALK, C.I.
FROM JETTY NO. 10. FT. W. 16TH. ST. SUNDAY JULY 15/23

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE PLAZA AT CENTRAL LIBRARY SEES ITS SHARE OF EXCITEMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: concerts, block parties, dance-offs and more. But there's nothing quite like the kickoff to Summer Reading.

Every year on Chancellor's Day, thousands of children and families flock to Central for a daylong celebration of literacy and learning. The students sing, dance and shout for joy. They marvel at magic tricks and cheer on puppeteers and jugglers. When they leave, their painted faces are smiling and their temporarily tattooed arms are full of books.

This year, more than one thousand Brooklynites registered for the Summer Reading program on Chancellor's Day, with thousands more joining them in the following weeks. These young people and their caregivers took an important step toward preventing "summer slide," the loss of literacy skills suffered by students who do not read while school is out of session.

Summer reading is essential for success in the classroom and in life. But most of all, summer reading is about fun: Kids visiting the library when they would normally be in school. Working parents enjoying some precious alone time under the shade of a beach umbrella or a Prospect Park elm. Entire days spent lost—wonderfully, blissfully adrift—in the magical world of Harry Potter, the haunting landscapes of Alice Munro, the unforgettable Brooklyn of Betty Smith, Edwidge Danticat or Colm Tóibín.

Whatever your age, and whichever your genre, Brooklyn Public Library has you covered. Our librarians have packed this issue of Off the Shelf with recommendations for readers of every stripe and pleasure. And remember, it's not too late for the children in your life to join in the fun by registering for Summer Reading at bklynlibrary.org/SummerReading or in any of our 60 branches.

From one summer reader to another: enjoy the rest of the season, and see you in the fall!

Very truly,



Linda E. Johnson
President & CEO

HAPPENINGS

2016 NATIONAL MEDAL for Museum and Library Service

We won!

**BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
RECEIVED THE 2016 IMLS
NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM &
LIBRARY SERVICE, THE NATION'S
HIGHEST HONOR FOR LIBRARIES.**

The award is a tribute to the thousands of staff, volunteers and supporters who give so much of themselves to make the Library a resource for the entire

community, leaving no one behind. BPL earned the National Medal in part for the work of our Outreach Services Department, which offers citizenship classes for new Americans, creative aging workshops for older adults, an oral history project for veterans and the Books-to-Go program for homebound patrons.

Check out First Lady Michelle Obama congratulating BPL at bklynlib.org/imls-award.



BASEBALL, BEACH READS & BETTERMENT

Admit it. Whether you're lounging in a hammock or indulging in a staycation, taking in a tome is probably the last thing on your mind. Then you remember: summer reading isn't just for kids! Here is a selection of quirky works from librarian Charisma Lee that may help you learn something new or introduce you to powerful storytelling. If nothing else, you might laugh your way through another warm day.



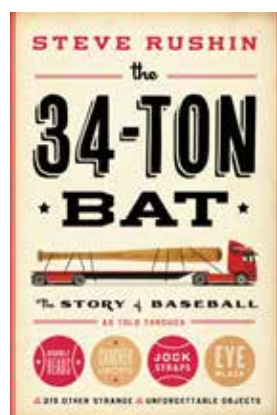
BOOKMATCH LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

CHARISMA LEE
ADULT LIBRARIAN
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS LIBRARY

Before coming to BPL, Charisma Lee worked abroad as a teacher and translator. A polyglot, she is always looking to add to her arsenal of languages. Charisma joined the BookMatch committee because she enjoys sharing her finds with other readers.



Visit Bklyn BookMatch online at bklynlibrary.org/bookmatch and complete a reader profile to get your personalized book suggestions today!



