

A fifth grader gets a homework assignment to select his future career path from a list of occupations. He ticks “astronaut” but quickly adds “scientist” to the list and selects it as well. The boy is convinced that if he reads enough, he can explore as many career paths as he likes. And so he reads—everything from encyclopaedias to science fiction novels. He reads so fervently that his parents have to institute a “no reading policy” at the dinner table.

That boy was Bill gates, and he hasn’t stopped reading yet—not even after becoming one of the most successful people on the planet. Nowadays, his reading material has changed from science fiction and reference books: recently, he revealed that he reads at least 50 nonfiction books a year.

Gates chooses nonfiction titles because they explain how the world works.

“Each book opens up new avenues of knowledge to explore,”—Gates say.”