RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2016

Welcome to the March issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads "Read the Book-Watch the Movie" This month's Featured Resource: OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment) On display @ the Library: Folktales from Bhutan and Tibet **Reading Club News**

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini

And the Mountains Echoed is a moving tale of families lost and separated and families gained and found.

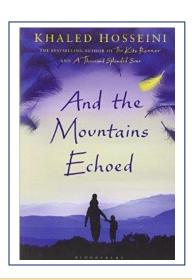
Our story begins with Saboor, a poor farmer in rural Afghanistan. He is telling a story to his young son and daughter. It is about Baba Ayub, a man who loses his cherished son to the Div (a monster with horns, a tail, and shining red eyes) who regularly comes to pluck a child from a countryside village.

It is a telling tale as Saboor is about to sell his three year old daughter, Pari, to a wealthy, childless couple, the Wahdati's in Kabul. Abdullah, Pari's ten year old brother, has raised Pari since their mother died giving her birth. He deeply loves his younger sister and is devastated by his father's decision. Their uncle, Nabi, is the Wahdati's chauffeur, and it is he who has set this plan in motion in hopes to gain favor with Nila, Mrs. Whadati.

Hosseini is a master storyteller and he weaves this story of the Afghan diaspora, across three continents, over half a century through the lives of the people connected through Pari and her adopted parents. Highly recommended. Amrita McKinney, Librarian

LOCATION: FIC CALL NO: FIC H829a

If you like And the Mountains Echoed, try Hosseinii's other novels: The Kite Runner (FIC H829k) and A Thousand Suns (on the MSS - Media Sharing



Quotes:

"The rope that pulls you from the flood can become a noose around your neck."

"Beauty is an enormous, unmerited gift given randomly, stupidly."

"But there was no forgetting. Pari hovered, unbidden, at the edge of Abdullah's vision everywhere he went. She was like the dust that clung to his shirt. She was in the silences that had become so frequent at the house, silences that welled up between their words, sometimes cold and hollow, sometimes pregnant with things that went unsaid, like a cloud filled with rain that never fell"

"But time, it is like charm. You never have as much as you think."

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga

The White Tiger is a novel about Balram Halwai, who wants to rise above his birth to live the highlife. Throughout the story, you are reminded that he is revealing this story to you from a time in the future - giving a sense of wonder for where the story is heading and where he ultimately ends up.

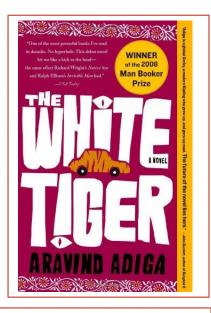
Born in a small Indian village Balram aspires to a job with a uniform, the ultimate sign of having 'made it'. When he is employed as a driver to a wealthy landlord, he believes he is on the path to success. When the landlord moves to Delhi, Balram's life becomes more complicated and the story is forced to take on the themes of religion, wealth, loyalty, morality, caste, and poverty.

At one point, Balram remarks, "See, the poor dream all their lives of getting enough to eat and looking like the rich. And what do the rich dream of?? Losing weight and looking like the poor." These kinds of clear juxtapositions take the reader beyond the story of a boy dreaming of wealth to consider the implications of these kinds of stories in modern India.

While the themes throughout the book are serious and dark, it is written with a sense of humor and humility that keeps the reader engaged and curious about what happens next. **Jessica Emory, Orientation to College Instructor**

Location: FIC

Call no: FIC A235w



Quotes:

"To sum up—in the old days there were one thousand castes and destinies in India. These days, there are just two castes: Men with Big Bellies, and Men with Small Bellies. And only two destinies: eat—or get eaten up."

"That's the one good thing I'll say for myself. I've always been a big believer in education—especially my own."

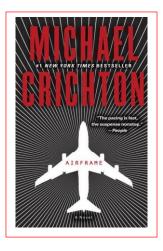
"I absorbed everything—that's the amazing thing about entrepreneurs. We are like sponges—we absorb and grow."

Airframe by Michael Crichton

Airframe is an action-packed page turner that delves into corruption and the complicated business of building airplanes. The novel begins with a horrific aircraft accident, which "looked as if a giant hand had smashed the interior. Seats were crushed flat. Overhead bins hung down, almost touching the floor; ceiling panels had split apart, exposing wiring and silver insulation. There was blood everywhere; some of the seats were soaked deep maroon. The aft lavs were ripped apart, mirrors shattered, stainless-steel drawers hanging open, twisted."

The question immediately becomes what happened? How did this plane get into such trouble? Who is at fault? Casey, the QA executive for the airline manufacturer, is tasked with quickly figuring out what went wrong. Unfortunately, there are many who don't want her to find out. The struggle that ensues will send chills down anyone's spine, particularly if you have a flight coming up. Jessica Emory, Orientation to College Instructor

Location: Available on the Media Sharing Space (MSS)



Quotes:

Monday: "Emily lowered her head, clutched her infant daughter to her chest, and for the first time in her life, began to pray."



Read the book, watch the movie!

