

1

Pick a paint chip sample color from the basket. Find 10 objects in the library that match that color. Write a poem. Make a photocopy collage. Or call your mother and describe what you've found.

2

Remove every 75th book from a shelf and extract the 75th word. Create a work from the words collected.

3

Imagine that the space of the library contains the planet Saturn and locates books along the coordinates of the rings.

4

Create live documentation of bibliodérive through low power radio transmission or semaphore or morse code or shorthand or tin can phone or whisper down the lane or rotary phone or drums or smoke signals or military code or live video.

5

A magnifying glass or microscope is given to each participant and the group slides or wriggles on their bellies or crawls or walks slowly through the collection on a microscopic scale moving at the pace of a snail through a single paragraph page or shelf or aisle while moving at the speed of an inquisitive eye peering through a magnifying glass or microscope looking for book wear or stray pencil marks or intentional marginalia or identifying idiosyncrasies in the printing process or examining stains or page loss or phone numbers or/and using these phone numbers as call numbers to find another book and repeating the process.

6

Sing through the collection producing one continuous song based on titles or texts encountered through another constraint or guiding idea or selection process so that single words or fragmented lines or complete lines of text or complete books are sung acapella or sung along with guide pitches on iPods or against popular songs acting as guide tracks with exploratory intoned word-songs sung to oneself or into a portable PA system and played from a centrally based loudspeaker or into a portable recorder for later listening or into a radio transmitter or walkie talkie to be heard by a single person transcribing your oral description of what you forage or a choir does the same thing.

7

Your group engages in sighted un-listening while observing the motions of books moved by patrons, drawing descriptions of their movements and following these traces of motion.

8

Engage in live cartography and make hand drawn maps or charts or word charts or star charts or naval charts of book locations or letters within words or text information within books or magazines.

9

Depart from the last return date of a book that was checked out and that date is followed by a book with another check out date which is one day later than the first in a string of progressive dates until there are no more available dates.

10

Roll a marble on a scale model of the library and whatever stack the marble rests between becomes the location where a weather balloon gets inflated and the weather balloon is inflated so that it fills the space between two book stacks and whatever books are touched by the balloon are the books examined but they must be removed from the opposite sides.

11

Explore the collection under an imposed flood line in which a group wears bathing suits and scuba masks and snorkels and flippers and people collect coral and other samples.

12

Explore anything to do with the sea, or explore the collection along a certain small width.

13

Imagine the collection as an orrery and trace planetary motion through the collection.

14

Explore the collection while blindfolded and work your way from south to north by feel or smell and hearing.

15

Multiple copies of the same book are placed side by side and examined for identifying marks.

16

A sound wave is depicted in books removed from a shelf and used as a sculptural object to form a pixelated wave.

bibliodérive

17

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections and ask which artist is represented by the most number of items in the Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection.

18

Visit famous or forgotten monuments like the Eiffel Tower or the Soviet War Museum Treptow.

19

Superimpose the periodic table of elements over the floor plan of the library and collect a sample of every element from each location or remove a single book from a shelf and take whatever books you can see in the gap between on the shelf behind and explore.

20

Take a phrase from any book such as "the medium is the message" and alter one letter so that the phrase is transformed into a new phrase such as "the tedium is the message" and use that new phrase as a search term and find a new book with a new phrase to alter to lead you to another book and soon.

21

You are going to grab a traditional survey text, I suggest you go right ahead and get Gombrich, "the Story of Art." Now get something where you can draw a straight line. Next read the first chapter and then go ahead and use that line and simply try to make the line disappear without erasing it.

22

Document the library drift through trails or various substances wheeled behind derive groups like mechanical hand pulled fertilizer spreader machines or seeders or dropped pebbles or tags or paths of string or a wheeled printer that uses spray paint or another medium to leave a trail of information on the floor as it is dragged in the wake of derive groups to be potentially collected by observers and compiled or transcribed.

23

Discoveries are read aloud by agents tasked with documentary tasks or photocopies of every discovery are photocopied and taped in trails to the ceiling or walls in their order of discovery.

