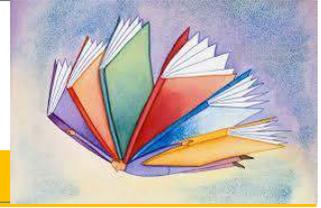


RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015



Welcome to the September issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

In this issue: Recommended Reads
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Recommended Reads from the RTC community

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**

"Fahrenheit 451 - is the temperature at which paper catches fire and burns."

Imagine a world where fireman start fires rather than put them out. Where homes containing books are burned and the owners arrested. Where residents no longer take leisurely strolls to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Where speed driving is a thrill and running down rabbits and dogs (and people too) is fun. Where large interactive TV screens (sometimes on all four walls) are one's new 'family'. Such is the world Bradbury introduces us to in *Fahrenheit 451*.

Guy Montag is a fireman who begins to question the banality of his life, a life filled with monotonous, meaningless chatter. After years of burning books, he begins to question the work he performs. He even begins to steal, of all things, books! Why, he wonders are they so dangerous?

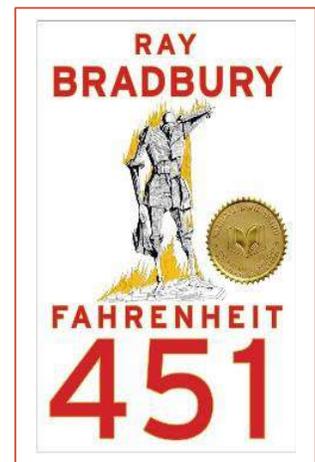
After interacting with a carefree, inquisitive teenager, Montag realizes that he is not happy, not happy at all. He wants to shake the lethargy out of his wife too, asking her "Millie, does your 'family' love you, love you very much, love you with all their heart and soul?" As his thoughts and actions become more brazen (a hazardous occupation for a man responsible for eradicating books in a society that frowns upon thinking and thoughtful dialog) his world soon turns dangerously up-side-down.

First published in 1951, *Fahrenheit 451* - a story about banning and burning books - was ironically itself banned. Why? Because one of the books that is banned in *Fahrenheit 451* is the *Bible*.

If you like dystopian novels, you will enjoy this one.

Amrita McKinney, Librarian

Location: FIC Call no.: FIC B7982f



"I hate a Roman named Status Quo... Stuff your eyes with wonder... Live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories. Ask no guarantees, ask no security, there never was such an animal. And if it were, it would be related to the great sloth which hangs upside down in a tree all day every day sleeping its life away. To hell with that... Shake the tree and knock the great sloth down on his ass."

"Nobody listens any more. I can't talk to the walls, because they're yelling at me. I can't talk to my wife, she listens to the walls. I just want someone to hear what I have to say. And maybe if I talk long enough it'll make sense."

The Leader Who Had No Title by Robin Sharma

This is a wonderful book on leadership. Unlike most of the other books on this topic, it does not talk about any particular leader in a big firm or in the society. Rather it says that we all have leadership qualities in us – the only thing is that they need to be recognized and nurtured properly. The book states that we all can become leaders in our respective lives and for which we do not need any title. This we can do by doing whatever work we are doing in the best possible way so that others will stare at us with awe. Thus we can arouse the best within us and be highly energised and in turn energise and inspire others. There are 4 chapters in the book in the form of 4 conversations, which are given below –

- (1) "You need No Title to be a Leader".
- (2) "Turbulent Times Build Great Leaders".
- (3) "The Deeper your Relationships, the Stronger your Leadership".
- (4) "To be a Great Leader, First become a Great Person".

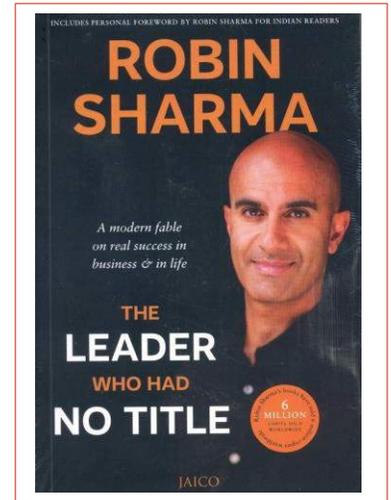
Robin Sharma has tried to drive in the important lessons on leadership by narrating a story of a young army veteran who has returned home to lead a normal life but is struggling to find meaning in his life and in his work. He will come across a character called Tommy Flinn, who will introduce him to four other characters and from whom he will learn the important leadership lessons.

