

Artist Creates the Longest Unreadable Comic Book Ever

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Duality (Noun) /du:'æləti/ - an instance of having opposition or contrast between two aspects of something
Example: The book is about the duality of human nature — the idea that every person has both good and evil within them.
2. Value (Noun) /'vælju/ the usefulness, importance, etc. of something
Example: This necklace was my mother's, so it has a lot of sentimental value for me.
3. Monetary (Adjective) /'mɑ:nə'tɛri/ relating to money
Example: These old toys might have little monetary value, but they still mean a lot to me.
4. Collector (Noun) /kə'lɛktər/ a person who buys or gets and keeps things of a particular type
Example: I've been a collector of stamps ever since I was little.
5. Copyright (Noun) /'kɔ:pi:,raɪt/ the legal right to print, perform, etc. a creative work
Example: The singer has been sued for breach of copyright.



An artist has created what could be the longest book ever — but it can't actually be read. Ilan Manouach's "ONEPIECE" brings together 21,540 pages of the popular Japanese comic One Piece into a single book. But Manouach's book — which is over 80 centimeters wide — is impossible to open without damaging it, making it a "sculpture that takes the shape of a book," Manouach's publisher, JBE Books, told The Guardian.

Manouach made 50 signed "sculptures" and offered them for sale for almost \$1,900 each. All 50 were sold within a few days of being released on September 7, 2022, The Guardian reported. Manouach created the unreadable book to show the duality of comics: they have cultural value for readers and monetary value for collectors, he wrote on his website. However, while American comics often increase in value as they get older — with the first Spider-Man

comic being sold for \$3.6 million in 2021 — old Japanese comics have little monetary value, and can often be bought for about 100 yen, or less than \$1.

The One Piece comic series was created by Eiichiro Oda, and has been released almost every week since 1997 in Weekly Shonen Jump magazine. According to Guinness World Records, more One Piece comic books have been published than any other series by a single author, with over 416 million books published between December 1997 and July 2022. Oda's publisher, Shueisha, told The Guardian that Manouach did not ask to be allowed to make his book-sculpture. But JBE Books said, because Manouach's sculpture can't actually be read, there shouldn't be any copyright issues.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you have any collectable or valuable books?
2. Do you own many books? What's the last one you bought?
3. How do you usually decide what book to read next?
4. Are there any books that you started reading but never finished?
5. If you could read only one book or series for the rest of your life, which would you choose?