The 34-Ton Bat: The Story of Baseball As Told Through Bobbleheads, Cracker Jacks, Jockstraps, Eye Black, & 375 Other Strange & Unforgettable Objects
by Steve Rushin



Daydreams of Angels
by Heather O'Neill



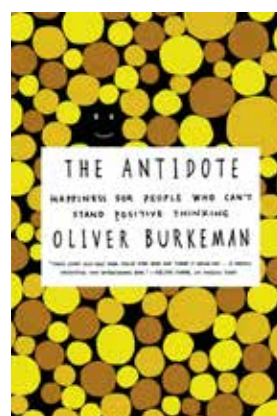
How to Age
by Anne Karpf



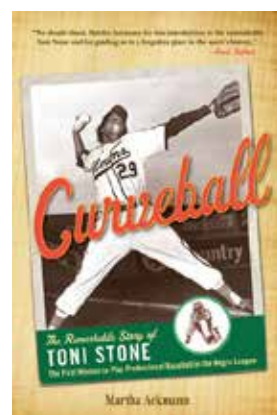
The Bad Guys Won!
by Jeff Pearlman



Modern Romance
by Aziz Ansari



The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking
by Oliver Burkeman



Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League
by Martha Ackmann



The Star Side of Bird Hill
by Naomi Jackson



Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age
by Sherry Turkle

ARTS & CULTURE AT CENTRAL LIBRARY

Brooklyn Public Library hosts cultural events throughout the borough, including special series and programming at the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Cultural Center. Join us to ignite your curiosity and immerse yourself in art and ideas.

SUMMER SERIES SPOTLIGHT

GURU DUTT & SATYAJIT RAY

SUNDAYS, 3 PM

BPL celebrates the work of two great film directors from India.

Aparajito (Ray, 1956)
August 7

Apur Sansar (Ray, 1959)
August 14

Pyaasa (Dutt, 1957)
August 21

Kagaaz ke Phool (Dutt, 1959)
August 28

Nayak (Ray, 1966)
September 11, 1 pm

Seemabaddha (Ray, 1971)
September 11, 4 pm

Visit our calendar at bklynlibrary.org for more events for the whole family!

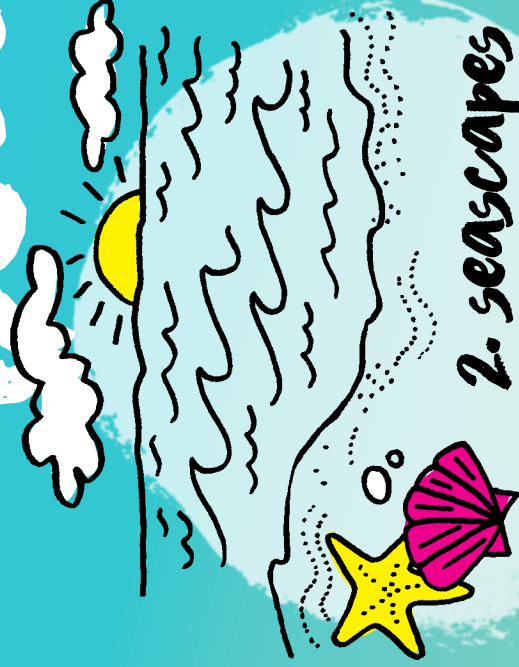
Hours: M–Th 9–9 | F 9–6 | Sa 9–6 | Su 1–5

the perfect beach read



1. lightweight

If you still carry actual books, the best ones for the summer are the ones that won't kill your back and are tied up in under 300 pages.



