

# RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017



Welcome to the November 2017 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

**In this issue:** Recommended Reads: *The Graveyard Book*; *Wonder*; *One Last Drink at Guapa*;  
Food Websites  
Open access - ScienceDirect  
Poem by Alice McKinney

## Recommended Reads from the RTC community

### *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

Story of Nobody Owens, a boy who is raised by the dead in a graveyard. He was just a baby when his parents and siblings were murdered by a man named Jack but he escapes. His real name is Bod but being adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens, he is given the alias name of Nobody Owens. He grows up without having stepped out of the graveyard but have been tutored by the spirits who inhabit the graveyard and his guardian Silas, the living dead who provides him with food and other needs of survival, he is able to live a normal life.

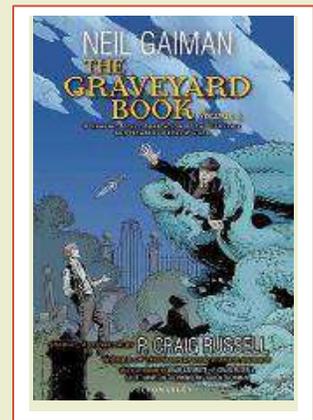
He is given the freedom of the graveyard and the power of fading which allows him to stay undetected from Jack, who is still out there looking for him, and also from other dangers of the outside world. He goes through many adventures during his childhood years. He falls down to the world of ghouls from a coffin and escapes from it with Miss Lupescu's help, a wolf-woman who is also his mentor.

He befriends a human girl who is about his age and experiences the pain of separation when she moves to another place. He even dances the dance of the dead, goes to a school where he confronts bullies. The characters in his life are all eccentric and influential, helping him move on in life.

All in all, this is a very meaningful story.

*Nima Khandu, BSc Environmental Management*

**Location: FIC R9611g**



#### **Quotes:**

*"It's like the people who believe they'll be happy if they go and live somewhere else, but who learn it doesn't work that way. Wherever you go, you take yourself with you. If you see what I mean."*

*"You're alive. That means you have infinite potential. You can do anything, make anything, and dream anything. If you change the world, the world will change"*

*"Face your life, its pain, its pleasure. Leave no path untaken."*

## *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio is a story of August Pullman, a soon-to-be 5th grader nervous about his first day at a new school. It's a time to find new friends, a new routine, and a new way of life. A task that's scary for any kid, but August is special and, to many, in a way that's not so comfortable.

August has a facial deformity and only after a plethora of surgeries and medical attention has he gotten to a functioning state. This is what the book revolves around. How do others act when faced with someone who is not only different but hard to look at?

It's an endearing book that captures the innocence of simply wanting to be normal. The author attempts some interesting literary ideas. The different chapters will jump between the different characters' points of views. It's a way for Palacio to weave in a narrative of conflicting ideas of what "normal" is and how perspective shapes the world around us.

Uplifting in many ways, *Wonder* succeeds in embodying the feeling of being different and human. For those looking to reflect upon what it means to treat someone differently because of the way they look, this book creates an environment to do so.

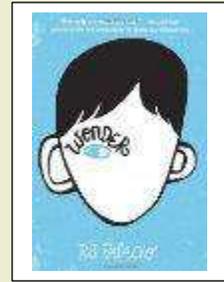
And while the story centers itself on a kid that's different, I found the book to be the opposite. While reading I felt as though I was watching the same story of a kid going through the social gauntlet that is school, but maybe that's the point Palacio is trying to make with this book.

The story, while poignant, tries a little too hard and didn't exactly deliver the deep, thought-provoking tale that I was looking for. It's a nice book, filled with charming characters and warm messages about not prejudging someone even though the rest of society has.