Also there is a strong message in the book that "We not only have the opportunity to lead in all that we do, but we have the responsibility to lead". So I have embarked on the journey to become a "Leader Without a Title", and spread this message to as many people as possible. I sincerely hope that people read this book *and* also embark on a similar journey and spread this message to as many others around them. Moreover, the book has sold 6 million copies till date (with respect to Jaico publication) and it is highly recommended by me. I will end with the following quotation of anthropologist Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Tathagata Dasgupta, Senior Lecturer, Business Studies

Location: Main Call no.: 338.47 S5313L 2010



You can also check out the following two websites and watch the free videos there:

1. www.theleaderwhohadnotitle.com
2. www.robinsharma.com

To Live: A Novel by Yu Hua

A young man assigned to collect popular folk songs in the Chinese countryside spots an old man in a field coaxing his old ox to work. Hearing the man call the ox a variety of names, he asks, "How many names does your ox have?" Thus we learn the story of Fugui's life as he recounts his privileged beginnings as a rich (and not very likeable) young man. Fugui honestly confides and recounts the hardships and tragedies he and his family experienced during the communist takeover and the Cultural Revolution.

A compulsive gambler and womanizer, the young Fugui squanders away his family's property and fortune. Losing all, he becomes a poor farmer, renting five mu (5/7 of an acre) of land, barely able to support his wife and two children. One day, he is abducted into Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist army and for two years is separated from his family, who have no idea what has happened to him.

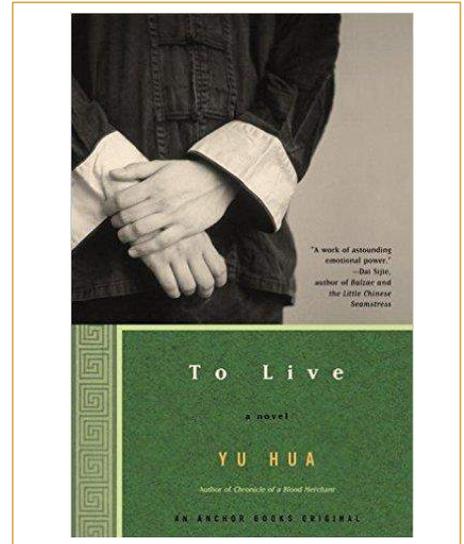
The Civil War over and Mao's army triumphant, Fugui returns to his family. If things were hard before, they become more difficult under collectivism. At least... Fugui can no longer be branded as a rich landowner. (Encouraged by the government, it is estimated that 1 million landlords were killed during the communist land distribution program.)

A teacher once told me a story, "Maybe It's Bad, Maybe It's Good" as a way to help me understand that one, things aren't as simple as they appear and two, seemingly good things can turn bad and bad/unpleasant situations can make us better individuals - that it isn't what life deals us, but how we move through life's experiences that governs our happiness and contentment. I found in Hua's tale, a similar message. As Fugui tells his story, we find a man who has suffered great loss, more than most of us could bear, and yet we find he is transformed into a gentle, caring human being, who finds peace and contentment in his life. In Fugui, Hua has created a humble hero.

Reading the back cover of this book, we learn *To Live* had once been banned in China for its unflattering view of village life. In the last decade, however, *To Live* has become one of the ten most influential books in China. A poignant read.

Amrita McKinney, Librarian

Location: FIC Call no.: FIC H8743t



"As long as I was willing to listen, he was willing to talk."

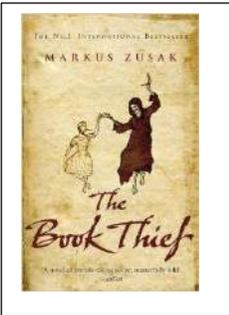
"The more I thought about it, the more I realized just how close I had come to being in Long Er's shoes. If it hadn't been for my father and me, the two prodigal sons, I would have been the one to be executed."

