

george orwell why i write pdf

george orwell why i write pdf is a widely sought-after document that provides invaluable insights into the motivations and philosophies of one of the 20th century's most influential writers. This seminal essay by George Orwell delves into the reasons behind his literary pursuits and offers a candid reflection on the interplay between politics, personal experience, and creative expression. Understanding the content and context of the "Why I Write" essay, particularly through the lens of the available PDF, is essential for students, researchers, and enthusiasts of Orwell's work. This article explores the significance of the "george orwell why i write pdf," its main themes, historical background, and the impact it has had on literary criticism and political thought. Additionally, it highlights the key elements of Orwell's writing style and how his political beliefs shaped his narratives. The following sections will provide a comprehensive overview designed to enhance comprehension and appreciation of this important text.

- Historical Context and Background of "Why I Write"
- Main Themes and Motivations in Orwell's Essay
- Analysis of Orwell's Writing Style and Political Influence
- Significance and Impact of the "George Orwell Why I Write PDF"
- How to Access and Utilize the "Why I Write" PDF for Research

Historical Context and Background of "Why I Write"

The essay "Why I Write" was penned by George Orwell in 1946, a period marked by immense global upheaval following World War II. This time frame is crucial to understanding Orwell's reflections on writing, as the political and social turbulence deeply influenced his approach to literature. Orwell's experiences with totalitarian regimes, colonial administration, and the rise of fascism and communism informed his urgent and often cautionary tone. The "george orwell why i write pdf" captures this historical context, providing readers with a snapshot of Orwell's mindset during a pivotal era. His essay is not only autobiographical but also serves as a critique of the socio-political environment that shaped his literary voice.

Orwell's Early Life and Influences

Born Eric Arthur Blair, Orwell's early years were marked by a complex relationship with class and colonialism, which later found expression in his writing. His time as a colonial police officer in Burma and his firsthand observations of poverty and oppression

significantly influenced his worldview. The "Why I Write" essay reflects on these formative experiences, highlighting how personal history intertwines with political consciousness to drive an author's work.

Post-War Literary Landscape

The aftermath of World War II saw a shift in literary priorities, with many writers grappling with themes of power, truth, and human rights. Orwell's essay emerges as a response to this climate, emphasizing the importance of political purpose in writing. The "george orwell why i write pdf" serves as a historical document illustrating how Orwell positioned himself within this evolving literary and ideological landscape.

Main Themes and Motivations in Orwell's Essay

At the core of the "Why I Write" essay are the four primary motives Orwell identifies as driving his literary endeavors. These motivations provide a framework for understanding his work and the "george orwell why i write pdf" as a whole. Orwell candidly discusses the tension between artistic impulse and political commitment, offering a rare glimpse into the ethical and emotional forces behind his prose.

The Four Motives for Writing

- **Sheer Egoism:** The desire for recognition, prestige, and a lasting legacy.
- **Aesthetic Enthusiasm:** The enjoyment of the craft of writing and the beauty of language.
- **Historical Impulse:** The compulsion to record and understand the truth of one's time.
- **Political Purpose:** The commitment to influencing society and combating injustice.

Orwell argues that while all four motives influence writers, political purpose becomes increasingly dominant, especially in his case. This dynamic is central to the "george orwell why i write pdf," framing his literary output as inherently linked to his political convictions.

The Role of Honesty and Integrity

Orwell emphasizes the importance of truthful representation in writing, particularly in political contexts. His insistence on honesty stems from experiences with propaganda and censorship, which he sought to counteract through his work. The essay underscores how his commitment to integrity shapes not only his subject matter but also his stylistic choices.

Analysis of Orwell's Writing Style and Political Influence

The "george orwell why i write pdf" offers essential insights into Orwell's distinctive literary style, marked by clarity, precision, and a no-nonsense approach to language. His style was deliberately crafted to serve political ends, aiming to make complex ideas accessible and persuasive. This section examines how Orwell's political beliefs and ethical concerns influenced his narrative techniques and language use.

