

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017



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

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Recommended Reads from the RTC community

History in a Pebble: A Collection of Poems **by Sonam Choden Dorji**

What a lovely book of poetry! Everything about this book is beautifully constructed - from the author's lyrical verses to her artwork and photos flowing across the golden edged pages.

The author dates each poem (sometimes even including an exact hour or location) yet the poems are not arranged chronologically. Instead she allows something else to guide their placement into one of three sections: White Jade, Red Coral, and Blue Turquoise.

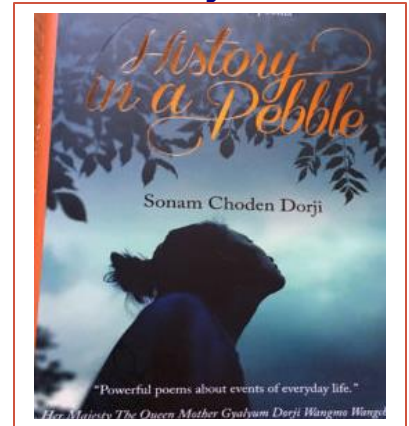
In Note to the Reader, Dorji writes “While it is important to anchor ourselves and nurture our individuality; the challenges that our world faces in these troubled times requires a definite shift in consciousness, to acknowledge and embrace our interdependent human existence.”

These poems beautifully and gently express Dorji's outward observations of everyday life, while her inner reflections are thoughtful and moving. Her poetry clearly reflects the interdependence she creates and experiences in her life. We finish, aware the author has shared a great deal about herself.

This is a book to savor and to read again and again. You will delight in the author's drawings, paintings, and photography, and of course her beautiful poetry. A must read - even if you think you don't like poetry. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: Main Call No.: 895.12 D68h 2016

“You've never written a book? Why, of course you have. You are a living book.” Sonam Choden Dorji



Sketch

Like you're holding
the last pencil on earth,
paint like you would
with the very last tube of color

masks

I've used up all my masks.
The good masks
The ugly masks,
And now I find
that I have only my naked face.

I want to be

spineful
gufful
fearless
and shameless.
Imagine the alternatives.

haiku bhutan

Red chilli on the roof,
Laughing children eating pears
Earth rumbles and cracks.

The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde

If the cover of this book says to you, “Nope, not my kind of book”, don’t be guilty of judging a book by its cover. Fforde has written a wonderfully creative and fun alternative world that literature lovers will definitely enjoy. So... sit back and enter 1985 England - an England the likes no one has seen before. Imagine a world where the Crimea War is still in progress, the Goliath Corporation has a strong grip on the government, Wales has been an independent nation (the Socialist Republic of Wales) since 1854, dirigibles transport persons from city to city, cloned dodos are popular pets, bookworms eat prepositions and fart out ampersands and apostrophes, time travel is possible, Baconians are out to convince the world Francis Bacon wrote Shakespeare’s plays, a Milton conference draws thousands of men named John Milton, and... Jane Eyre does not marry Rochester.

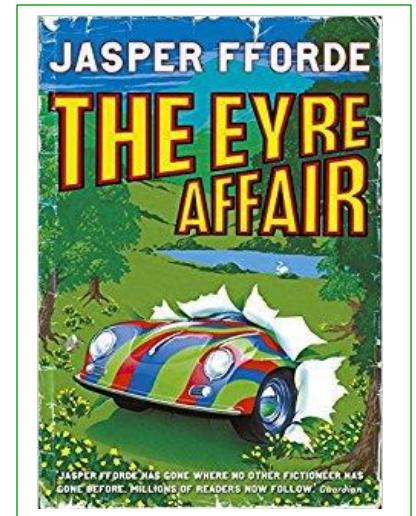
Meet Thursday Next, a Litera Tec (literary detective) extraordinaire - an intelligent, street smart, spunky, heroine who yes... drives a red, blue, and green striped Porsche. Thursday is temporarily assigned to OP7 to help catch Acheron Hades, her once professor and mentor, now a hardened criminal, who has stolen the original manuscript of Charles Dickens’s *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

Thursday’s Uncle Mycroft has a long list of inventions to his name including a 2B lead pencil with a built in spell checker, the Olfactroscope, the Rosettionery (carbon paper that translates), the ChameoleoCar and genetically engineered bookworms. But it’s Mycroft’s Prose Portal, now in the hands of Hades, which is causing havoc in the literary world. Any person who enters a work of literature through an original manuscript is capable of causing irreversible changes not only to the manuscript itself but simultaneously to every copy of the book in existence. Hades has removed Mr. Quaverley, a minor character in *Martin Chuzzlewit*. But that’s only for starters; Hades is about to increase the ransom and the stakes.

