

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2016



Welcome to the August 2016 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads: *The Success Principles, Such a Long Journey, Racists*

“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”: *Heart of Darkness*

Joseph Pulitzer and the Pulitzer Prizes

This Month: Jstor

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

***The Success Principles: How to get from where you are to where you want to be* by Jack Canfield**

Jack Canfield is an American author known for the famous *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. In *The Success Principles*, Canfield writes about the essential lessons for attaining goals and creating a successful life.

The author writes that we are 100% responsible for the quality of life that we live today, that includes: the level of our achievement, the result we produce, quality of our relationships, and the state of our health and physical fitness.

This book will change you in different aspects of your life; it will make you realize how you have been conditioned to blame others for your failure in life. There is nothing fictitious about this book. It is about choosing, defining and seeking your own brand of success without compromise and with integrity to get from where you are to where you want to be.

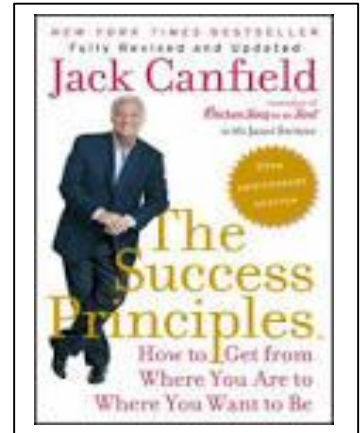
Reading this book is going to change your life immensely, maybe not in all facets but definitely some of the areas of your life will improve. You will pause and think how you have been dwelling on wrong decisions. It teaches us how to work towards achieving our desire and the goal of our life. There are steps to change your way of doing things that let you get a desired result starting from that very moment.

Canfield writes that complaining and feeling bad drains you and your energy, so that needs to go. He has 4-5 different goal types he wants you to set, write about and visualize: what you want to do before you die, the goals that represent huge changes in your life, intermediate goals, and immediate goals. He wants you to write your goals on the back of a card and keep it in your wallet. He wants you to have a “vision” for several areas of your life – work and career, finances, recreation and free time, health and fitness, relationships, personal goals, and contribution to the larger community. He wants you to write a description of your dream house. And on, and on.

Once your goals are written, Canfield advises the use of affirmations in order to “unlock the power of the subconscious mind.” He provides a formula to create strong visualizations and emotions within yourself. These emotions will propel you through the day and towards success. After you know what you want, and have powerful emotions to back it up, you should simply start acting as if you already have the success you want. **Migma Dolma, former Library Assistant (now living in Perth, Australia)**

Location: Main

Call No.: 158 C222s 2015



Quotes:

“If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you'll you've always got”

“All blame is a waste of time. No matter how much fault you find with another, and regardless of how much you blame him, it will not change you”

“The man who complains about the way the ball bounce is likely the one who dropped it.”

“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.”

“If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to meet it.”

“Pay any price to stay in the presence of extraordinary people. Then you are an excellent leader.”

Similar books available at the Library:

- *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill
- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey
- *The Magic of Thinking Big* by David J. Schwartz
- *Getting Things Done* by David Allen

Such a Long Journey by Rohinton Mistry

The setting for Mistry's tale is 1971 Bombay amid the historical backdrop of Indira Gandhi's rule and the short 13 day Indian-Pakistan War resulting in Bangladesh's independence. The protagonist, Gustad Noble, lives with his wife, two sons, and daughter in Khodadad Building, an enclave of Parsi residents.

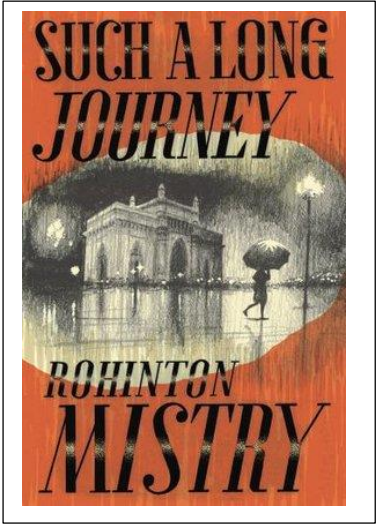
Gustad is a decent man, whose goodness and kindness we come to know and admire as the novel progresses. As the story begins, Gustad's world is unraveling. His oldest son, Sohrab, has no interest in attending IIT preferring instead to major in art, Darius is flirting with an antagonistic neighbor's daughter, and precious little Roshan is continually ill. Now... a strange letter and request has arrived from Jimmy, a dear friend, who left long ago without notice.