"When these chickens grow up they'll become geese, and when the geese grow up they'll become lambs. When the lambs grow up they'll turn into oxen. And us, we'll get richer and richer!"

"There are four rules people should remember... Don't say the wrong thing, don't sleep in the wrong bed, don't enter the wrong house, and don't rub the wrong pocket."

This month: Non-fiction books on the MSS!

While many of you may be aware of the movies available to download on the Media Sharing Space, did you know that you can also download any of the more than 9,500 available books? We have a large collection of fiction as well non-fiction titles, covering many disciplines such as business, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, religion, philosophy, literary criticism, and more. More titles are added regularly. Below are just a few of the non-fiction titles that can be downloaded. Need assistance? Be sure to ask.



Read the book, watch the movie!

What does Max dream of becoming in the book that is omitted in the movie?

What was the penalty for harboring a Jew in Nazi Germany?

Some of the book's minor characters are absent from the movie. Do you miss them? Why or why not?

The *Gravedigger's Handbook* is the first book that Liesel steals. What does the book represent to her?

How does this story tie in with Banned Books Week?

Who is the narrator of the story (in both the book and movie)? Did you find this an effective way to tell the story?

What are your thoughts?

Challenged & Banned Books

"If they don't understand you, sometimes they ban you." Walt Whitman

To book lovers, books have the power to enlighten, to educate, to entertain, and to change lives. But... books can also offend people. Each year, American Libraries observe Banned Books Week (this year from Sept. 27-Oct. 3) to celebrate the freedom to read and the freedom of speech.

Throughout history, books have been challenged and banned for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes the reasons are political, sometimes religious. Sometimes a book is challenged and banned because of controversial subject matter, graphic sex, profanity, racist or sexist language, violence, witchcraft, homosexuality, or simply because some people don't like how a book portrays people, a time or a place. People often want to suppress ideas that disagree with their own beliefs.

Books have been challenged, banned, and burned by entire countries or in the case of the United States in individual towns and school districts.

Some of the most beloved works of literature have been repeatedly challenged, some finally banned. We have books in our Library that at one time or another were banned. Have you read any of them? What do you think about the banning of books? Do you think there is ever a reason that books should be banned? Why not read a banned book today and consider the reason(s) why it raised so much controversy.

As someone has commented, "Are there things out there that I find objectionable? Harmful? Yes, and yes. Am I going to try to have them banned? No. Why? Because I want the freedom to choose for myself. And if I don't want that freedom taken from me, how can I justify taking it from others?"

Come to the Library and check out our Banned Books Display and discover why the books below (and others as well) have often been banned. You might be surprised. And of course... do check one out!



Quotes from Mountain Echoes speakers

Write every day.
Write what you know
Write about what you love.
Write about concrete details.
Enjoy writing. Don't feel obligated.
Jamie Zeppa's advice to young writers

"Books are just brilliant." *Lucy Hawking*

"Easy reading is damn hard writing." *Ashwin Sanghi*

"Good writers are first good readers." *Ashwin Sanghi*

"Reading changes your personality." *Chetan Bhagat*

"Even science is a process of storytelling." *Marcus du Sautoy*

"You are always, constantly becoming a writer." *Janice Pariat*

"Culture does not make people, people make culture." *Ruchira Gupta*

"The act of telling a story is the act of keeping people alive." *Janice Pariat*

"How best do I tell a story? Reading helps you answer that question." *Janice Pariat*

"The honesty of the writer's voice must be able to reach out and bridge what the reader is looking for." *Meru Gokhale*

"In everything...uniformity is undesirable....Leaving something incomplete makes it interesting, and gives one the feeling that there's room for growth... Even when building the imperial palace, they always leave one place unfinished." -- *An excerpt from a 14th century Japanese essay on Idleness. From the session: The Number Mysteries: The Symmetry of Mathematics, with Marcus du Sautoy*

News from the Reading Club:

Are you interested in reading and discussing short stories, poems, essays and speeches with others? Even watch an occasional documentary? Come join the Reading Club every Tuesday, from 4:30-5:30 for lively discussions.

Book recommendations:

The Library would love to receive your book recommendation. If you have read a good book recently and would like to share your recommendation with others, please send it to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see me. Thanks!