*Troy Leslie Wilkinson, Exchange Student from Colorado State University*

**Location:** FIC P1534w

Also, check out Troy's personal blog "A Further Shore: Promoting engagement and altruism one word at a time" at <https://afurthershore.blog/>



*8 quotes from Wonder that will inspire you to always choose kind*

*"When given the choice between being right or being kind choose kind."*

*"I think there should be a rule that everyone in the world should get a standing ovation at least once in their lives."*

*"Kinder than is necessary. Because it's not enough to be kind. One should be kinder than needed."*

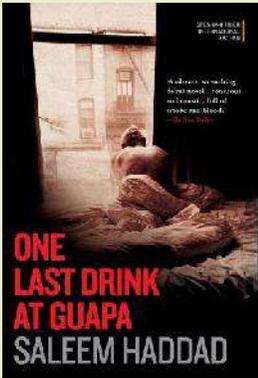
*"Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness."*

*"Sometimes I think my head is so big because it is so full of dreams"*

*"It's not enough to be friendly. You have to be a friend."*

*"The best way to measure how much you've grown isn't by inches or the number of laps you can now run around the track, or even your grade point average-- though those things are important, to be sure. It's what you've done with your time, how you've chosen to spend your days, and whom you've touched this year. That, to me, is the greatest measure of success."*

*"We carry with us, as human beings, not just the capacity to be kind, but the very choice of kindness."*



## *One last drink at Guapa* by Saleem Haddad.

*One last drink at Guapa* (first published as *Guapa*) intertwines two very sensitive themes or ideas: homosexuality and the Arab identity. In a nutshell, the novel is about a man named Rasa, living in an unnamed, presumably a Middle Eastern or a predominantly Islamic nation, who gets caught by his grandmother in bed with his lover, Taymour. Taking place within the short span of just 24 hours, the novel looks at Rasa's present dilemma of being caught and how to continue the relationship with Taymour, takes the reader through flashbacks into Rasa's past including his time as a student in America; and brings us back to the present which seems as fraught with complications as the past.

The readers view the events in the story through Rasa's eyes. We see his predicament as a young teen trying to search for the right word in either Arabic or English to encapsulate his homosexual identity. We see later in America how he being bilingual further alienates. We see how, as an adult, he navigates the mix of his grandmother's hegemonic rules along with the new ideas his education gives him. We see how Rasa's own individuality is overshadowed by the Muslim stereotype and how he traverses that mix as well being both Arab and gay in both America as well as his home country. We see him being forced to confront this new sense of the Other which before was simply the normal way of life to him.

Along with Rasa's own individual turmoil, we see the political upheavals raging within his own country. This adds another layer to the novel where challenging sexual norms are meshed with challenging oppressive political regimes as well.

Apart from Rasa, other interesting characters that feature in the novel are his lover, Taymour, who eventually succumbs to the pressures of society and settles down for a heterosexual marriage; and his fiercely principled grandmother who controlled a lot of how Rasa's family functioned. A close friend of Rasa is Maj, who is an activist by day and a colourful cross dresser by night and performs at a bar named, Guapa, where Rasa and his gang spend most of their nights reveling away. There are plethora of other characters you meet along the way as well.

The ending is most interesting as it ends not only on an ambiguous note but also on a hopeful, poignant note where the characters seem to accept that living their life and living in their country will be rife with problems and stress but they are going to soldier on and stay true to themselves and their beliefs. While it is difficult to often stand by your own, it is heartening to see a book ending on such a positive note where the characters are not simply scrambling away to America or other such dream country to end their woes.

The novel therefore gives the readers a unique glimpse into Arab gay culture: something hitherto not as well known in popular literature thanks to the stereotypical Muslim equal terrorist image that colours popular imagination.

*Aakanksha Singh, Faculty of Humanities*

**Location: FIC H14o**

*“As the temperature drops treat yourself to a warm meal. Check out these food websites to see what best suits your taste buds 😊” – Tashi, Assistant Librarian*

Food Lovers is a platform dedicated to Indian food, wine and fine dining.

“At Food Lovers, we go beyond the mere pleasures of eating and drinking, to document and analyse food culture and cuisine, bringing an understanding of culinary history and tradition while navigating the trends and choices of dining and restaurants in our times. Our stories are curated to reflect the discerning aesthetic that readers have come to associate with Food Lovers.”