24

Whole texts are transformed into temporary tattoos and there is a documentation of bodies and no one writes with their dominant hand while documenting anything.

25

The library is turned into a giant camera obscura and resources are explored where windows are projected onto the books from outside.

26

Begin with a single departure point shared by all derive groups which might be a dedication plaque or a single letter of the alphabet and from this letter from the English alphabet or another language, a word is agreed upon and many groups depart from the place of this agreed upon word and travel in many directions.

27

Librarians select a book for you to use as a beginning or depart from Derek Jarman's Chroma and follow a color path inspired by the book or just the color blue for obvious reasons.

28

Become a Inuit hunter and wait beside a breathing hole for a seal to emerge (that is a book) and spear the book with your imaginary spear to kill the seal to feed your imaginary family with the imaginary seal lamp oil that you made illuminate the inside of your imaginary igloo until you need another book to read.

29

Books are selected to match a diagram of the visible spectrum and read for references to color or light which are extracted to locate the next book in the visible spectrum or Cyrillic mis-translations by non-Russian speakers that imply words that lead in unknown directions.

30

Superimpose scientific graphs over a bookshelf to produce coordinates for book extraction.

31

Use geologic analysis on the shelves or the science of crystallography misapplied to CDs or the trappings of some other discipline.

32

Use a map of the Artic Seas to determine areas of books to read.

bibliodérive

33

Imagine camping out for a night on the moon and reading books you find there.

34

Use a telescope to examine the collection from afar or mathematical designs in nature as search patterns.

35

Search in the shape of a bristle-cone pine seedling of any scale or treat the derive as an act of foraging texts like a hunter of mushrooms so begin with a book on mycology or microbes.

36

Write a poem from the titles of books or take a Bach musical score and treat the book shelves as musical staves and withdraw the books that correspond to musical notes.

37

Devise something entirely new and un-thought of for your biblioderive.

38

Bring a friend or find one in the library. While your friend stays at the checkout desk, go pick a random book in the stacks. Memorize its location and a basic description. Return to your friend and trace a map of how to get there on their palm, arm or back. Give a friendly hint. Send them off for your book. Trade places and repeat. Share your two new finds.

39

Gaze out from one of the Flaxman windows.
Keep looking.
Keep looking.
Keep looking.
Ask a library patron passer-by to bring you a book or to lend you theirs for a moment.
Open it.
Take a single sentence with you for the rest of the day.
Gaze once more out the window.
Leave the library.

40

Ask a librarian to lead them to (one of) your favorite book(s). Close your eyes and have them read to you your favorite lines or let them describe your favorite images. Then take turns and let them lead you to the book they dread/hate the most. Read to them the passages they find most frightening. Do this in your gentlest voice.

41

Bring a friend to the library and take turns creating short stories in the stacks.

- 1) Choose 1 word or phrase from a book spine and read it out loud.
- 2) Your friend finds the next word or phrase on a spine and reads it out loud.
- 3) Continue, alternating words/phrases as you walk down a row.
- 4) Complete the story after walking up and down an aisle.

42

Draw a number from from 1 to 13 and go to the corresponding aisle in the stacks. At random or using criteria of your own choosing, remove books from the shelves. Arrange the books so that their titles form a poem or a song or a cry for help.

43

Begin browsing the shelves in the first row of books. Listen for the elevator bell while your eyes roam across the spines. When you hear the elevator bell ding, pull out the book whose spine you were just reading. Continue until you have five books, ten books, twenty.

44

Follow a trail of Fool's Gold until you find true gold. Replace the errant gold in a new path and replace this card back into the deck.

45

Pull 5 orange books from the library's shelves. Create a concrete poem using 1 line of text from each book.

46

What is the name of your favorite pet? Search for that name in the library catalog. Find the first item on the list in the stacks, take the item directly below it on the next shelf.

47

Start at the portrait of John and look at the label. Search the catalog for one of the names, find the first book on the list, or the tenth.