Mistry paints a colorful picture of Indian and Zoroastrian/Parsi life as our senses are assailed with the sights, sounds, and smells of Bombay. With Gustad, we visit the smelly, fly infested Crawford Market, catch a glimpse of the House of Cages, and attend a Zoroastrian funeral as we follow a procession to the Tower of Silence, where vultures circle in wait for the new dead. The wall outside Gustad's compound has become a urine stench outdoor latrine, a popular place for passersby to relieve themselves. Through Gustad's ingenuity and a street artist's talent the foul smelling wall is transformed into a beautiful holy shrine so pleasing to all faiths that people stop peeing and come to pray and leave offerings.

Mistry's characters, both major and minor, are as colorful and multidimensional as the scenes he describes. The man-boy, Tehmul, mentally and physically handicapped after a childhood fall, adores Gustad and speaks and repeats words in rapid succession. Old Miss Kutpita locks out the world as diligently as she locks up the past in her stuffy apartment and offers superstitious Dilnavaz (Mrs. Noble) magical cures and hope for renewed harmony between father and sons and health to young Roshan. While Dinshawji, Gustad's longtime friend at the bank, outwardly brings laughter to his friends and workmates, inside he is withering away, riddled with cancer.

The deft manner in which Mistry brings life to his characters is wonderfully executed. An enjoyable and educational read. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC
Call No.: FIC M67898s



Quotes:

"Time and the world stretched endlessly then, before the bad days came and everything shrank."

"This was the bloody problem with modern education. In the name of progress they discarded seemingly unimportant things, without knowing that what they were chucking out the window of modernity was tradition. And if tradition was lost, then the loss of respect for those who respected and loved tradition always followed."

"How to make him realize what he was doing to his father, who had made the success of his son's life the purpose of his own? Sohrab had snatched away that purpose, like a crutch from a cripple."

"The odour had a cycle of its own, going from a gale-force stench to a harmless zephyr."

"Yes, to be able to make people laugh was a wonderful blessed thing."

Racists by Kunal Basu

Racists takes us back in time... the year is 1855 and Darwin's *Origins of the Species* has yet to be written. Although slavery has been abolished in Britain, the trade in human flesh continues with ships carrying slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.

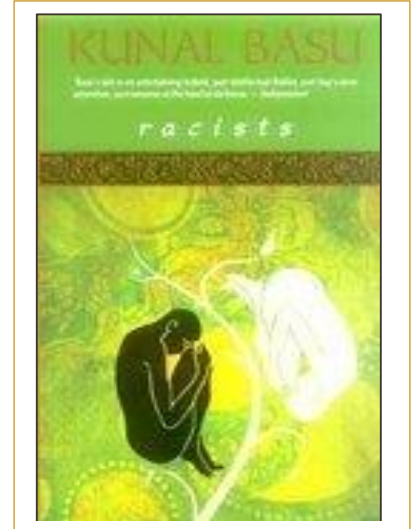
Two well-known racial scientists, Bates, an Englishman and Belavoix, a Frenchman are on their maiden voyage to a small uninhabited island, Arlinda, off the coast of Africa. They are embarking on a twelve year experiment, each to prove the supremacy of their racial theory. Two infants, a white girl and a black boy are the subjects of their research. They are accompanied by Norah, a mute nurse, who has been instructed with "ten commandments" of behavior. She is to keep the children alive, but is not to teach or play games, or act as their mother. The two scientists, along with Bates' assistant Quarterly, will visit the island twice a year. As the island cannot sustain humans (the reason they are confident their experiment won't be disturbed), water and supplies are regularly delivered.

Bates is certain he will scientifically prove, with the help of his instruments, the superiority of the white race, while Belavoix is equally confident the boy and girl will grow to hate one another and eventually one will kill the other. Bates is nearly devoid of human emotion and sympathy. He describes the children as samples and shows no interest in their development - only the size of their skulls. Belavoix, also lacks empathy and after six years, seeing their experiment is carrying on too long and going nowhere, concocts a plot to murder one of the children to prove his theory.