Website: <https://www.foodlovers.in/>



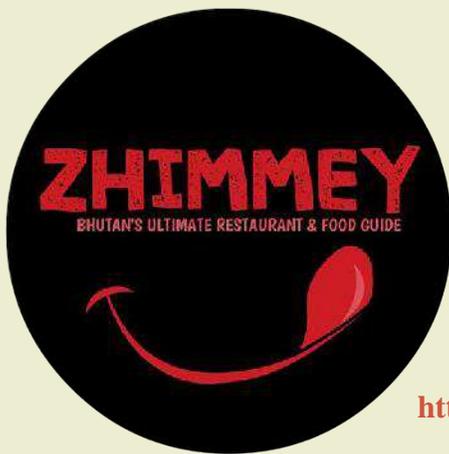
*Murthal Parathas*



*Retro Bakeries*



*Pizzas around the world*



*“Zhimmey is the ultimate food listing and information guide to restaurants and good food in Bhutan.”*

Find Restaurants, Cafés and Eateries in Bhutan at this website:

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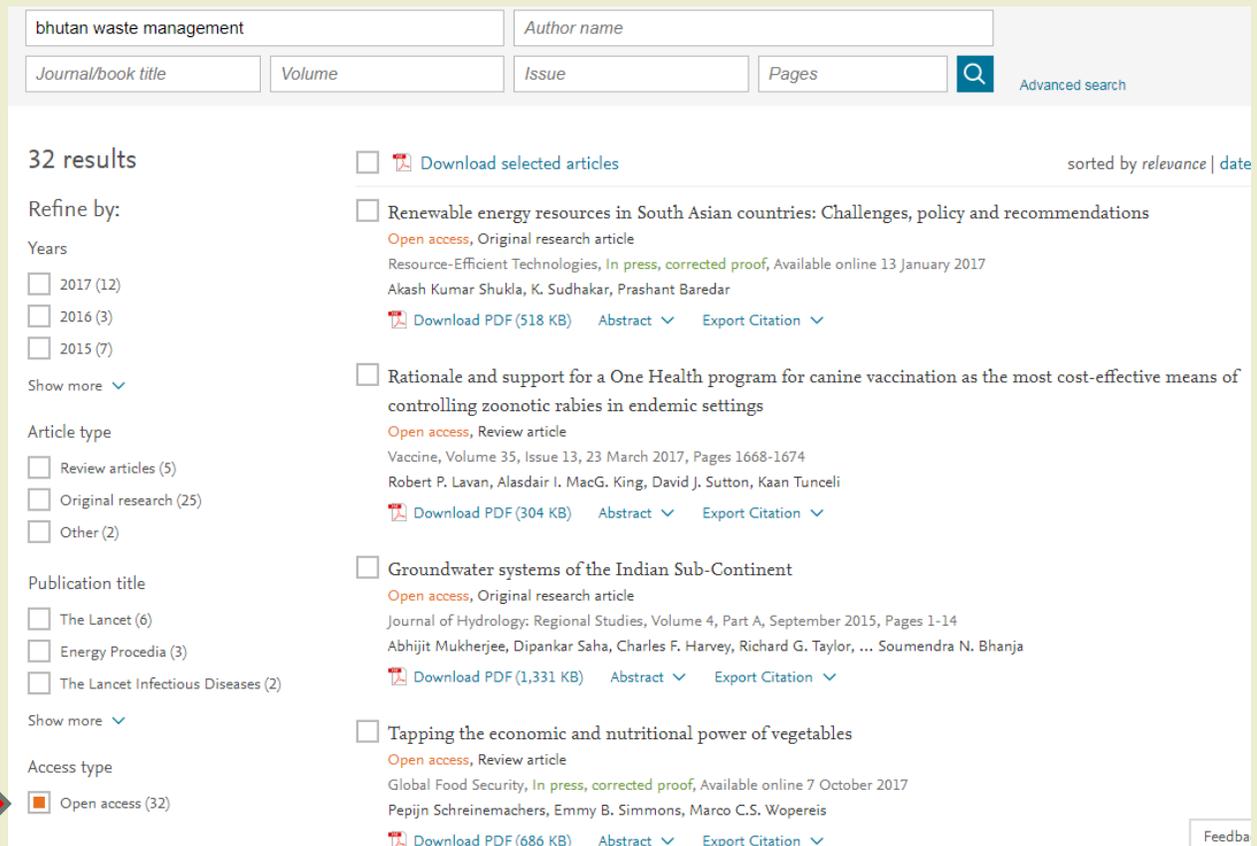
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1)