Foiled in his plan to inflict further damage in *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Hades steals the original manuscript of Charlotte Bronte’s *Jane Eyre* and Thursday is about to follow Hades into her next adventure. A jolly entertaining read. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC

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Quotes:

"My father had a face that could stop a clock. I don't mean that he was ugly or anything; it was a phrase the ChronoGuard used to describe someone who had the power to reduce time to an ultraslow trickle."

"I noticed all this but most of all I noticed the quiet; the quiet of a world free from flying machines, traffic and large cities. The industrial age had only just begun; the planet had reached its Best Before date."

"Ordinary adults don't like children to speak of things that are denied them by their own grey minds."

"We have a saying: Below the eight, above the law."

"Inspector Turner's hope to marry a wealthy Mr. Right and leave the service stayed just that – a hope – as so often Mr Right turned out to be either Mr Liar, Mr Drunk, or Mr Already Married."

"Governments and fashions come and go but Jane Eyre is for all time."

"There was so much to say, neither one of us could think of any way to start."

The Appointment by Herta Muller

This year, my daughter and I embarked on an educational and fun project. We are reading twenty-four books by women authors from around the world. The criteria for our selection was 1.) Neither of us had read anything by the author, 2.) We could find a physical or e-copy of the book, and 3.) The book was either fiction or memoir/autobiography.

Individually, we researched woman authors, combed lists, read book reviews, after which we each selected twenty-four authors/titles. We then passed on our list to the other person from which twelve titles were selected. The process of culling our final list down to a combined twenty-four was a challenge. Our project has opened my eyes to a plethora of amazing women authors. One of them is Romanian born Herta Muller, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 2009 and the author of *The Appointment*. At the award ceremony, Muller was praised for depicting the "landscape of the dispossessed" with "the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose."

The story begins: *I've been summoned. Thursday, at ten sharp.*

Our unnamed narrator has been accused of prostitution on the job. Her crime: sending marriage proposals sewn in the lining of men's suits destined for Italy. To complicate matters, it appears her boss has falsely accused her of sending the message "Greetings from the dictatorship" in clothes to Sweden.

The story takes place during our protagonist's tram ride to her ten o'clock appointment. Through a series of reflections on the past and current observations aboard the tram, the author creates for us a portrayal of life in 1980's Communist Romania.

This is not her first summons, but rather one of a long string of appointments with Major Albu, her interrogator, who begins each session with a slobbering kiss to her hand. These summons are taking their toll and we sense the strain they are putting on our narrator and her marriage. We begin to doubt if she is a reliable narrator.

She lives with her second husband, Paul, an alcoholic in a leaning tower and wears the same green blouse 'that grows' to every appointment and before leaving, always eats a walnut. Her superstitions provide an iota of sanity to her high level of uncertainty.

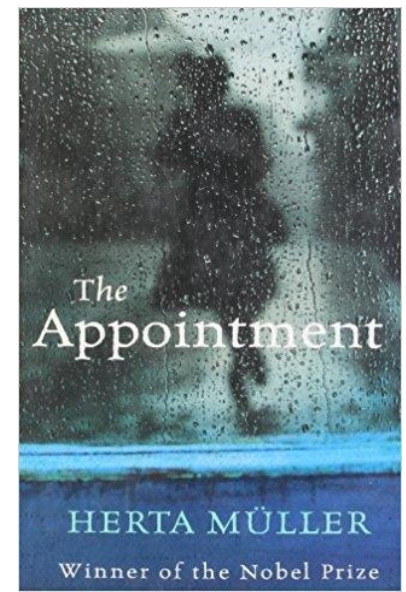
We are introduced to an array of characters: a snooping neighbor who records her coming and goings. Her father and his infidelity, her first husband and his father responsible for sending her grandparents to Siberia. There's her friend, Lilli, attracted to older men, who dies trying to escape with her lover to Hungary and her second husband Paul, who leaves us wonder if he really provides the stability she craves,

If you like stream of consciousness writing, I think you will like this book. Muller's tale is dark and bleak. Yet her writing, at times is brilliant and soars above the banality of the narrator's life under Nicolae Ceasusescu' oppressive regime. **Amrita**

McKinney, Librarian

Location: MAIN

Call No.: 833.914 M9582a 2001



Quote:

"The streets are longest, the trees tallest, the sky closest when your eyes are fixed straight ahead."

"My heart turned so hard, it would have struck her dead if I had thrown it."

"You go out for a walk and the world opens up for you. And before you've even stretched your legs properly, it closes shut. From here to there it's all just the farty sputter of a lantern. And they call that having lived. It's not worth the bother of putting on your shoes."

"When she dried herself she became like the towel, when she cleared the dishes she became like the table, and she became like the chair when she sat down."

"His face froze up. Then his eyeballs glistened and turned into little squares."

"I do a lot of counting. Cigarette butts, trees, fence slats, clouds, or the number of paving stones between one phone pole to the next, the pedestrians I see from the bus between one stop and the next, red ties on an afternoon in the city."