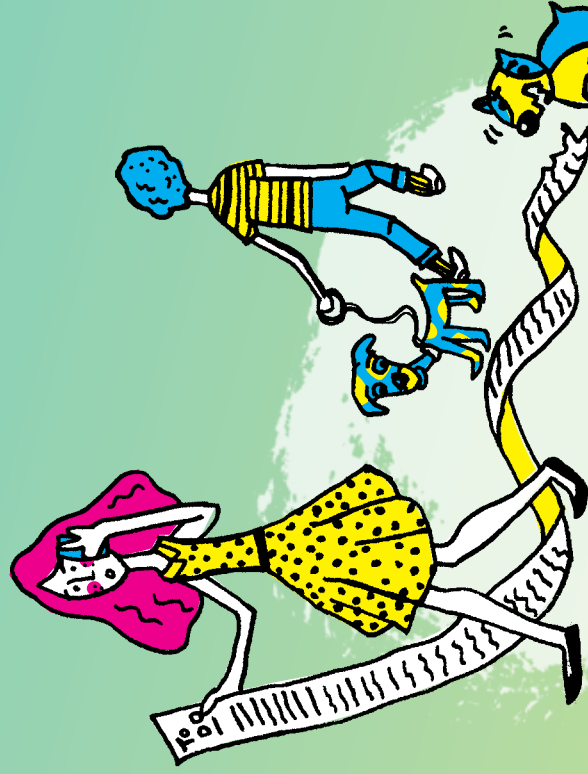
2. seascapes on the cover

You already know the drama will ebb and flow when you see waves crashing on the cover.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT

3. protagonist too busy for true love.

Can you already feel the tension? The protagonist works too much, is an over-achiever, and love—who needs that? THEY DO. Just wait.

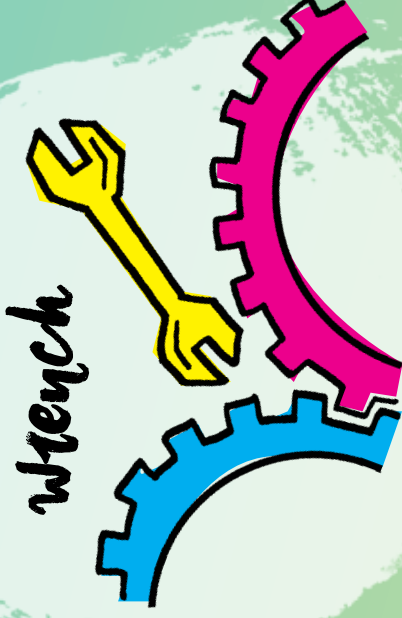


6. protagonist + true love fall out

"I'm too busy for this. My life is complicated."

5. family trauma introduces the

wrench



Mom/dad is sick. Secret love child appears. Brother/sister back in rehab. Something will interfere with the ride on the happy train.



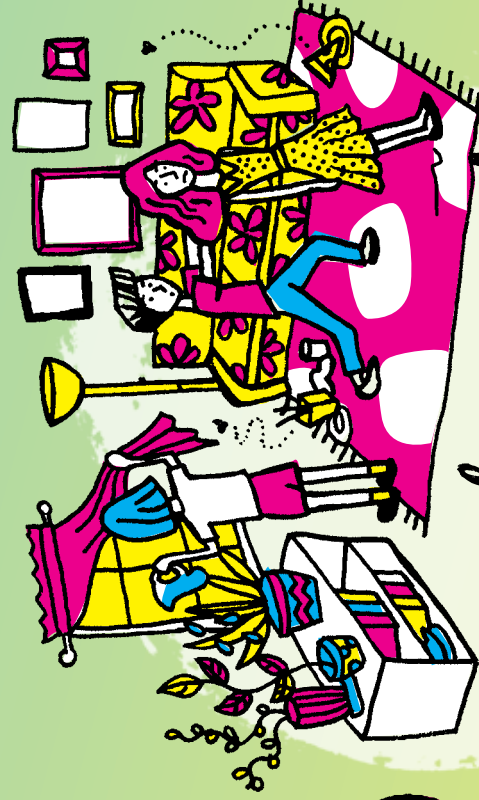
4. true love shows up anyway.

And it's always someone the protagonist would barely notice if not for a special circumstance: the doorman, the dog walker, a new client, the bartender at the local watering hole.

7. a period of brooding



The Protagonist tries to go back to life before True Love, caught between responsibility/denial and what the heart wants.



8. family & friends intervene

"Stop denying it; go and be happy!"



9. protagonist & true love reunite, crazily

During a presentation, True Love shows up and pledges eternity; co-workers clap; they kiss.

10. coming to a small cable channel near you



If this book is worth its [sea]salt, you'll be able to watch the movie version at home while you're cleaning all the sand out of your clothes.

the end.