These two opposing hypotheses and each man's obsession to prove the other wrong are the focus of the novel at the expense, I think, of developing the novel to its full potential. I wanted to know more about the children and all those months Norah spends alone with them. We get glimpses, of course, but ... not enough. It is through Quarterly's eyes, his growing love for Norah, and his changing attitudes toward the children and the scientists that the story takes on substance.

I was fascinated with the novel's premise and curiosity enticed me to its completion. While I think the author could have engaged the reader more fully in the lives of each character, it is nonetheless an interesting story, effectively portraying European racist ideas in the 19th century. It is a chilling tale of how educated, scientific men allowed their theories to obscure their humanity. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC
Call No.: FIC B327r



Quotes:

"How could he care so much about human variation, without the slightest concern for the humans he knew?"

"Science can only lose to human weakness... the frail are our real enemies!"

"What turns inside the skull of the skull doctor?"

"His love for Norah was stronger than his fear of Bates."

"To study man, you have taken out your knife, cut him in small pieces, sliced open his skull. We French have followed him to his home, not to the morgue."

"Awake after a sleepless night, she thinks of her visitors leaving. She'll miss the pleasure of words, the drone of voices in the kitchen, the men speaking in distinct notes."

The Pulitzer Prizes

The Pulitzer Prizes, awarded since 1917, are regarded as the highest national honor bestowed in the United States to American journalists, writers, and musical composers.

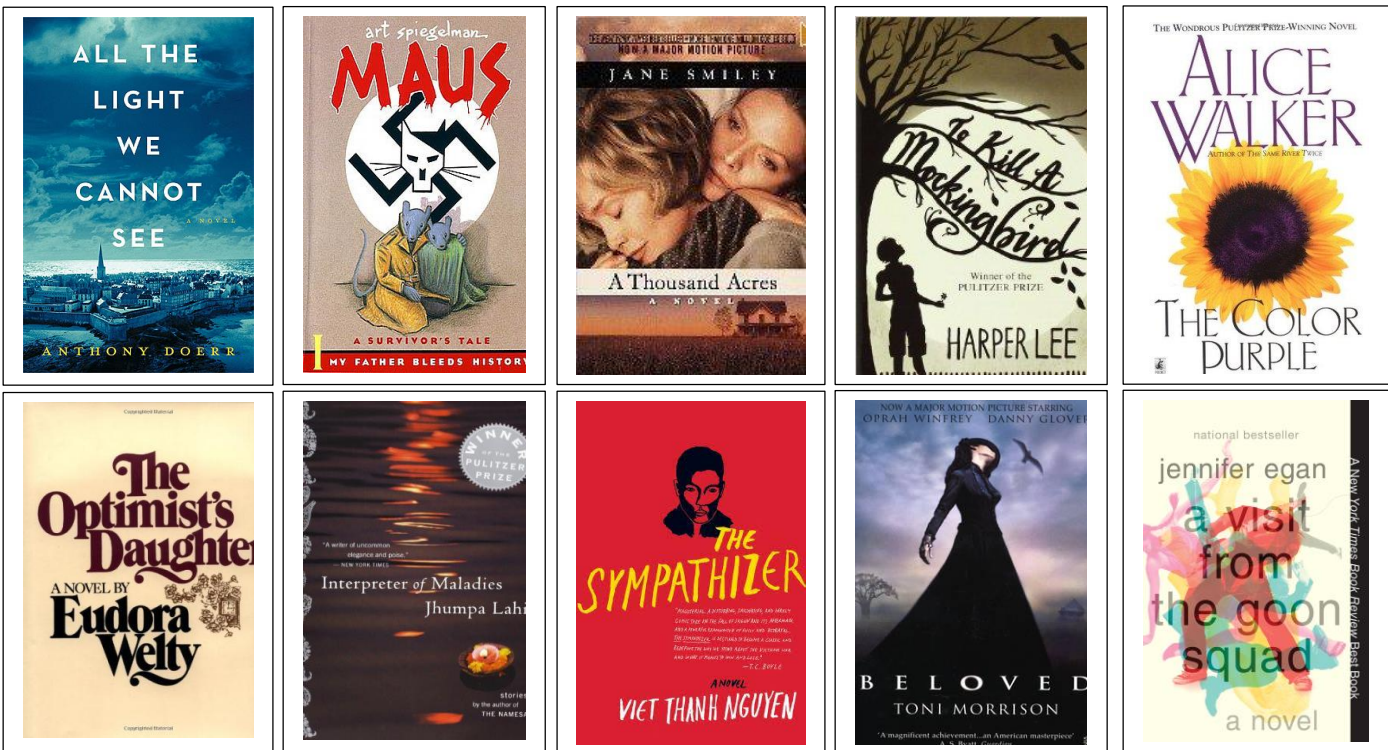
The Pulitzer Prizes and the creation of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, were gifted in the will of Joseph Pulitzer. The prizes were established to reward excellence in journalism and writing. Today, the prizes are awarded in 21 categories, 14 in the journalism field, six in letters and drama (including fiction, poetry, biography), and one in music.