Clarity and Simplicity in Language

Orwell advocated for plain, direct prose that avoids unnecessary ornamentation. This stylistic choice is closely linked to his political goals, as clear communication is key to exposing truth and combating deception. The essay itself exemplifies this approach, making it a model for writers seeking to combine artistry with activism.

Political Commitment as a Literary Driver

Orwell's political commitment extends beyond content to shape his entire writing methodology. His works, including "1984" and "Animal Farm," serve as profound political allegories rooted in the same principles outlined in "Why I Write." The "george orwell why i write pdf" articulates this fusion of literary craft and political purpose, demonstrating how deeply intertwined they are in Orwell's oeuvre.

Significance and Impact of the "George Orwell Why I Write PDF"

The availability of the "george orwell why i write pdf" has enhanced the accessibility of Orwell's personal reflections on writing for a global audience. This document is frequently cited in academic research, literary criticism, and political discourse, underscoring its enduring relevance. The essay's wide circulation in PDF format reflects the demand for authoritative primary sources in digital form.

Influence on Writers and Critics

Orwell's candid discussion of the motivations behind writing has influenced countless authors and critics. The essay provides a template for understanding the ethical dimensions of literary creation and the responsibilities of writers in society. It is often used in curricula to illustrate the relationship between literature and politics.

Contribution to Political and Literary Thought

"Why I Write" contributes to broader conversations about freedom of expression, propaganda, and the role of art in social change. The "george orwell why i write pdf" has become a cornerstone document for those studying 20th-century literature and political history, encapsulating the challenges and imperatives faced by writers in tumultuous times.

How to Access and Utilize the "Why I Write" PDF for Research

For scholars, students, and enthusiasts interested in the "george orwell why i write pdf," understanding how to find and use this resource effectively is essential. The PDF format offers a convenient and portable way to engage with Orwell's essay in its entirety, often accompanied by annotations and critical commentary.

Sources and Availability

The "Why I Write" essay is widely available in digital archives, academic databases, and literary collections. Although the exact source of the PDF may vary, users should seek editions that provide reliable text and contextual notes to enhance understanding. Utilizing reputable platforms ensures accuracy and completeness.

Best Practices for Academic Use

When incorporating the "george orwell why i write pdf" into research, proper citation and critical analysis are imperative. Researchers should consider the historical context, Orwell's intentions, and the essay's thematic elements to support their arguments. Combining the PDF with secondary sources can enrich interpretation and provide a comprehensive view.

Tips for Effective Reading

1. Annotate key sections that reveal Orwell's motivations and stylistic principles.
2. Compare the essay with Orwell's other works to identify recurring themes.
3. Reflect on the political and historical context to deepen comprehension.
4. Use the essay as a lens to analyze contemporary political writing and rhetoric.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of George Orwell's essay 'Why I Write'?

The main theme of George Orwell's essay 'Why I Write' is the exploration of his personal motivations and the driving forces behind his writing, including political purpose, personal experience, and the desire to express truth.

Where can I find a free PDF version of George Orwell's 'Why I Write'?

Free PDF versions of 'Why I Write' by George Orwell can often be found on educational websites, online libraries such as Project Gutenberg, or academic resource sites that offer public domain or authorized copies.

Why did George Orwell say he started writing, according to 'Why I Write'?

According to 'Why I Write,' George Orwell began writing primarily out of a desire for self-expression and because he felt compelled to expose social injustices and political oppression he observed in his life.

How does 'Why I Write' reflect George Orwell's political views?

In 'Why I Write,' Orwell explains that political purpose became a dominant motivation in his writing as he believed that all writing is inherently political and that writers should strive to use their work to challenge injustice and promote truth.

Is 'Why I Write' included in any collections of George Orwell's essays available as PDF?

Yes, 'Why I Write' is often included in collections of George Orwell's essays, which are available as PDFs through various online academic resources and e-book platforms.

What are the four motives George Orwell describes in 'Why I Write'?

George Orwell identifies four main motives for writing in 'Why I Write': sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse, and political purpose.

Can 'Why I Write' by George Orwell be used for

academic study?

Yes, 'Why I Write' is frequently used in academic settings to study Orwell's literary style, political beliefs, and the broader context of 20th-century literature and social commentary.

