

CULTURE

Biblio-boo: 19 Bookshelf-Based Halloween Costumes

By ASHLEY MORTON

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📷 Kathy Najimy, Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker in 'Hocus Pocus'/Image © Walt Disney Pictures

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Hey readers: Accessories can give your Halloween costume that extra “wow” factor, and these suggestions are only complete once you have book in hand.

GROUP GETUPS

The Sanderson Sisters from “Hocus Pocus”

For a trio of friends, here’s an amusing spin on your usual witches. Grab your capes and broomsticks (or vacuums) and be sure whoever dresses as Bette Midler’s Winifred has her very favorite “Boooooo!” in hand. Bonus points if you can figure out a way to make the eyeball on the spellbook move.

The “Community” Cast

This is a great theme because it offers an awesome variety of characters to choose from, and works better if you can get the entire gang. Make sure at least one of you is carrying a Spanish book for your “study group.”

Rory Gilmore and Jess Mariano from “Gilmore Girls”

Here’s a fun book-nerd couples costume. Either of these characters work on their own, but if one of you throws on a leather jacket and a furrow, and the other a plaid skirt and some saddle shoes, you’re

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a crown, and the other a plaid skirt and some saddle shoes, you've got a fan-favorite pairing on your hands. Suggested book to tote around? The one that started it all: Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*.

THROWBACKS

Matilda from "Matilda"

The Roald Dahl heroine is a fun one for kids and adults alike; it just takes a blue, collared dress, red hair bow, and pointer finger. But Matilda is also a bit of a genius who wants nothing more than to go to school, so bringing a giant book along will add the final flourish to your ensemble.

Wishbone from "Wishbone"

If you like to think outside the box, this suggestion is for you. Beloved Jack Russell Terrier Wishbone brought classic literature to children of the 1990s, so why not pull on some white footie pajamas, a nose, tail, and some ears, and portray the page-turning pooch? Recommended titles to bring with you: *A Tale of Two Cities* or *Treasure Island*—just be sure to "dog ear" a page.

Richard Tyler from "The Pagemaster"

Teaching children about the joys of the library, Macaulay Culkin starred in this 1994 film as cowardly Richard—a boy afraid of everything who wore round glasses before Harry Potter made them cool. Richard is accompanied on his adventures by three books: Horror, Adventure, and Fantasy. You have the option of carrying three books around or finding three awesome friends who might want to depict each genre.

ANIMATED AND FANTASY

Belle from "Beauty and the Beast"

There cannot be a list of literary costumes without the character whose opening song is dedicated to the fact that her nose is always "stuck in a book." This is a classic, made even better by a basket with a fairy tale inside for you to read when you realize there must be more to life than the provincial party you have been forced to attend.

Bilbo Baggins from *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*

Dressing as any of the hobbit characters from J.R.R. Tolkien's world is fun, but Bilbo is the hobbit that started the whole adventure (and went on to write it all down). To really nail this costume, carry around a red leather-bound journal meant to be the memoirs that would later go on to be Bilbo's proposed *There and Back Again*.

Daria Morgendorffer from "Beavis and Butthead" and "Daria"

Incredibly intelligent and an avid reader (when not watching

“Sick, Sad World”), Daria made every girl who loves combat boots enthusiastic about being unenthusiastic. The very height of nerd chic, her costume is easy to put together, requires little emotional commitment, and is enhanced by carrying around the most pretentious AP English read you can find.

Lisa Simpson from “The Simpsons”

Dressing as a character from “The Simpsons” means you get to really go all-out with the cartoon factor, so either grab a mask or some serious makeup. Odds are a saxophone would be a pain to carry around, so opt for a book on humanitarian issues instead.

Samwell Tarly or Tyrion Lannister from *Game of Thrones*

Honor the heroes who fight with their minds. Trade the armor in for a doublet and book; these are two very different men, but both are known for their love of reading.

AWESOME LADY BOOKWORMS

Jo March from *Little Women*

Maybe you’re a tomboy who still desperately wants to wear a petticoat. Carry around pages from your latest book and leave some ink on your fingertips to really get this costume right.

Poussey Washington from “Orange Is the New Black”

A simple costume, but a fantastic character. Books are everywhere in this series, but Poussey is the best go-to for a prison bookworm. If you really want to go all out, have a friend dress up as Taystee.

Hermione Granger from *Harry Potter*

Whether you want to base her on Emma Watson, Noma Dumezweni, or however you pictured her in your head while reading the series, every version of this brilliant, loveable know-it-all should definitely have a book involved.

Oprah Winfrey

Yes, Oprah is a real person — and she’s basically the mother of book clubs. If you are great at impressions and carry around one of her recommended titles, you could have a lot of fun with your night. Consider handing out some free stuff while you’re at it.

READERS WITH A TWIST

Readers come in all styles, so here are a few alternatives for your literary-inspired costume.

Comics: Vincent Vega from “Pulp Fiction”

This one’s for the cult classic fans: Never has reading on the toilet been more significant. Everyone does the “twisting” Vincent, but this could be a really hilarious *twist* on the character. The book in question? British comic *Modesty Blaise* by Peter O’Donnell. Read into that as you will.

Journals: Bridget Jones from *Bridget Jones's Diary*

This one's a great excuse to hog the wine for the night. Go with the ugly Christmas sweater from your mother, a journal, and really commit to the British accent.

Plays: Margot Tenenbaum from "The Royal Tenenbaums"

October can be a chilly season for dressing up, so trade in that slinky outfit for one with a fur (or faux) coat. This is a pretty easy outfit to put together from a little thrift store shopping. Keep your expression simple and have a play in hand; strongest choices are Ibsen or Chekhov.

Magazines: Ken Cosgrove from "Mad Men"

Sure, he was an ad man, but Ken surprised everyone when he became a published author. This costume is a great way to recycle that eye patch you wore as a pirate last year. Carry around a literary magazine (more specifically science fiction) to really sell your point.

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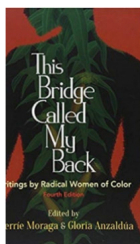
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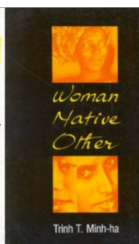
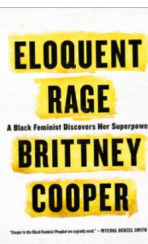
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