48

TOP TEN ARTISTS
(by # of items in our collection)
rank them 1 through 10

- Henry Matisse
- Joseph Beuys
- Marcel Duchamp
- Andy Warhol
- Jean-Luc Godard
- Dieter Roth
- Vincent Van Gogh
- Georgia O'Keeffe
- Frank Lloyd Wright
- Pablo Picasso

List was generated by searching by "author OR subject OR title"

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49

Use a map of Prague, Tokyo, Budapest, Florence, Paris, New York City, Toronto, or London to explore the library and special collections. Take a walk through the stacks and choose books based on the city streets of somewhere else.

50

A magnifying glass is given to each participant and the group crawls or walks slowly through the collection at a microscopic scale moving at the pace of a snail through a single shelf while peering through a magnifying glass for stray pencil marks or intentional marginalia.

51

Walk slowly through the collection with a magnifying glass looking for book-wear, identifying idiosyncrasies in the printing process or examining stains or page loss.

52

Lead a friend or stranger to a place in the library where you have never been. Read aloud to them any text you find there, regardless of whether or not it is in a book. Once you are done, ask them to do the same.

53

Begin by taking a random book off the shelf. Open the book, and locate the 4th word on the 4th page. Perform a search of this word in the catalog. Select the 4th result, and pull that book from the shelves. Repeat steps 1-3.

54

Draw the rhythm of the title of the first ten books you encounter. Listen to the cadence; the syllables, the way the words sound. Draw these sounds on an individual piece of paper for each book's title.

55

Using your cell phone or portable camera, take photos of places in the library where you are completely alone, absent from the presence of any other individual in the library. Take 3 photos of yourself in 3 different places and also photograph the first book you find in your moment of solitude. Be stealthy; be quick; creep quietly.

56

Choose a shelf of books. Find a poem on their spines. Write the poem on a scrap of paper and place the scrap of paper in between the first and second books on the shelf.

57

Gather the largest and heaviest books you can find and stack them on the checkout desk, like a fortress, but like a fun fortress, not a formidable one. If you're feeling generous, leave tiny windows so that the library staff can see through.

58

Choose a stranger currently in the library. Study them. Once you have a grasp on your subject, look for the book that captures their essence best and hand it to them without a word.

59

Form a group of at least five people. Each of you must venture into the library to choose the book with the best last word. Take a picture of this last word, or write it down. Present your words to an unbiased party and ask them to determine which of you has found the very best last word.

60

Go to your favorite spot in the library and stack 5 books to act as a cairn. Leave them there as a trailhead marker.

61

Find a book you love and make a note about it on a scrap of paper. Find a second book you love and hide the note from the first one in it. Make a note about the second book and hide it in a third book, etc. In the end, hide the last note in the first book, so that after they are shelved you will have left a trail for whoever picks one of them up.

62

Grab a stack of scrap paper and then pull a book from the shelf. Go to the paper cutter and cut the scrap paper roughly to the size of the pages in the book. Place the scrap paper within the book and then tear it (pretending to tear the actual pages from the book). Do this while standing at the front desk and then put the book in the return slot when finished.

63

Go to the audio section and select a CD for a dance party. Make a request at the reference desk to play the CD aloud on one of the desktop computers. Dance enthusiastically behind the reference desk and encourage others to join you.

64

Introduce yourself to a stranger in the library. Write their name in large letters at the bottom of a piece of paper. Then ask if you can draw their portrait. After drawing their portrait in the center of the piece of paper, show it to them. Then write WANTED in large letters at the top of the piece of paper and tape it inside one of the elevators.

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65

Ask a reference librarian for an inter-departmental mail envelope. Address the envelope to any professor using their name and department. Pull a book off the shelf and copy down a quote and the citation as a reference. Put what you have written in the envelope and ask the reference librarian to put it with the outgoing mail.

66

Ask a stranger working in the library what artist inspires them. Search for a book with images by that artist, make a photocopy of an image (or images) and fold it into a card. Write an inspirational message inside the card. Find the stranger and give them the card.

67

Ask to photocopy twelve different people's hands. Then ask each person to write something about hands on the back of their photocopy (it can be any association). Organize the copies in a stack. Photocopy your own hand front and back and use these copies as the front and back covers for the stack of copies. Staple the pages together as if it were a book, title it, and add your name as author.