How long is George Orwell's essay 'Why I Write'?

George Orwell's essay 'Why I Write' is relatively short, typically around 3,000 words, making it a concise yet powerful insight into his writing philosophy.

What impact has 'Why I Write' had on modern writers and readers?

'Why I Write' has had a significant impact by inspiring writers and readers to consider the ethical and political responsibilities of writing, encouraging honesty, clarity, and commitment to truth in literature.

Additional Resources

1. *Why I Write* by George Orwell

This essay by George Orwell explores his motivations for writing and the political and personal influences behind his work. Orwell reflects on the development of his political conscience and how it shaped his literary style. It provides valuable insight into the mind of one of the 20th century's most influential writers.

2. *Orwell: The Life* by D.J. Taylor

This comprehensive biography delves into George Orwell's personal and professional life. Taylor examines Orwell's formative experiences, political beliefs, and the context in which he wrote his famous works. The book offers a nuanced portrait of the man behind "1984" and "Animal Farm."

3. *George Orwell: A Life in Letters*

A collection of Orwell's personal correspondence that sheds light on his thoughts, relationships, and writing process. The letters reveal Orwell's dedication to social justice and his struggles with censorship and political pressures. It is an intimate look at the author's life beyond his published works.

4. *Politics and the English Language* by George Orwell

In this essay, Orwell critiques the decline of clear and honest language in political writing. He argues that vague and misleading language is used to obscure truth and manipulate public opinion. The piece is essential reading for understanding Orwell's commitment to clarity and truth in writing.

5. *Inside the Whale and Other Essays* by George Orwell

A collection of essays that includes Orwell's reflections on literature, politics, and society. These essays offer critical perspectives on contemporary issues and reveal his evolving political ideology. They provide deeper context to Orwell's motivations and the themes present in his fiction.

6. *Orwell's Revenge: The 1984 Palimpsest* by Peter Huber

This book examines the real-world implications of Orwell's dystopian vision in "1984." Huber discusses how Orwell's warnings about surveillance, propaganda, and authoritarianism resonate in modern society. It is a thought-provoking analysis of Orwell's enduring relevance.

7. *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell

Orwell's personal account of his experiences fighting in the Spanish Civil War. The book reveals his disillusionment with political factions and the complexities of ideological conflict. It provides crucial background for understanding Orwell's political convictions and literary themes.

8. *Orwell and Politics* by John Newsinger

This work explores the intersection of Orwell's political beliefs and his writing career. Newsinger analyzes Orwell's anti-totalitarian stance and his commitment to democratic socialism. The book contextualizes Orwell's essays and novels within the political landscape of his time.

9. *Animal Farm: A Fairy Story* by George Orwell

A satirical allegory critiquing totalitarian regimes through the story of a farm animal rebellion. The novella reflects Orwell's concerns about power, corruption, and propaganda. It remains one of Orwell's most accessible and enduring works, illustrating themes discussed in "Why I Write."

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George Orwell: Why I Write - Unlocking the Power of Purposeful Prose

Ever felt lost for words, struggling to express your ideas with clarity and impact? Do you yearn to write with purpose, to craft prose that resonates deeply with your readers and leaves a lasting impression? Many writers grapple with finding their voice, honing their craft, and understanding the deeper motivations behind their writing. This eBook provides the key to unlocking your full potential as a writer by exploring the profound insights of George Orwell, a master of clear, impactful prose.

Unveiling the Essence of Orwell's Craft: A Deep Dive into "Why I Write"

This eBook, meticulously crafted by [Your Name/Pen Name], offers a comprehensive analysis of George Orwell's seminal essay, "Why I Write." We dissect Orwell's motivations, explore his writing

techniques, and apply his timeless wisdom to contemporary writing challenges.

Contents:

Introduction: Understanding Orwell's Context and the Enduring Relevance of his Essay.

Chapter 1: The Four Motives: A detailed examination of Orwell's four stated reasons for writing: Sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse, and political purpose.

Chapter 2: Style and Clarity: Deconstructing Orwell's emphasis on clear, concise writing and his rejection of stylistic obfuscation. We explore his techniques for achieving precision and impact.