CONEY ISLAND LIBRARY WHERE LEISURE & LEARNING RULE

BRANCH SPOTLIGHT

Just a short walk from the rides, waves and cotton candy, you'll find Coney Island Library, a branch whose serenity has balanced out the bustle of the nearby boardwalk for more than 100 years. The two-story library, located on Mermaid Avenue and West 19th Street, offers ample space to learn and play.

On any given day adults can attend a meditative exercise class or learn the latest computer software. Teens can participate in an exciting Poetry & Percussion session or play video games with friends. Story times for younger kids and art classes for older adults abound. And for those who just need a quiet place to read a good book, nothing beats the second floor, with its gorgeous natural light and ocean views.

Visitors to the branch will find it hard to believe that just a few years ago, Coney Island Library was devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Five feet of water flooded the branch, and everything in it—books, furniture and technology—was lost, forcing BPL to close the building for nearly a year.

But with extensive renovations—made possible in part by the AIG Disaster Relief Fund and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City—this beautifully updated library rose from its wet embers, reopening with a new, modern look on October 23, 2013. The renovated branch pays tribute to the surrounding neighborhood: salvaged planks from the boardwalk were incorporated into the ceiling, while a beautiful photomural of the beach and amusement park was installed on the first floor.

The opportunity to reconfigure the library's interior, adding more public space and meeting rooms, resulted in a more inviting atmosphere for the community. According to Coney Island Library circulation supervisor Kathleen Fowler, the renovated branch has been a hit with patrons. "Just yesterday," Fowler says, "a woman told me that she was sitting upstairs reading and she heard the air bubbles from our fish tank, and looked around at the plants, and it gave her a great feeling just to sit up there and read."

Branch staff visit the nearby boardwalk for lunch and genuinely enjoy working in a community that has come back stronger than ever from the

storm. "There was a beautifully run ship here when I arrived," says Ben Gocker, the recently appointed supervising librarian at Coney Island. "Maybe it's being by the ocean that makes people more laid back here."

"And we all have the space and freedom to work and serve our community," adds Sharon Tidwell, a senior librarian who has been with BPL since 2002 and lives in the neighborhood. "It's a good working environment."

According to the staff, Coney Island Library also serves the neighborhood by partnering with several local organizations, including BRIC, the New York City Housing Authority, WorkForce1 and the National Action Network, among others.

"This branch isn't a tourist attraction like the nearby amusement park," Gocker says. "Instead we attract a lot of jobseekers, teens, and local artists and entrepreneurs who are here for our workshops, gaming programs and the BRIC television studio upstairs. And the community-based organizations that work with us create the type of programs that keep people coming back."

"Liberty High School students and the Coney Island Beautification Project maintain our terrariums," says Kathleen Fowler. "And BRIC has excellent courses, plus a good crowd of budding artists borrowing the recording equipment for personal projects."

Check out your next beach read, attend a class or enjoy the views at Coney Island Library this summer!



SOME OF THE CONEY ISLAND BRANCH STAFF

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SUMMER

WEEKDAYS:

FREE SUMMER MEALS
June 29–September 4, 1:15–2 pm; ages 18 and under.

BOOK BIKE

Be on the lookout for BPL's new Book Bike around Coney Island all summer!

MONDAYS: CHESS CLUB

Join our weekly chess club and compete in friendly contests against other kids and teens. New to the game and want to learn? We'll help you! All skill levels are welcome! 1:30–3:30 pm

TUESDAYS:

BUILD WITH LEGO
Kids; 2–3:30 pm

WEDNESDAYS:

VIDEO PRODUCTION
Teens; 3–7 pm; registration required.