68

Pick a number between 1 and 100. Got it? Curate a collection of exactly that many books and arrange them in a mini exhibition.

69

Read a book with your eyes closed. Then, hold it without touching it.

70

Make several photocopies of your hands or a friend's hands. Place the copies in the stacks between books of your choosing.

71

Step 1) make a copy of a book cover.
Step 2) make a copy of the copy.
Step 3) Repeat step 2 until you run out of paper or you run out of print funds or you just want to stop.
Step 4 : Keep the copies if you like them. If you don't want to keep them, drop them in the book return slot.

72

Pick up a random book. Approach a stranger and convince them that this book is not only worth reading, but it is the best book in the entire world. Really sell it.

73

Approach someone who is reading a book. Ask if you can read it with them. If they say yes, read over their shoulder. If they say no, ask if they will then read it out loud to you.

74

Stand near the entrance of the library. Greet people as they walk in and offer to give them a tour.

75

Find a book about performance or dance. Find someone willing to assist you in your own performance; go to the front of the library and reenact five of the poses in the book, holding each pose for one minute. Have your assistant time you and hold the book open to the page with the image so that people can see what you are reenacting.

76

In the midst of your research allow yourself to daydream. At the awaking moment of realizing you were daydreaming, note down the moment of the realization in any form on any media. You can write, draw, sing, or express yourself in any way that feels spontaneous, and on any media you that feel appropriate: the scrap paper, the water bottle, the music score, your body...

77

Form a group of people in the library. Have each person in your group find a book written the in year of their birth, turn to the page corresponding to their birth month and the word, character, or image corresponding to their birth day. Then have your group arrange these words, characters, or images in order from oldest to youngest.

78

Look up Franz Kafka in the library catalog. Choose a book by Kafka that is currently checked out and create your own version of the book cover on a sheet of paper. Place your artwork in the stacks where the book would be shelved.

79

Look at images of people in books or magazines. Write, film or tell their stories and introduce them to each other. Help them plan their escape from the publications in which they reside.

80

Search for the words "rock," "stone," and "pebble" in the library catalog. Pull at least 5 of your findings and carry them to a location in the library where you feel the most at ease. Arrange the books into a rock garden and till the sand.

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81

Find the card whose number matches your age or the date of your birthday. Follow the prompt it contains.

82

Get three pieces of paper and write on each of them a word that you use to describe works of art. Go around watching other people's interpretations of prompts and show them the word that best describes what they are doing in your opinion. Move on.

83

Go around the library and draw or write down descriptions of all the bibliodérive actions you can spot, whether it is an action currently happening before your eyes, or the evidence of one that has already occurred. Tape your records to the walls around the elevators, as a catalog of the event.

84

Draw a map of the library. Add any interesting points that you find important (e.g., the best table for studying, the location of a great book). Tape it to the front desk for people to consult and explore.

85

Get one copy of each of the flyers available at the entrance of the library and create a collage with them. Put your finished artwork out on the table with the flyers for someone to take it with them. Make photocopies if you feel like it.

86

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections. Check for any lost items of clothing on the coat rack. Choose one of them and try to infer from it as much as you can about the owner. Then draw a portrait of the person or write them a letter and tape it to the object.

87

Find a clock in the library. Draw a picture of the clock indicating with the minute and second hand the time you wish it was at this moment. Tape the paper over the face of the clock. On another piece of paper write in bold letters "Time Is Relative" and tape it beneath the clock.

88

Write and/or draw a description of a family member. Label what you have made with "This is NAME" using the person's first name only. Search the library catalog using the first name of that family member as a keyword. Select a book from the search and leave the description folded inside.

89

Recall three words last used by someone else to describe your work in a critique (e.g., "abstract," "amateur," "visceral"). Use each of these words as a search term in the library catalog and write down at least five results for each word. Using your own method of selection, choose one of these books to pull from the shelves. Within the selected book, find one phrase that sticks out to you. Write it down and vow to use it as a title for a new work.