Chapter 3: Political Purpose and Social Commentary: Analyzing Orwell's commitment to social justice and how his political beliefs shaped his writing.

Chapter 4: Applying Orwell's Principles to Modern Writing: Practical exercises and strategies for implementing Orwell's insights in your own writing.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of Purposeful Prose – Leaving a legacy with your words.

George Orwell: Why I Write - A Deep Dive into Purposeful Prose

Introduction: Understanding Orwell's Context and the Enduring Relevance of his Essay

George Orwell's "Why I Write," penned in 1946, remains a remarkably relevant exploration of the writer's craft and motivations. Written amidst the tumultuous aftermath of World War II and the rise of totalitarian regimes, the essay offers profound insights into the psychological and political forces that shape writing. Orwell's personal experiences, including his time in Burma, Spain, and his involvement in the fight against fascism, heavily influenced his perspective. Understanding this context is crucial to appreciating the depth and complexity of his arguments. The essay isn't merely a technical guide to writing; it's a deeply personal reflection on the writer's role in society and the ethical responsibilities that come with wielding the power of language. Today, as misinformation and manipulative language proliferate, Orwell's emphasis on clarity, honesty, and social responsibility resonates more strongly than ever. This eBook will unpack the core tenets of his essay, helping writers to analyze their own motivations and develop a more purposeful and impactful writing style.

Chapter 1: The Four Motives: Egoism, Aesthetics, History, and Politics

Orwell famously identifies four main motives for writing: sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse, and political purpose. These aren't mutually exclusive categories; rather, they represent intertwined aspects of the writer's psyche and creative process.

Sheer Egoism: Orwell acknowledges the undeniable element of self-expression inherent in writing. The desire for recognition, the need to share one's experiences and perspectives, is a fundamental driver for many writers. This isn't necessarily vanity; it's a natural human impulse to connect with others. However, Orwell cautions against allowing egoism to overshadow other motivations, leading to self-indulgence and a disregard for the reader.

Aesthetic Enthusiasm: This refers to the writer's love of language itself – the sheer pleasure derived from crafting beautiful and evocative prose. Orwell emphasizes the importance of precision and clarity, arguing that beauty in writing arises from accuracy and the effective communication of ideas. This means choosing words carefully, using concise sentences, and avoiding stylistic flourishes that obscure meaning.

Historical Impulse: This motive stems from a desire to record and preserve experiences, to create a lasting record of events and perspectives. Orwell saw writing as a means of shaping historical narratives, combating propaganda, and ensuring that truths are not forgotten. This connects deeply to the need for accurate and truthful reporting, essential for the readers' understanding of events.

Political Purpose: This is perhaps Orwell's most prominent motive, reflecting his deep commitment to social justice and his opposition to oppression. He saw writing as a powerful tool for social change, a means of exposing injustice and inspiring action. This doesn't necessarily imply overt political activism in every piece of writing; rather, it reflects a commitment to using language responsibly and ethically, to serve truth and the betterment of society.

Understanding these four motives helps writers self-reflect on their own writing practices. Are you primarily driven by a need for self-expression? Do you prioritize aesthetic beauty above all else? Or is your writing primarily motivated by a desire to inform, persuade, or inspire social change? Analyzing your motivations can lead to a more conscious and purposeful approach to writing.

Chapter 2: Style and Clarity: Orwell's Emphasis on Precision and Impact

Orwell's unwavering commitment to clarity is a hallmark of his writing. He believed that good writing should be easily understood by its intended audience, avoiding unnecessary jargon, convoluted sentence structures, and stylistic tricks that obscure meaning. His famous six rules for writing, often paraphrased and expanded upon, are a testament to his belief in the power of simplicity.

He championed concision, arguing that every word should serve a purpose. He actively avoided clichés and worn-out phrases, choosing precise language to convey his intended meaning. Orwell stressed the importance of using simple, everyday language whenever possible, making his writing accessible to a broad audience. He saw ornate language as a potential tool for manipulation and obfuscation, and thus advocated for clarity to ensure a transparent and truthful exchange of ideas. In essence, Orwell believed that the clearest writing is the most powerful writing. The goal is not to impress with sophisticated vocabulary, but to communicate effectively and leave a lasting impact on the reader.