Joseph Pulitzer was born in Hungary and at age 17 boarded ship to the US. A chance meeting with the publishers of the Westliche Post in a St. Louis library (where Pulitzer visited to study English) landed him a job with their paper. Four years later, he became its publisher. But this was only the beginning. A tireless, hardworking journalist and a shrewd businessman, Pulitzer was only thirty-one when he became the owner of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1878. Five years later, at the age of thirty-six, he bought the New York World.

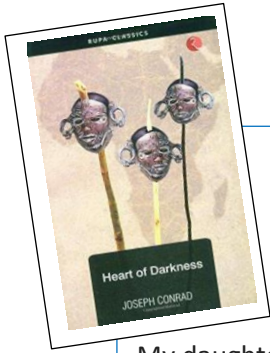
Pulitzer believed "that newspapers were public institutions with a duty to improve society." Interestingly, the derogatory term "Yellow Journalism" was coined in the mid-1890s to characterize the sensational journalism that arose between Pulitzer's New York World and William Randolph Hearst's, New York Journal. Both men have been accused of inciting public opinion against the Spanish and rallying the US into war. Four months after the war ended, Pulitzer and the World turned away from "Yellow Journalism" and returned to crusading against and attacking government and corporate corruption.

In 1992, not knowing how to classify Art Spiegelman's graphic work, *Maus* (some call it memoir, auto/biography, history or fiction) the Pulitzer Prize committee, created a special award to honor this tale of a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor. In 2016, the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in fiction was awarded to 45 year old, Vietnamese born, Viet Thanh Nguyen for his debut novel: *The Sympathizer*. The story opens in 1975 Saigon and moves to Los Angeles along with the narrator, a Communist sympathizer. The author says he wrote the book to "explore the complexity of the Vietnam War through all eyes".

The following are a sample of Pulitzer Prize winners available in the Library and/or on the MSS.



"Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together. An able, disinterested, public-spirited press, with trained intelligence to know the right and courage to do it, can preserve that public virtue without which popular government is a sham and a mockery. A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself. The power to mould the future of the Republic will be in the hands of the journalists of future generations." **Joseph Pulitzer, 1904**



Read the book, watch the movie

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad



My daughter (who is an avid reader) once told me that *Heart of Darkness* was the worst book she ever read. Not having read this classic myself, I was curious to know if I would feel the same way. My verdict: Maybe not the worst book I've ever read, but "The Horror, The Horror" (to quote Kurtz) I didn't like it either.

It starts out interesting enough, and at first I was amused by Conrad's descriptive talents - often describing the minutest of details. But as Marlowe travels further into the "Heart of Darkness", just when it seems the story would become all the more interesting, for me, it falls flat.

We meet Kurtz, an ivory trader, worshipped as a god by the local population. As Marlowe becomes more and more obsessed with Kurtz, I found myself ever the more turned off by Marlow's obsession as well as with Kurtz himself.

