



Greetings all,

Welcome to the first issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWS*. Each issue will include:

- Book reviews of books available at RTC, written by RTC students, faculty, and staff. We hope you will be inspired to share your favorite book with us.
- A featured resource
- And other items of interest

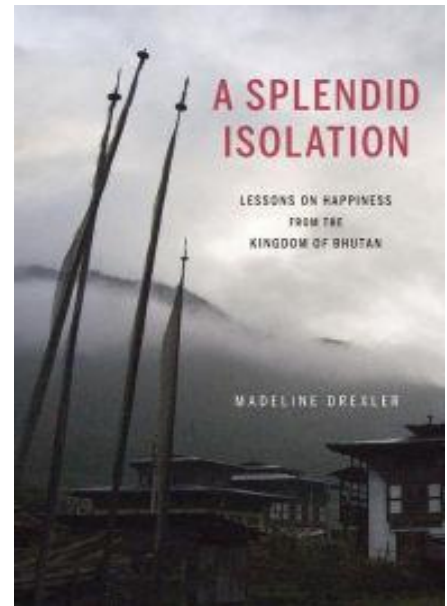
## Recommended Reads from the RTC community

### ***A Splendid Isolation: Lessons on Happiness from the Kingdom of Bhutan*** by Madeline Drexler

While there are many books published on the history of Bhutan and famous topics such as GNH, there is none quite like Madeline Drexler's "A Splendid Isolation: Lessons on Happiness from the Kingdom of Bhutan." Her book is part travel diary, part exploration as she investigates the country through her own personal experiences and conversations with a wide variety of Bhutanese.

During one interview, a Bhutanese native shares "happiness... is a choice. You have to brew it in yourself. Even from a lump of food, we choose each grain to suit our need. Likewise, in the philosophical manner, we choose to be who we are."

Through this lens, Drexler explores how Bhutan has found itself today through decisions around happiness in the past. A finalist for the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, this is a quick and interesting read that delves deeper into what Bhutan is and how this is changing and evolving in the new millennium. I highly recommend it. **Jessica Emory, Orientation to College Instructor**



#### **Want to read?**

This title is available on the Library's Media Sharing Space. Bring your USB to download.

***To Kill a Mockingbird***, by Harper Lee

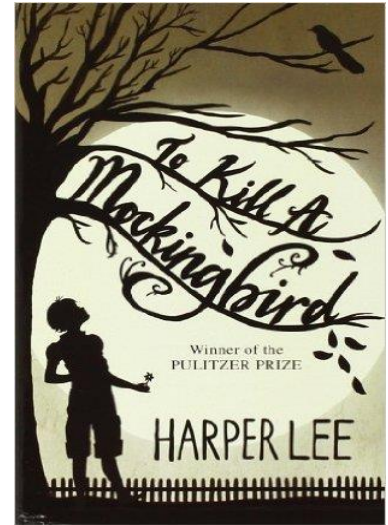
A story set in the sleepy small town of Maycomb county, Alabama, in the mid- 1930's which is narrated by a young girl known for her tom-boy persona, Jean Louis Finch (Scout) aged nine who always looks up to her protective brother who is four years older than her, Jeremy Atticus Finch (Jem) for adventures. One summer they meet Charles Baker Harris (Dill), Nephew of one of their neighbors, they together come up with unusual ideas of making their mysterious neighbor Boo Radley (who nobody has ever seen of) to come out. Their father, Atticus Finch- a widower and a lawyer is what they confide in and respect the most. Calipurnia (their African maid) and their Father raised them to what they are, i.e. intelligent, understanding and affectionate and much wiser for their age. Atticus is made to defend a Black African worker, Tom Robinson who is accused of rape by the Ewells, white. Their mundane life is then shaken when their father is no longer able to protect them from the ugly-truth of racism which starts to bind their innocent life.

A beautiful story which makes you question, "Why can't we all just get along?" It takes us back to our innocence, a child's mind of purity where societies prejudices are just too much to bear for those who bear no resentment on another; the children who understands more about the goodness than the grownups. A story that teaches us to overcome fear in the face of cruelty and keeping the sane courage of human dignity alive.