THURSDAYS: KIDS TECH

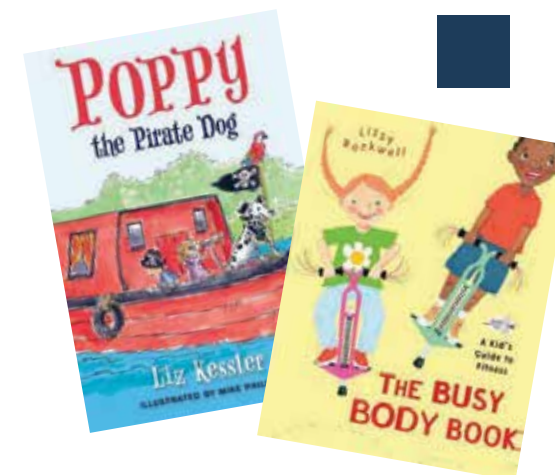
TIME: WII GAMING
Get in the Game this Summer with Wii, Board Games and Lanyard Creation! 2–3 pm

FRIDAYS: PROJECT ART

ART WORKSHOPS
Explore drawing, painting and mixed media work; materials provided. 2–4 pm; ages 8–12; register at Information Desk.

SUMMER READING FUN FOR EVERYONE!

The Summer Reading excitement began in June and won't end until the school bells ring at the end of the season. Your neighborhood librarians have planned a full calendar of games, films, performances, story times and more to keep you "in the game" all summer long!



DON'T FORGET TO READ

Spish, Splash Baby (Babies)
by Karen Katz

Boats Go (Babies)
by Steve Light

The Busy Body Book (Preschool)
by Lizzy Rockwell

Kooky Campout (K – 1)
by Erica Farber, Huck Scarry (Illus)

Poppy the Pirate Dog (2 – 3)
by Liz Kessler, Kim Smith (Illus)

Basketballs' Greatest Players (4 – 5)
by Sydelle Kramer

The Brooklyn Nine (Middle School)
by Alan Gratz

Shadowboxer (High School)
by Tricia Sullivan

Here's a look at what's in store for babies, kids and teens this summer; visit us online at bklynlibrary.org for more programming near you.

Game On!

Join us weekday afternoons for board games and other fun activities. For kids 6 and up.

Thursdays, 1 – 2 pm
Bedford Library

Wildlife Theater presents Butterfly Boogie

Think bugs are gross? Think again! Come learn why they're actually the coolest creatures around.

Monday, August 22
2 – 3:30 pm
Paerdegat Library

Bubbles the Clown

Celebrate the end of summer with Bubbles the Clown!

Wednesday, August 31
1 – 2:30 pm
DeKalb Library

Came for the Meals? Stay for the Programs!



Ask a librarian about family programming you can enjoy during free lunch at your neighborhood library.

For more information about our summer meals program, visit us online at bklynlib.org/summer-meals.

SUMMER AT BPL: NOT JUST FOR KIDS

School may be out for the summer, but kids aren't the only ones who can take advantage of the longer days and beautiful weather. Here's a peek at what BPL librarians have planned for the adult crowd. Check out bklynlibrary.org/calendar for a full list of summer programming.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The Murder of Mary Russell

by Laurie R. King
Wednesday, August 3, 6:15 pm
Arlington Library

How to be Both

by Ali Smith
Tuesday, August 9, 11 am
Mill Basin Library

Beekeeper's Apprentice

by Laurie R. King
Thursday, August 25, 2 pm
Windsor Terrace Library

Henna House

by Nomi Eve
Monday, August 29, 2 pm
Kings Bay Library

A Spool of Blue Thread

by Anne Tyler
Tuesday, September 13, 11 am
Mill Basin Library

GAMES

Chess & Checkers Club

Challenge fellow patrons to a friendly game of chess or checkers! Beginners are welcome.
Daily Monday – Friday, 11 am
Jamaica Bay Library

Summer Board Gaming

Each week, a librarian will introduce a new board game to the group.
Tuesdays, 11 am
Marcy Library

Adult Recess

Do you miss recess? Play board games and tabletop games with us.
Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Spring Creek Library

WRITING & ART WORKSHOPS

Flatbush Fiction Writing Workshop

This fun, nurturing writing workshop is inspired by international short-short stories. Open to anyone with the desire to write.
Tuesdays, 5:30 pm
Flatbush Library

Quilting Workshop

Learn to quilt and share quilting ideas. Bring your own materials.
Tuesdays, 2:30 pm
Gerritsen Beach Library

Watercolor Workshop for Adults

Learn the techniques of watercolor painting.
Thursdays, 1 pm
Gerritsen Beach Library



INTRODUCING THE BKLYN BOOK BIKE

Brooklyn Public Library's books are on the go in a fun new way this summer, on our latest mobile library—the BKLYN Book Bike! This custom-built library-on-wheels is just the latest way for BPL librarians and staff to bring library services beyond the walls of our 60 branches.

