

Judging a Person by their Bookshelf Sample

Questions:

What is *The Iron Ring* book about? When I searched it on Google, most of the information that popped up was about how Engineers wear an iron ring. Maybe this person is an Engineer.

What does “Thermodynamics” mean? It sounds scientific. When I looked it up, I found out that Thermodynamics is a branch of science that deals with heat and temperature.

I wasn’t sure what “taxidermist” meant so I looked it up and found out that it is someone who stuffs dead animals. Maybe this person is a hunter.

I looked up Roswell and found out it was an incident where an Air Force weather balloon was mistaken for a UFO. Many people have conspiracy theories about this, and many still think the government was covering up extraterrestrial contact and research.

I don’t know what *The Internet is a Playground or Hyperbole and a Half* are about. When I looked them up on google, I found that they were books on humour. They both deal with everyday life situations, but present them in a funny way.

I would like to ask the owner what the plastic-wrapped items are beside *The Forensics Handbook*. I think they might be magazines, or comic books that he/she is trying to keep in good condition because I’ve seen characters on TV do this with their valuable comics.

I wonder if this shelf belongs to just one person, or is it shared. There is a wide variety of genres. For example, sometimes science and religion are seen to be at odds with one another. Maybe these sets of books belong to two different people.

What is *Anybody Can be Cool, But Awesome Takes Practice* about? It’s a very vague title. It sounds like it’s meant to be funny or witty, but when I looked it up, I found out it was a Christian book for teens. I didn’t expect that.

Inferences:

I infer that this person likes science fiction, because of the books on Roswell, going to the bathroom in space, and Star Wars.

I infer that this person is a Christian because of *Handbook to the Bible; Reasonable Faith; Anybody Can be Cool, But Awesome Takes Practice; and The Needlework Book of Bible Stories*.

I infer that this person is a bit of a geek. They clearly play Dungeons and Dragons because of the 4 manuals that are on the shelf. They also like *The Walking Dead*, and have a *Star Wars* roleplaying game book. They have a book about chess moves too. All these things are stereotypically “geek.”

I infer that this person is only somewhat organized. Most of the series are kept together, but the *Walking Dead* books aren’t in the right order. Some of the D&D books are separated too, and the comedy books aren’t kept together.

This person has probably been to Spain because of the travel book I see.

I infer that this person is an adult because of the *Goodnight Husband, Goodnight Wife* book. Also if he/she has been to Spain, they are probably older to have gone on their own. If a kid had gone to Spain with their family, they probably wouldn't have a travel book about it. Sounds like he/she planned the trip themselves. Also, many of the books are quite sophisticated, particularly the ones about Christianity. They don't seem geared towards children. There are a couple books that seem like they are for younger kids (*Needlework Book of Bible Stories* and *Anybody Can be Cool, But Awesome Takes Practice*), but maybe that's because this person has kept them from when they were a kid.

I infer that this person has a variety of interests. They seem to be someone who likes to try new hobbies a lot because there are a lot of manuals for how to do things. (Chess, taxidermy, forensics, D&D, Bible) I bet they like learning new things.

I assume this person is an engineer because of *The Iron Ring* book and the Thermodynamics book, which looks like a textbook. This would explain the variety of interests and how-to books, because engineers like to know how everything works.