The screenshot shows a search interface on ScienceDirect. The search term is "bhutan waste management". The results are sorted by relevance. The left sidebar contains filters for Years, Article type, Publication title, and Access type. A red arrow points to the "Open access (32)" option under the Access type filter. The main results list shows three articles, each with a checkbox, a PDF download icon, and a title. The first article is "Renewable energy resources in South Asian countries: Challenges, policy and recommendations". The second is "Rationale and support for a One Health program for canine vaccination as the most cost-effective means of controlling zoonotic rabies in endemic settings". The third is "Groundwater systems of the Indian Sub-Continent". The fourth article is "Tapping the economic and nutritional power of vegetables".

Search results for "bhutan waste management" (32 results). The search is sorted by relevance. The results list includes:

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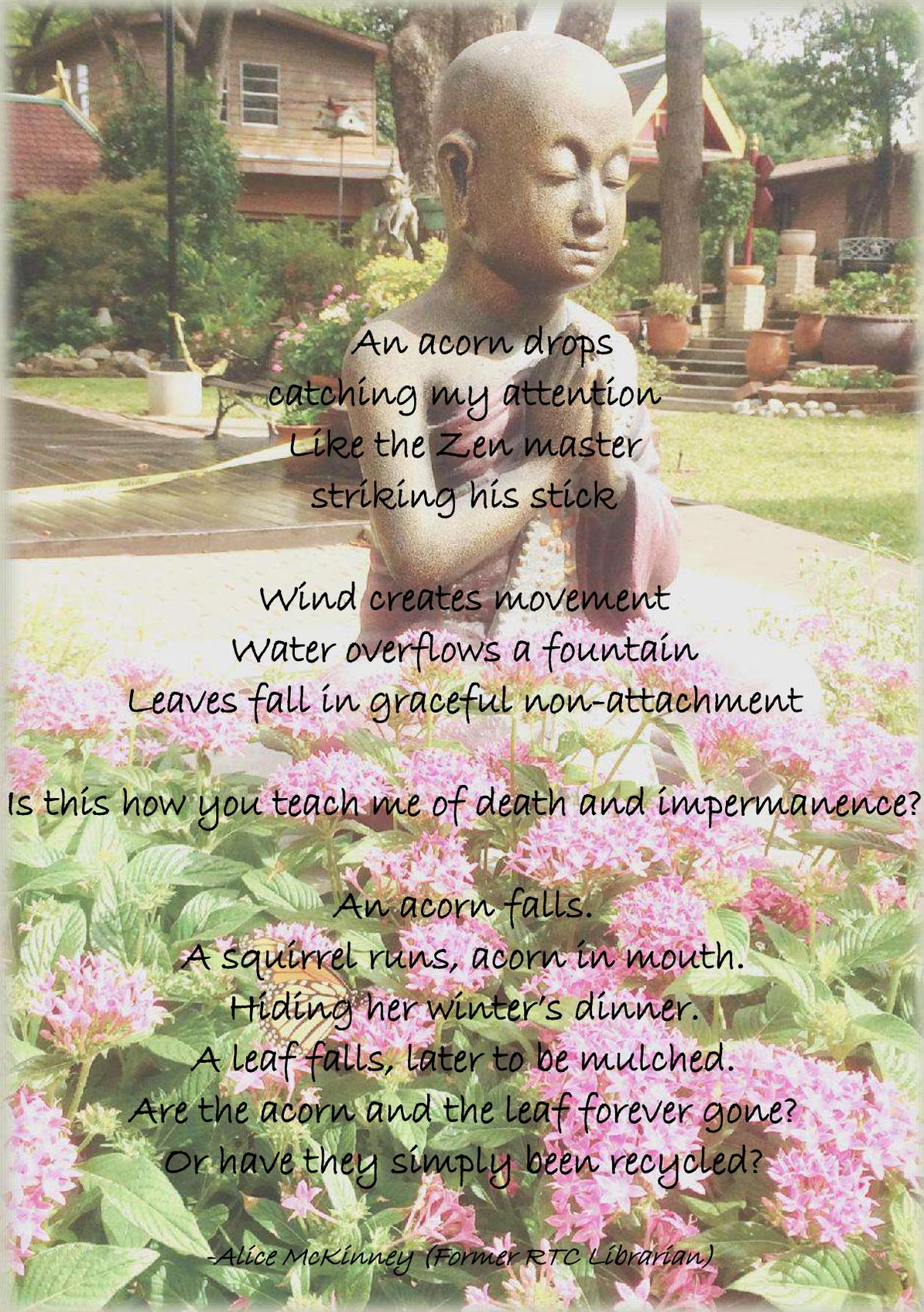
*Energy for Sustainable Development, Volume 38, June 2017, Pages 48-66*  
 Mark F. Jentsch, Christoph Kulle, Tobias Bode, Toni Pauer, Andrea Osburg, Tenzin, Karma Namgyel, Karma Euthra, Jamyang Dukjey, Karma Tenzin  
 Abstract | Research highlights | PDF (3019 K)
- Sourcing Green Power in Bhutan: A Review** Original Research Article Open Access 

