

The Barn Door

Seeing the world through midwestern eyes.

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Only 61 Days Until Spring or My Plan to Read 116 Books by Suzanne M. Brazil

Spring will officially arrive in 61 days. A while back, I [vowed to make the best](#) of the winter season and not let the icy winds, perpetual darkness and dirty, roadside sludge get me down. I'm mostly succeeding. See the snow blob I created for "fun" just last week.



It is a blob instead of a "man" because it was too cold for the snow to pack. If you're from the Midwest, you understand this. If you're from some other, warmer paradise, don't ask!

Planning activities as spring approaches can be a risky venture. The last three years saw [temperature swings](#) in northern Illinois from the low 20's with subzero windchills to a mini, record-setting heatwave of 85!

We each have the same 61 days or 1,464 hours to while away until we say goodbye to this winter season. My fallback activity until March 20, will be reading. No thermal underwear is required and books can be read indoors or out, weather permitting.

The [consensus on a casual internet search](#) is the average American reads about 250 wpm. The average novel has 80,000 words which means it would take an average reader 5.3 hours to finish one book. Not counting falling asleep and having to reread pages, and allowing for 8 hours of sleep per night and a 40 hour work week, you could finish 116 books by the time spring has sprung!



I have a stack of four novels from the library next to my sofa. I just finished a highly recommended book of essays and I'm always looking for recommendations. Please, leave a comment with the great reads you've been dying to share. I will also be checking out the many wonderful books by contributing authors here at [The Barn Door](#).

If you are wondering how your reading speed compares to the national average, you can test it [here](#).

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