Built by the DUMBO-based small business Redbeard Bikes, the BKLYN Book Bike was designed to transport books and programming supplies to events that cannot accommodate BPL's Bookmobile. From beach boardwalks to downtown plazas, the Book Bike allows librarians to travel to popular hangouts in order to offer BPL's services in the open air. For example, Book Bike librarians can bring literacy kits to playground story hours or copies of the latest bestseller to a readers' advisory session at the Brooklyn Flea. Plus, the Book Bike is equipped with a mobile WiFi hotspot and tablets running BPL's circulation software, meaning anyone can sign up for Library Cards and check out materials on the spot.

The Book Bike's maiden voyage took place in early May at, fittingly, Bike the Branches, the Library's annual borough-wide bike ride and fundraiser. According to Nick Franklin, an outreach services librarian and avid cyclist, BKLYN Book Bike is already gaining fans across the borough. "Everywhere I rode it, there was a positive reaction," Nick says. "People ran up to take pictures and all of them wanted to know how to borrow books from the bike. They were really excited about it!"

Hitched to the back of the Book Bike is a custom-built cart that unfolds into a set of colorful library shelves. The cart is printed with illustrations that echo the outside of BPL's Bookmobiles, making the bike instantly recognizable. The intent of Brooklyn illustrator and author Adam J. Kurtz, creator of the eye-catching design, was to draw people in. "I think the arrival of the Bookmobile should be as exciting as the neighborhood ice cream truck," he says, and as it turns out, the public has made a similar association. "When I went through Prospect Park," Nick reports, "bystanders shouted at me, 'Do you sell ice cream



REDBEARD BIKES: POWERED BY BPL

BPL's PowerUP Business Plan competition has helped launch more than 100 Brooklyn-based businesses since it began more than 10 years ago. In 2012, Redbeard Bikes was one of the business plan proposals to win a cash prize.



Thanks to PowerUP, shop owners Kasia and Ilya Nikhamin opened a bike shop in DUMBO where new riders and pros alike feel welcome. Ilya credits PowerUP with helping him choose a direction and start asking the right questions. "By the time we submitted our business plan, Redbeard Bikes was already open!" he explained.

Both Kasia and Ilya immigrated to the US as children – from Poland and Moscow respectively – and credit the library with helping them adjust to their new home. The duo are thrilled to have designed BPL's innovative new mobile library. "It takes all the best things in life – books, bikes and Brooklyn – and combines them into one!" explained Kasia.

Learn how BPL can help jump start your business at bklynlib.org/powerup.

from that?' I parked the Book Bike next to its older cousin, the Bookmobile, and the four-year-old kids who had just gotten off the carousel flocked straight to the bike. It's a lot of fun."

Want to meet the Book Bike this summer? Pack your beach bag! After participating in the Mermaid Parade, the bike will be stationed at Coney Island Library until mid-July, with occasional visits to the New York Aquarium and the boardwalk to sign up beachgoers for Library Cards. For the remainder of the summer and fall, the Book Bike will visit local parks, playgrounds, farmers markets and community events throughout Brooklyn.

If you see the Book Bike while you're out and about in Brooklyn, stop by and borrow a book—and show some social media love to our library-on-wheels using the hashtag #BKLYNBookBike

Happy summer reading (and biking)!

Bklyn Public Library

Central Library
10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Brooklyn Public Library gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our corporate donors.



New York Life
Foundation

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CHASE 



EVERYTHING
MATTERS

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