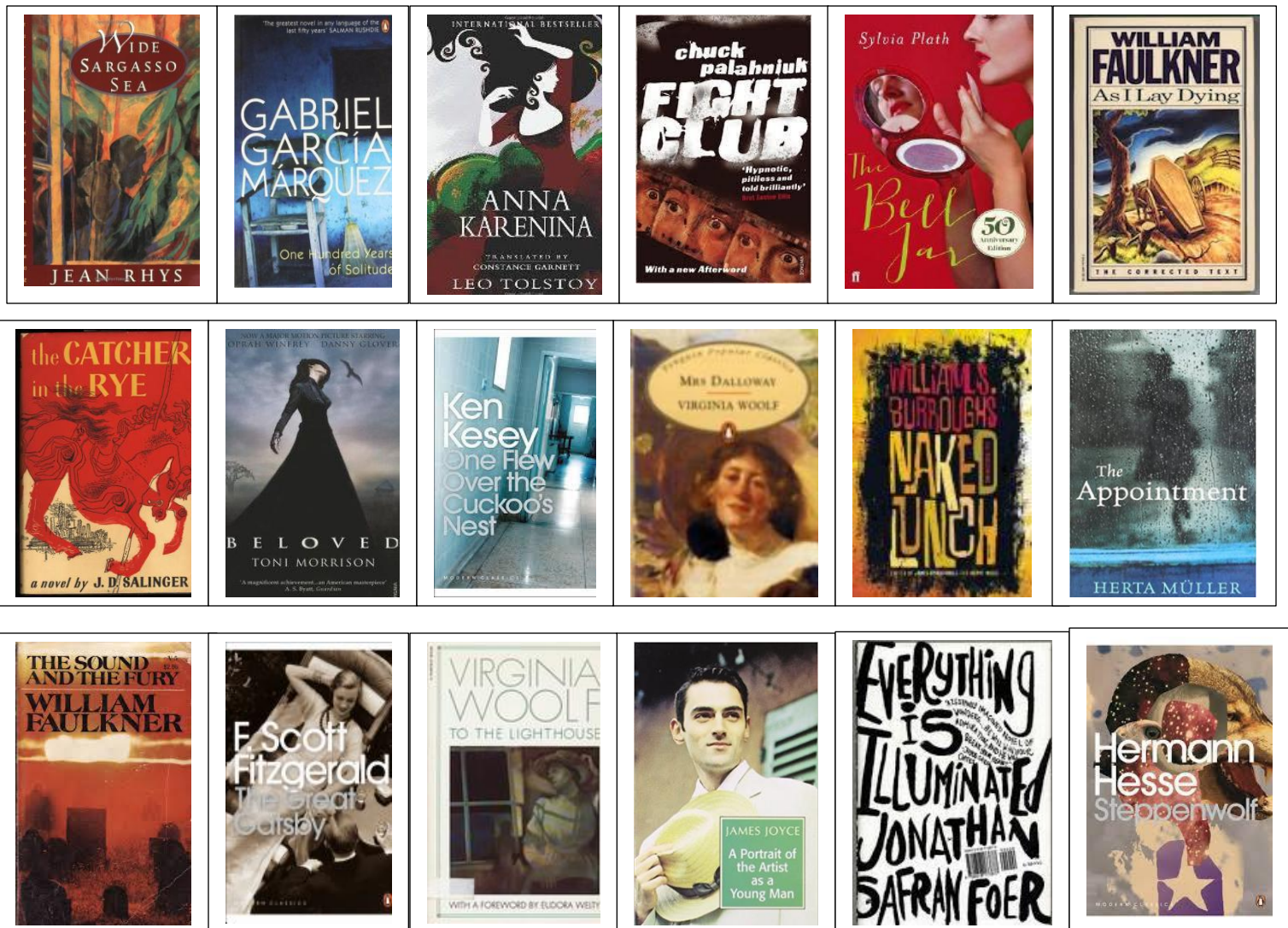
Stream of Consciousness Novels

The phrase 'stream of consciousness' was first used by William James, an American psychologist, in 1890.

In literature, stream of consciousness is a narrative technique using interior monologue to portray the many thoughts and feelings that pass through a character's mind.

Charles Dickens and Leo Tolstoy were two of the first writers to use the technique, which became widely used during the twentieth century by such authors as Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner, and James Joyce. It continues to be a popular method used by writers today.

