

**From:** [Betsy Drake](#) [K[REDACTED]]  
**To:** [Read, John](#) [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]  
**Subject:** re Justice Dept. e-book proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:54:13 PM

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Dear John R. Read, Esq.  
Chief, Litigation 111  
Antitrust Division, United States Department of Justice  
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 4000  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear John R. Read, Esq.

My name is Betsy Drake. You can Google me on Betsy Drake Wikipedia to find out who I am.

As a member of the Authors Guild and also a member of PEN, I am writing this because I am deeply concerned that US DISTRICT JUDGE DENISE COTE will be reviewing the Justice Dept. e-book Proposal which has to do with a settlement regarding e-books and Bookstores, Books, Writers and all those concerned with Books as Works of Art in themselves in addition to the actual novels, stories, books of information, etc.etc.etc. I pray that Judge Denise Cote will consider what I am about to say.

First, In my opinion, the inventor of the Kindle should have his head chopped off by the Guillotine.

Thousands if not millions of children are now illiterate as well as young adults because they do not know how to read.

A child learns to read by holding an actual book with pages and/or with illustrations. A teacher cannot teach a child to WANT to read by phonics

For an adult, bookstores are where to go see books and decide which books to buy. Libraries also are being shut down. Millions of people are being put out of work. Not only that but libraries and bookstores are where people mingle with each other.

When I was a child I was neglected by adults. I survived by learning to read. My imagination was fired by the imagination of the author. I went to many different schools because it was the time of the Great Depression of the 1930s. In a way, I educated myself. Every year I give away approximately 500 books. On my bookshelves I have kept approximately 3,500 books.

I am an American living in London. This is the country of Shakespeare, Chaucer. The first printing press during the reign of Elizabeth the Virgin Queen.

Yours sincerely

Betsy Drake