Chapter 3: Political Purpose and Social Commentary: Orwell's Commitment to Truth

Orwell's political views, informed by his experiences with totalitarianism and his witnessing of social inequalities, profoundly shaped his writing. He saw language as a potent tool for both truth-telling and propaganda, highlighting the dangers of manipulated language and the necessity of clear communication in fostering a just society. His works, including *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, serve as cautionary tales about the dangers of unchecked power and the importance of critical thinking. His essays often directly address political issues, critiquing societal injustices and advocating for social change. Understanding his political motivations allows us to better appreciate the underlying currents in his work and to learn how to effectively integrate social commentary into our own writing. His emphasis on truth and his rejection of dishonest rhetoric serve as an inspiration to writers striving for social impact.

Chapter 4: Applying Orwell's Principles to Modern Writing: Practical Exercises and Strategies

The principles outlined in "Why I Write" are not merely historical curiosities; they are timeless guidelines for any writer striving to produce clear, concise, and impactful prose. This chapter provides practical exercises and strategies for applying Orwell's insights to your own writing.

Active voice and strong verbs: Prioritize active voice to create more direct and engaging prose. Choose strong verbs that accurately reflect the action.

Precise word choice: Avoid vague or ambiguous language. Select words that precisely convey your intended meaning.

Concise sentence structure: Aim for clear, concise sentences that avoid unnecessary complexity. Break up long, convoluted sentences for improved readability.

Eliminate jargon and clichés: Use plain language that is accessible to your target audience. Replace clichés with fresh, original expressions.

Self-editing: Develop a rigorous self-editing process to identify and eliminate weaknesses in your writing. Focus on clarity, concision, and precision.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of Purposeful Prose - Leaving a Legacy with Your Words

George Orwell's "Why I Write" offers a timeless guide to understanding the motivations, techniques, and responsibilities that underpin effective writing. By embracing Orwell's principles of clarity, honesty, and social responsibility, writers can craft prose that resonates deeply with readers, leaves

a lasting impression, and contributes to a more informed and just world. Orwell's legacy reminds us that writing is not simply a means of self-expression, but a powerful tool for shaping perceptions, challenging assumptions, and advocating for positive change. By integrating these principles into your own writing practice, you can not only improve your writing style but also use your words to make a meaningful contribution to society.

FAQs:

1. What is the main takeaway from Orwell's "Why I Write"? The essay emphasizes the importance of clear, honest, and purposeful writing, driven by a combination of personal motivations and a commitment to social responsibility.
2. How does Orwell's essay apply to modern writing? His principles of clarity, concision, and truthfulness remain essential for effective communication in any era, particularly in the age of misinformation.
3. What are Orwell's four main motives for writing? Sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse, and political purpose.
4. How can I improve my writing style using Orwell's principles? Focus on active voice, precise word choice, concise sentence structure, and eliminating jargon and clichés.
5. What is the significance of Orwell's commitment to political purpose? He believed writing should be a tool for social justice and combating oppression, highlighting the ethical responsibility of writers.
6. How does Orwell's essay relate to the concept of responsible journalism? His emphasis on truth, accuracy, and clarity is fundamental to responsible journalistic practices.
7. What are some practical exercises to apply Orwell's ideas? Rewrite passages in active voice, analyze your word choices for precision, and simplify complex sentences.
8. What are the dangers of unclear or manipulative writing? It can lead to misunderstanding, manipulation, and the spread of misinformation.
9. Why is "Why I Write" still relevant today? The issues Orwell addresses – truth, clarity, and the role of writing in society – remain crucial in our current information-saturated world.