The movie, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, winner of five academy awards, is a faithful adaption of Ken Kesey's classic by the same name. The movie, however, includes a few embellishments that, for me, add color and bring out Nicholson's comic ability. There are also differences. The book tells the story entirely from the perspective of Big Chief, a schizophrenic Native American, who plays deaf and dumb, while the movie tells the story from an objective perspective, thus we miss out on Big Chief's unique and personal point of view. The ending is also slightly different, but you will need to Read the Book and Watch the Movie to decide if, for you, one is more powerful than the other. Both the book and the movie are highly recommended.

What are your thoughts?



This Month's Featured Resource:

OARE: Online Access to Research in the Environment

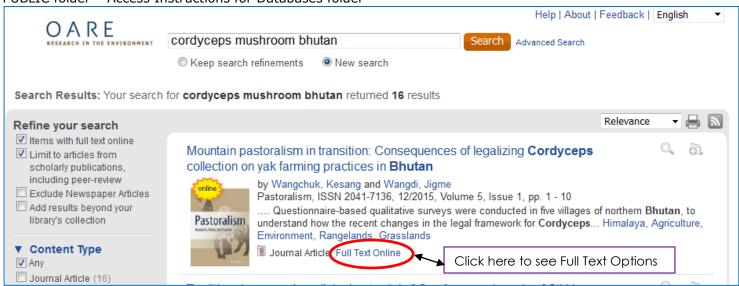
OARE is a consortium coordinated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Yale University, and leading science and technology publishers. It enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of environmental science research.

OARE (http://www.unep.org/oare/) provides access to research in a wide range of disciplines including:

Biology; Biotechnology, Genetics; Botany & Plant Biodiversity; Climatology, Climate Change & Meteorology; Ecology & Wildlife Conservation; Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy; Environmental & Natural Resource Economics; Environmental Engineering; Environmental Policy & Planning; Fisheries; Forestry; Geography, Population Studies & Migration; Earth Sciences; Natural Environmental Disasters; Marine Biology; Pollution & Environmental Toxicology; Remote Sensing Technologies; Soil Sciences and Desertification; Waste Management; Water, Hydrology & Wetlands; Animal Biodiversity, and more.

To access **OARE:**

Come to the Library to obtain the UserID and Password, or Access the UserID and Password from the RTC Cloud – Library PUBLIC folder – Access Instructions for Databases folder



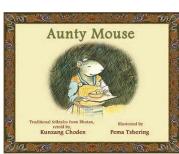


Interested? Come to the Library to learn more about OARE. Or faculty - schedule an instruction class for your students.

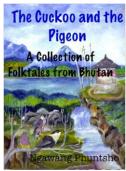
Bhutanese and Tibetan Folktales on display

Do you enjoy a good folktale? Want to learn more about Bhutanese and Tibetan culture and folklore? Come to the Library and browse our display of Bhutanese and Tibetan Folktales. Have some free time? Check one out or sit, relax, and read it in the Library.







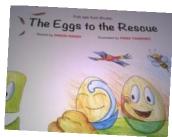


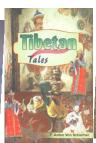














Looking for academic articles on Bhutanese folktales?

Search the <u>Journal of Bhutanese Studies</u> online, or browse our hardcopy issues in the library.

Want to read more folktales and fairy tales from other countries?

The following books are available on the MSS: Speak, Bird, Speak Again (Palestinian Arab Folktales), Where the Mountains Meets the Moon (Chinese), Folktales from Africa: The Baboons Who Went This Way and That, Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Anderson, Grimms Fairy Tales and Aesop's Fables.

Visit these websites for more folktales from around the world:

<u>American Folklore</u> – a great site for folktales, myths, legends, fairy tales, and more from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, including Native American, African-American, and Asian-American tales

<u>Folklore and Mythology--Electronic Texts</u> - provides a wonderful list of online folktales organized by theme <u>Hans Christian Andersen--Fairy Tales and Stories</u> – provides a chronological list of Andersen's 168 tales with links to most available in public domain sources.

<u>World of Tales</u> – A selection of stories for children, folktales, fairy tales and fables from around the world. Arranged by region.

Looking for academic articles on folktales from other countries? Come to the Library and we will get you started on your search.

The Reading Club will have its first meeting on Tuesday, March 8

Where: Upstairs in the Library

When: 4:30-5:30

Who: Students, Staff, and Faculty

We have an exciting semester planned ahead!

· Join us for guest author talks, and

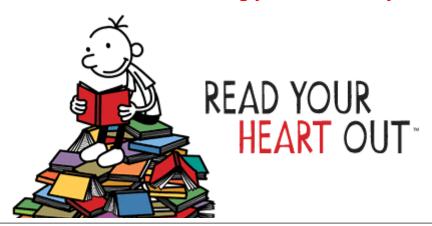
Monthly gatherings to discuss a selected book

If you can make it this coming Tuesday: bring any ideas you may have for a book to read (it must be available on the Media Shared Drive to download or freely accessible online). Do bring a thumbdirve to download the selected book.

If you can't join us: we hope to see you next time and stayed tuned for this month' book pick.

Come and be part of the fun.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.



Book recommendations:

Did you read a good book (that we have in the library or on the MSS) over the winter break? In the midst of reading one now? Would you like to write a short review? We would love to receive your Recommended Read. Please send yours to amckinney@rtc.bt or come see me in the library if you need help getting started.