If the *Heart of Darkness* is part of your required reading, then, of course, you must read it. In which case, I hope you find it more interesting than I did. It is a dense, dark read. The word dark and its variations showing up repeatedly throughout the book. And Conrad is writing about a dark period of history - the European conquest, exploitation, and colonialism of the African continent - and the darkness that lies in men's hearts. I just wish I had liked the delivery of the story more than I did.

According to literary critic, Harold Bloom, "The *Heart of Darkness* has been analyzed more than any other work of literature studied in universities and colleges." It has also been criticized by Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe as "an offensive and deplorable book that de-humanizes Africans."

As for the movie *Heart of Darkness* ... it's a skipper for sure. I usually enjoy John Malkovich, but definitely not in this movie.

Francis Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, starring Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen, and Robert Duvall is set during the Vietnam War. It is a 'modern day' version of Kurtz as an insane, American colonel who commands a band of renegade soldiers in the heart of the Cambodian jungle. Captain Willard (the modern day Marlowe) is sent up river not just to find Kurtz, but to terminate him.

For me, it was a difficult movie to (re)watch. I didn't much like it, but, I could appreciate Coppola's portrayal of the brutality and futility of war on the human psyche - not to mention local populations and the environment. Often listed as one of the top anti-war films, Coppola says, "My film is more of an 'anti-lie' film. People are being brutalized, tortured, maimed and killed and our culture presents this as moral. This is what horrifies me, and perpetuates the possibility of war."

The book location: Main Call No.: 823.912 C754h

The movies are available on the MSS

This month: JSTOR

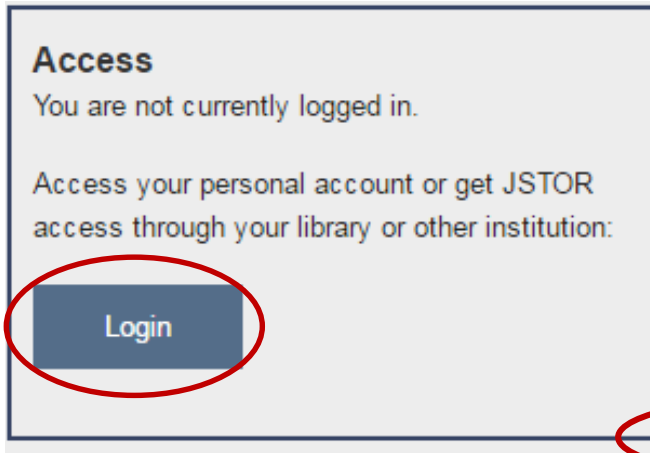
Did you know that even though RTC does not have a subscription to JSTOR, you can still search this resource and read up to three articles online at a time?

To get started:

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Go to: <http://www.jstor.org/> This link is also available on the library homepage under Online Resources by subject: [Multidisciplinary/General](#)

Step two: Login



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Reading Club News

Join us in reading Prajwal Parajuly's *The Gurkha's Daughter*, a collection of fictional short stories describing Nepalese people and culture at home and abroad.

We will meet to discuss the book on:

Tuesday, 6 September 2016 at 4:00 in the Executive Center.

Join us, even if you only have time to read one or two stories.

The book is available to download at the library on the MSS.

For all you aspiring writers

Call for submissions- New Asian Writing 2016 Short Story Competition

NAW will accept all stories that are set in an Asian context or have an Asian theme. The nationality of the author does not matter (we'll consider your work even if you are from Mars). Either the stories should be set in an Asian country, should have at least one Asian citizen or some amount of Asian element. We have left the question as to what determines Asian theme open purposely so as not to restrict creativity. The contest is only for writers above 18 years of age.

Stories must be original, unpublished fiction, typed and single-spaced, and should be between 2,500 to 7,000 words in length (min. 2500 and not exceeding 7500 words). The selected stories must not have been published previously either in print or via electronic media (including personal blogs or social media).

Want to find out more? Checkout: <http://www.new-asian-writing.com/submission-guidelines/>

The last day for submitting short stories for NAW 2016 short story competition is September 15, 2016. Missed the deadline for this year. Chin up... it's an annual competition.

Join others in sharing a book recommendation with the RTC community

If you've read a good book recently and would like to share your recommendation with others, the Library would love to receive your 150-500 word review. Send it to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see Amrita.

Thanks!