

**From:** Rikita Tyson [mailto:rikita.tys[REDACTED] ]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** Read, John  
**Subject:** On the Amazon "price-fixing" lawsuit

Dear Chief Read,

It would only be a small exaggeration to say that books are my life. I began reading when I was two years old, and since then, reading has been both career and comfort: I recently finished a PhD in English literature, in the hopes of going on to teach the books I love to others. And as a frequent haunter of my local independent bookstores (I'm lucky; I have some of those left), I certainly know the siren song of a low price on a book. But I value individuality and community more, and Amazon does not seem to me to care about those virtues. It provides no tax revenue to my community, and it strong-arms other companies into playing by its rules, even against those companies' own best interests. I don't think it should be rewarded for its bully tactics by being granted an effective monopoly on the sale of e-books, and I am deeply worried about the prospect of a future in which Amazon has an even greater say in which books can, or can even afford to be, published. If competition is good for business, then multiple publishers working to set various e-book prices is certainly better than Amazon's predatory pricing, masquerading as choice for readers. What choice is there when the only choice is Amazon - when publishers can't afford to stay in business, and my beloved bookstores are further gutted by Amazon's being given carte blanche to set even more unsustainable prices? I am and always will be a reader, and I do not choose Amazon. I believe it is right to have a diversity of players in the book market; I believe it strengthens both the market and our culture.

I urge the Department of Justice to drop the lawsuit against Apple and the publishers named in the suit, as I believe it is misguided, and will have a terrible effect on the book market. Amazon's own tactics create the monopoly (90% of e-book sales before Apple's intervention seems pretty monopolistic to me), not the efforts of Apple and the publishers.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Rikita Tyson