90

Search the library catalog for the book titled "America in Perspective." Locate that book on the shelf. Follow the instructions inside.

91

Search the library catalog with the keyword "sunset." Choose an item that interests you and watch or read the "sunset" on the west side of the building.

92

On the top of a piece of paper write "A list of people in the Flaxman Library on today's date at TIME" (replace TIME with the exact time you are following this prompt). Go around the library and ask each person in the library to write their name legibly on that piece of paper.

93

Take a selfie in the mirror of one of the library bathrooms. Send the image to yourself and print it from one of the library printers. Tape the image of yourself onto the mirror of the bathroom where you took the image. Tape this card in a prominent place next to the photo. The next person now reading this card taped to the mirror should follow the instructions above.

94

Draw a series of arrows on pieces of paper. Tape the arrows onto the floor throughout the library leading to a specific book on a shelf. Indicate on the piece of paper nearest to that shelf the call number, title, and page number within the book that you would like whomever follows the arrows to see.

95

Find small objects around the library and photograph them with your phone exactly how and where you found them. Maybe someone dropped something? Then print the photos and arrange a small exhibition on one of the tables, placing each found object over its photo.

96

Find a book with images by one of your favorite artists. Make 6 photocopies of images you like in the book (you may want to enlarge some of the images) and tape the pages together to make a poster. Write on the poster "This Is Not Art" and find a public place to hang the poster.

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97

Find a stray dog or cat. Follow them.

98

Pair up with a partner. Blindfold one person and guide them for one hour while you engage in conversation about your past.

99

While walking through the library, listen to others' conversation, find a book by searching for words overheard.

100

Find all the large art survey texts in the library and use them as a doorstop for every door in the library.

101

Start a fire...in your mind! Ask someone to pick out 7 books for you. Write/make up a story using the titles of those books.

102

Ask the librarian what was the hardest (or funniest) question they have ever had to answer at the reference desk.

103

To the first stranger you see grab any book. Open the book randomly and sing to them the first sentence you see.

104

Pick a book that you know nothing about. Start reading a passage to someone you don't know.

105

Test the silence boundaries of the library. After breaking the boundaries refuse to return to silence.

106

Open up a book and write a monologue on a separate piece of paper for a character in an image. Hide it with the image in the book for the next reader.

107

Write 5 notes about things you find interesting or funny jokes. Hide them in library books to add an awesome surprise to someone's library experience.

108

Think about the worst book you have ever read. Whisper this book title to as many people as possible. Highly recommend it.

109

Create a sushi conveyor belt in library and having "sushi" as artist's books on plates. Having all you can read hours.

110

Find three books in the collection that have pink spines. Using the letters and /or words in the titles, write a phrase or poem.

111

Go to the southeast corner of the library. Look out at the lake. Count how many, if any, boats you see.

112

Intuitively pick out a wide range of books. Continue till you have as many books as your arms will hold. Ensure that you are mildly uncomfortable and moving somewhat awkward under this weight. Lay books on a flat surface to build a new plane. Use your body to cover the most surface area of this plane. Press. Scrunch. Stress. Release when ready to recover all the stories from these books.

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113

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 5600.8 Take Care of Yourself/Sophie Calle

Respond to the email. Help Sophie get over the hurt.

114

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 127.15 and 11.91 Last Meal and Menu

Come up with your own "last meal" and make a drawing of it. Write down how it would feel to eat it. Inform yourself on capital punishment in the U.S.
www.amnestyusa.org

115

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for ABR N6537.H644 A4 2000a Still Water

Go page by page and replace the existing footnotes with your own. Place them over the image in ways that make sense to you.

116

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 4.38 After Reasonable Research

Research the history of armed conflicts across the globe from the year 2000 to 2017 and create an update to this work.

117

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for RA 1.234 Water Yam

Write your own prompts. Perform them in the reading room or later at home, when you're alone.

118

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 71.14 Cultural reproducers RA 2.284 Scum Manifesto RA2.696 Society of Situationism

Write your own manifesto. What needs to change in our society? How can artists influence that process? What are you specifically going to do about it?

