

Pull out your current policy and check the box next to any coverage you can confirm is already in place — anything unchecked is worth a quick conversation with your advisor. Coverage checklist for new, used, rare, and children's bookstores. Priorities reflect typical exposure for this class; confirm against the store's actual inventory, events, and cafe operations.

CORE PREVALENT SITUATIONAL — Core: almost always needed · Prevalent: commonly carried by businesses in this class · Situational: depends on specific exposure

COVERAGE	WHY THIS BUSINESS NEEDS IT	PRIORITY
☐ Business Personal Property (Stock)	Covers book inventory, fixtures, and shelving. Confirm the limit reflects the holiday peak and that water damage from sudden leaks is covered.	CORE
☐ Commercial General Liability	Covers customer injuries — trips over stacked books or carts, falls on stairs, and incidents at events.	CORE
☐ Business Income	Replaces lost income while a store closes to dry out and restock after water or smoke damage.	CORE
☐ Used / Rare Book Valuation Endorsement	Sets how used, signed, and rare books are valued after a loss. Without it, a claim may be paid on a basis that doesn't match what the stock is worth.	PREVALENT
☐ Flood Insurance	Standard property policies exclude flood. Paper inventory is often a total loss after even shallow water.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Sewer / Drain Backup	Often excluded or sub-limited, and a common source of basement and stockroom losses.	PREVALENT
☐ Liquor Liability	Needed if the cafe serves alcohol or wine is poured at events — GL usually excludes it for businesses that serve alcohol.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Abuse & Molestation	Relevant if the store runs story times, camps, or other children's programs.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Inland Marine / Off-Site Property	Covers stock taken to book fairs, festivals, and pop-ups, where on-premises coverage usually stops.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Media / Publishers Liability	Needed if the store runs an imprint or publishes outside contributors' work — GL's personal and advertising injury coverage is narrow.	SITUATIONAL
☐ Workers' Compensation	Required in most states with employees; lifting book boxes and ladder work are the typical injuries.	SITUATIONAL

COMMON COVERAGE GAP FOR THIS CLASS

The most commonly missed coverage for this class is protection for water damage to paper inventory. Owners assume their property policy covers any water loss, but flood is excluded, sewer and drain backup is often excluded or capped, and even a small fire can ruin stock through smoke and sprinkler water. Books rarely survive being wet, so a loss is usually total. Used and rare stock adds a second problem: without a valuation endorsement or purchase records, the settlement can fall far short of what the inventory was actually worth.

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

This checklist is a free educational tool from Cory Washington & Co. to help you review your own coverage and have a more informed conversation with a licensed insurance professional. It is general information only — not insurance, legal, or financial advice, and not a recommendation to buy, change, or cancel any policy. The Core / Prevalent / Situational labels describe general patterns observed for this class of business — what is commonly carried, not a personalized recommendation or needs analysis for your specific operations. Coverage terms, availability, limits, and requirements vary by policy, carrier, and state, and only the language in your actual policy governs what is and isn't covered. Checking or leaving blank any item above does not indicate that you are adequately insured or under-insured. Using this checklist does not create a client, agency, or fiduciary relationship. Always consult a licensed professional about your specific situation.