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seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In *The Prevention of Literature*, the third in the Orwell's Essays series, Orwell considers the freedom of thought and expression. He discusses the effect of the ownership of the press on the accuracy of reports of events, and takes aim at political language, which 'consists almost entirely of prefabricated phrases bolted together.' *The Prevention of Literature* is a stirring cry for freedom from censorship, which Orwell says must start with the writer themselves: 'To write in plain vigorous language one has to think fearlessly.' 'A writer who can – and must – be rediscovered with every age.' — Irish Times

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george orwell why i write pdf: Down and Out in Paris and London George Orwell, 2024-07-07 There were eccentric characters in the hotel. The Paris slums are a gathering-place for eccentric people—people who have fallen into solitary, half-mad grooves of life and given up trying to be normal or decent. Poverty frees them from ordinary standards of behaviour, just as money frees people from work. Some of the lodgers in our hotel lived lives that were curious beyond words. There were the Rougiers, for instance, an old, ragged, dwarfish couple who plied an extraordinary trade. They used to sell postcards on the Boulevard St Michel. The curious thing was that the postcards were sold in sealed packets as pornographic ones, but were actually photographs of chateaux on the Loire; the buyers did not discover this till too late, and of course never complained. The Rougiers earned about a hundred francs a week, and by strict economy managed to be always

half starved and half drunk. The filth of their room was such that one could smell it on the floor below. According to Madame F., neither of the Rougiers had taken off their clothes for four years.

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george orwell why i write pdf: We Yevgeny Zamyatin, 2023-03-06 We is a dystopian novel written by Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin. Originally drafted in Russian, the book could be published only abroad. It was translated into English in 1924. Even as the book won a wide readership overseas, the author's satiric depiction led to his banishment under Joseph Stalin's

regime in the then USSR. The book's depiction of life under a totalitarian state influenced the other novels of the 20th century. Like Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-four*, *We* describes a future socialist society that has turned out to be not perfect but inhuman. Orwell claimed that *Brave New World* must be partly derived from *We*, but Huxley denied this. The novel is set in the future. D-503, a spacecraft engineer, lives in the One State which assists mass surveillance. Here life is scientifically managed. There is no way of referring to people except by their given numbers. The society is run strictly by reason as the primary justification for the construct of the society. By way of formulae and equations outlined by the One State, the individual's behaviour is based on logic.

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george orwell why i write pdf: *Churchill and Orwell* Thomas E. Ricks, 2018-05-01 A New York Times bestseller! A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of 2017 A dual biography of Winston Churchill and George Orwell, who preserved democracy from the threats of authoritarianism, from the left and right alike. Both George Orwell and Winston Churchill came close to death in the mid-1930's—Orwell shot in the neck in a trench line in the Spanish Civil War, and Churchill struck by a car in New York City. If they'd died then, history would scarcely remember them. At the time, Churchill was a politician on the outs, his loyalty to his class and party suspect. Orwell was a mildly successful novelist, to put it generously. No one would have predicted that by the end of the 20th century they would be considered two of the most important people in British history for having the vision and courage to campaign tirelessly, in words and in deeds, against the totalitarian threat from both the left and the right. In a crucial moment, they responded first by seeking the facts of the matter, seeing through the lies and obfuscations, and then they acted on their beliefs. Together, to an extent not sufficiently appreciated, they kept the West's compass set toward freedom as its due north. It's not easy to recall now how lonely a position both men once occupied. By the late 1930's, democracy was discredited in many circles, and authoritarian rulers were everywhere in the ascent. There were some who decried the scourge of communism, but saw in Hitler and Mussolini men we could do business with, if not in fact saviors. And there were others who saw the Nazi and fascist threat as malign, but tended to view communism as the path to salvation. Churchill and Orwell, on the other hand, had the foresight to see clearly that the issue was human freedom—that whatever its coloration, a government that denied its people basic freedoms was a totalitarian menace and had to be resisted. In the end, Churchill and Orwell proved their age's necessary men. The glorious climax of Churchill and Orwell is the work they both did in the decade of the 1940's to triumph over freedom's enemies. And though Churchill played the larger role in the defeat of Hitler and the Axis, Orwell's reckoning with the menace of authoritarian rule in *Animal Farm* and *1984* would define the stakes of the Cold War for its 50-year course, and continues to give inspiration to fighters for freedom to this day. Taken together, in Thomas E. Ricks's masterful hands, their lives are a beautiful testament to the power of moral conviction, and to the courage it can take to stay true to it, through thick and thin. *Churchill and Orwell* is a perfect gift for the holidays!

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