119

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for RA 2.116 Fehlau (or other works with stencils)

Write a text using the stencils provided. Find a place in the school where it can be mounted. Take a picture of it, send it to us, with its exact location and date.

120

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for Zine 6.56 Infiltration

Imagine going to a place you're not supposed to be in or have never been in. Envision and write down the experience. Make a zine about it. Go there. Compare how you envisioned it with its reality.

121

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections Ask for 102.18 In the Weather

Walk 5 blocks away from the Sharp Building and then return. Write/draw a walking guide about it. What did you see? Did you take short cuts? What did it smell/sound like?

122

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections Ask for 11.51 No rubbish

Go through the building and take ten pictures of trash. Print them and make an accordion book. Write your thoughts on the back.

123

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 16.36 A Thread or Line that Holds Things Together

After reading, think of some of your own maneuvers for getting through daily situations. Write a list and make at least 10 copies so that you can share your maneuvers with others. Leave them in places where you think your advice might encounter good ears.

124

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 121.81 Butter Dust

Write a narrative to fit the illustrations page by page. Share your favorite text and image pairing on instagram or in person with the library staff.

125

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections Ask for 13.72 Human 3.0 Reading List 2015-2016

Make a note of at least 3 books to add to your future reading list. Think of a book you read that changed your life, or that you think should be required reading. Draw the cover of the book and insert your drawing into the back of Human 3.0 Reading List.

126

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 14.66 Variable Piece 4: Secrets

Find another person's secret that you can agree or empathize with. Write it down on a slip of paper and fold it up, then place it in the box provided. Do not sign it or otherwise identify yourself.

127

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 14.75 and 5800.16 Nine Eyes and Postcard Series

At one of the computers, use Google Street View to locate a place that has significance to you. Take a screenshot of the location and print it out. On the back, write about a memory or interaction that happened there. Place it in the back of the book.

128

Go to 508 Sharp, Special Collections
Ask for 28.22 Envelope Sculpture

Try your best at assembling Micah Lexier's sculptures. Once you have completed them (or given up in frustration) use the clean envelopes provided to create your own sculpture. Title your sculpture and leave instructions for the viewer to assemble it.

bibliodérive

129

Gather a group of people. Find all of the large (1000+ page) survey art history textbooks and play Giant Jenga on the floor.

130

Choose one of the survey art history texts and use the table of contents to navigate another survey text.

131

Choose books based on one color, find covers that match, then look at the content inside.

132

Adding maps in the table of contents of large art history textbooks. Where in the map does the textbook include art from? Where in the map does the textbook lack art from?

133

Pick an art history survey textbook and read it backwards. Take notes.

134

Pick five random numbers from 1-600 and go to each art history textbook (Gardner, Stokstad, Gombrich) and turn to each page that coincides with the number you picked.

135

Add the word "Eurocentric" before each title and subtitle of every art history text.

136

Read aloud the dictionary definition of your favorite art movement and the definition from Art History by Marilyn Stokstad.

137

Attempt a psychogeographical description of the library. Wander the stacks, drawing a map of what attracts and repels you, be it the design of the stacks, the order of books, the words and colors on certain spines, the hum of the copy machines, the direction of the lighting, the chatter of patrons, whatever.

138

Divide into groups of three based on favorite color. Each group should go to a different section of the library. Decide on a word and find books with this word in the title. Create a story based on the book titles together. You must include the word "dinosaurs" in the final story. Present the story to a group made up of people

139

Find the first sentence fragmented by a page break, transcribe fragment on separate sheet, turn to page number that corresponds with character count of fragment, find the fragmented sentence on that page, add to transcription, add character count to previous count, turn to corresponding page, etc. until finalized run-on

140

Engage in 'blooming' the pages of a book by bending them inward so that they form a flower shape, record cut-up sentences that form along the outer bloomsentence

141

A stack of books, a stack of paper, x-acto knife, some pieces of string (to connect everything together). Individuals passing by to participate are to cut window cut outs that would serve as a bookmark, or in my own term, microbookmarking. This bookmark allows for a unique revealing of words from pages of a book. "is

142

143

144

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