*Energy Procedia, Volume 110, March 2017, Pages 586-591*  
 Firoz Alam, Quamrul Alam, Suman Reza, S.M. Khurshid-ul-Alam, Khondkar Saleque, Harun Chowdhury  
 Abstract | PDF (757 K)
- Documenting basin scale, geometry and provenance through detrital geochemical data: Lessons from the Neoproterozoic to Ordovician Lesser, Greater, and Tethyan Himalayan strata of Bhutan** Original Research Article Open Access 

*Gondwana Research, Volume 23, Issue 4, May 2013, Pages 1491-1510*  
 N. McQuarrie, S.P. Long, T. Tobgay, J.N. Nesbit, G. Gehrels, M.N. Ducea  
 Abstract | Graphical abstract | PDF (3712 K) | [Supplementary content](#)
- Taxonomic review of the superfamily Pyraloidea in Bhutan (Lepidoptera)** Original Research Article Open Access 

*Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity, Volume 9, Issue 3, 1 September 2016, Pages 355-382*  
 Jatishwor Singh Irungbam, Meenakshi Singh Chib, Karma Wangdi  
 Abstract | PDF (8818 K)
- Malaria burden and costs of intensified control in Bhutan, 2006–14: an observational study and situation analysis** Original Research Article Open Access 

*The Lancet Global Health, Volume 4, Issue 5, May 2016, Pages e336-e343*  
 Kinley Wangdi, Cathy Banwell, Michelle L Gatton, Gerard C Kelly, Rinzin Namgay, Archie C A Clements



An acorn drops  
catching my attention  
Like the Zen master  
striking his stick

Wind creates movement  
water overflows a fountain  
Leaves fall in graceful non-attachment

Is this how you teach me of death and impermanence?

An acorn falls.  
A squirrel runs, acorn in mouth.  
Hiding her winter's dinner.  
A leaf falls, later to be mulched.  
Are the acorn and the leaf forever gone?  
Or have they simply been recycled?

*-Alice McKinney (Former RTC Librarian)*

## **Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students**

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to [tashichoden@rtc.bt](mailto:tashichoden@rtc.bt) or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!