



## The certainty of books in uncertain times

In the last few days, we have been through a lot of developments both in Spain and throughout the world. We have become acquainted with new scientific words (coronavirus, COVID-19), disturbing diagrams describing the evolution of the disease in several countries, virologists' names, microorganisms' behaviour patterns, and a diversity of upcoming syndromes.

However, of all these new developments, none caught my attention more than the list of "essential articles" proposed by the government. We all know what they are. Strangely though, there was no mention of books.

It would not have been wrong at all to propose that every day there should be at least one open bookstore. Because books have now become essential articles for which we have plenty of time, and stories that appeal to the imagination can help us resist. Imagination is the most effective weapon to combat boredom and fear.

For this reason, many of us would be grateful if books were considered essential articles. Novels, essays, travel books, poetry, plays, biographies, they all penetrate through every pore of the body and inoculate us with something similar to trust in life, the pride of sharing the company of men and women who were able to leave us a collection of stories that we would not have been able to imagine, in words designed to evoke the need we all have to contribute to the world we live in.

Read. Read stories during the period of confinement that we have to go through before returning to life. Before getting back to it as soon as possible. Before going outdoors, to the bustle of the streets, to the relaxed and confident realm of touch.

Everyone's time will certainly return. But while the prison lasts, let's open our lives to words. They are capable of illuminating inner caves whose existence we hardly suspected until they were revealed to us. Let us devote time to reading. Let us look for one of those essential articles. The spirit will thank us.