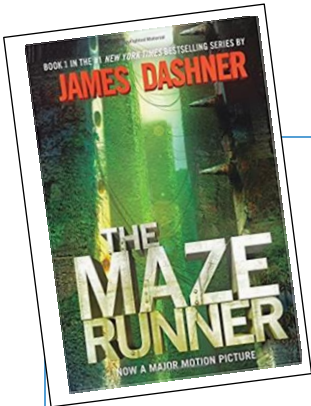
Stream of conscious writing, however, isn't only for famous authors. It is a wonderful way for each of us to write poetry and fill the pages of our journals with our uncensored thoughts. Stream of conscious writing allows us to cultivate our inner emotions and find the means to express our poetic mind. And it's also a great way to improve writing skills. So what are you waiting for - grab your journal and just start writing!



Check out our Stream of Consciousness Novels on display in the Library.

"Writing is a good way to process what's going on in your own life and all around us.

By writing about it, you can understand things better." - Thomas Enger



Read the book, watch the movie!

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Maze Runner is an engaging dystopian novel about a group of boys living in the Glade. The story begins with the arrival of Thomas. For the past two (in the movie three), one boy a month has been banished to The Glade. They arrive remembering only their names, all other memory has been erased. They assume they have been sent there as punishment - but for what? In time, with the arrival of the two newest greenies, they begin to accept that they are an experiment - but what is the experiment? And why?

As the movie opens, the thick stone walls of The Glade are as I envisioned them in the book. From there on in, however, I can see the movie and book are going to be somewhat different.

I enjoyed the book more than the movie. Here's why:

The book is a more intelligent read than the movie represents. The author does a good job of building up suspense and keeps you guessing what will happen next. The book is filled with twists and turns much like the maze that the runners enter into everyday in hopes of finding a way out.

Figuring out the maze and discovering the code that will enable them to escape are more developed in the book.

The last person to arrive in The Glade is Theresa. She's the first girl ever. In the book she plays an important role and is the trigger for a series of changes that begin to take place. In the movie, she seems only to serve the purpose of serving as the token female.

If you like dystopian novels, do read the book. If you like fast paced adventure movies, do watch the movie. Or you can always enjoy them both!

The book: Location: FIC Call no: FIC D2299m

The movie is available on the MSS

Want to enhance your English or learn a new language?

Here are a number of free language applications for you to choose from.

Don't know which one is right for you?

Duolingo and Memrise (ranked #1 and #2) offer two different approaches to language Learning.



Available: Android, iOS, and on the web.

[Memrise or Duolingo? Choosing the right language application](#)

[A Slant comparison](#)

Duolingo focuses on grammar formation and pronunciation

Memrise focuses on vocabulary learning using memorization methods

Of the two, my vote goes to Duolingo. I loaded the free Memrise app on my iPhone and don't like it at all. The problem: I am continually being asked to upgrade. The free version of Memrise does work better on my computer, but, unfortunately, that's not where I want to use it.



Available: Android, iOS, and on the web.

Other apps to consider:

Lingvist

Lingvist's method includes 3 different modules: A memorize section (based on word cards), reading exercises, and listening exercises. It provides a decent repetitive method to learn vocabulary. I've just started using Lingvist. Each lesson goes through a variety of words and sentences and continues to repeat and add on to what has been previously learned. It works best if you already have some familiarity with the language you want to learn. I can't imagine starting out with no background in Spanish.



Available: iOS, Android and on the Web.

Beelinguapp

Beelinguapp is a new app that functions as an audiobook. A short story is read out loud by a native speaker. You can read along and follow the displayed text in both English and the language you want to learn.

I look forward to this app coming out for iPhones!

Currently available: Android only



Beelinguapp

The semester is soon coming to an end.

Please return all books to the Library before going on break!

If you are a returning student and would like to check out books over the break, you are allowed to check out three books from June 24 onwards. All books will be due back Aug. 4.

The Library Staff wishes all students good luck and the best of grades on your finals.

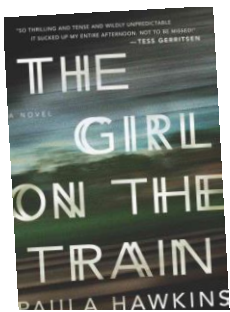
To those students returning: Have a wonder summer break.

To our graduating seniors: all the best in your future endeavors.

News from the Reading Club:



On 19 May, Monu Tamang and Sonam Yangki visited RTC to talk about their new book, *The Morning Sun* as well as Monu's first work of fiction, *The Chronicle of a Love Foretold*. The event was filmed by BBC and attended by a small group of students, staff, and faculty. Kezang Choden led the conversation, with questions to Monu regarding the inspiration for these books and the challenges young Bhutanese authors face. Afterwards, questions were opened up to the audience.



On 13 June, the Reading Club wrapped up the semester watching the psychological thriller movie: *The Girl on the Train*. The movie closely follows the book of written by Paula Hawkins. The book was a number one New York Times bestseller in 2015.

Book recommendations:

If you read a good book over the break and want to share your recommendation with others, send your 250-500 word recommendation to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see me.

Thanks!