A father's struggle to keep his children protected in their umbrella of goodness found in humanity. The title of the book itself signifies the mockingbird – *who sings without harming anyone* to the innocence of the children, millions of African-Americans, Boo Radley, and the human dignity being shattered or killed by the enslavement of racial prejudices in a society.

This book has been among my top 5 best reads of all-time, a beautiful read for a classic-lover or to anyone who is in search of the innocence of life-lost these days. I am sure you all will fall in love with every 386 pages of this book like I definitely did! **Karma Tenzin Choden, Student**

**Check it out: Location FIC Call no.: FIC L4471t**

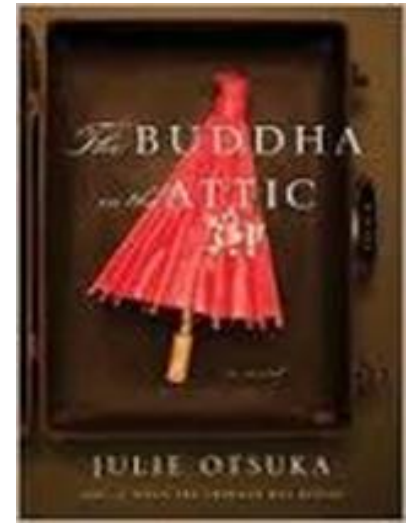


*"Things haven't caught up with that one's instinct yet. Let him get a little older and he won't get sick and cry about the simple hell people give other people- without even thinking. Cry about the hell white people give colored folks, without even stopping to think that they're people, too."-Mr. Raymond.  
(Abstract from the book)*

***The Buddha in the Attic*, by Julie Otsuka**

Otsuka has written a moving tale of the lives of young Japanese women brought to America in the early 1900's as mail order brides. They arrive full of hope and the promise of a better life, having left behind hard lives in Japan, only to discover the men they are to marry in America are neither rich nor handsome as they described themselves in letters, letters often written by more literate men. Of course, too, the women weren't completely honest or forthcoming in describing themselves either. Rather than successful businessmen, the men work as lowly paid laborers and migrant workers and the women are to find life in America difficult in ways they hadn't imagined. And yet ... filled with hope and determination, they come to live the "American Dream". We follow their joys and sorrows as they adapt to their new land, as their children reject their heritage. And then comes the bombing of Pearl Harbor and they are forced to leave their homes, to where they aren't told.

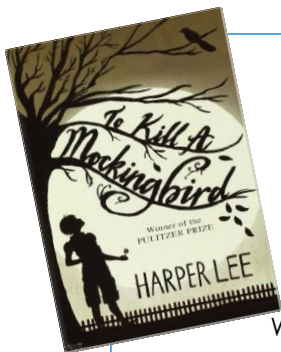
The author writes with a collective voice using "we, us, our" to tell her story. I found this an effective, surprisingly personal way to portray the lives of these struggling immigrant women who create homes and families in 20th century America. Highly recommended. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**



**Book quotes:**

"We gave birth under oak trees, in summer, in 113-degree heat. We gave birth besides woodstoves in one-room shacks on the coldest nights of the year."

"They gave us new names. They called us Helen and Lily. They called us Margaret. They called us Pearl. They marveled at our tiny figures and our long, shiny black hair."



**Read the book, watch the movie!**

Did you like one better than the other?

Is the film a worthy adaptation of the book?

Does Gregory Peck play a convincing Atticus?

What are the themes that Harper Lee tackles in her story?

What is something you liked in the book that was missing in the movie?

Does the book and/or movie help you to understand the racial prejudices in the American South in the 1960's?

**What are your thoughts?**



# Media Sharing Space @ the Library: Movies

Just a few of the movies added this summer



Did you know the library has over 500 movies available for download on the dedicated Media Sharing Space computer? Over 120 movies were added over the break and more continue to be added. Movies are organized by Genre, such as: Biography (Dramatized), Documentaries, Dystopian Worlds, Romantic Comedy, Science Fiction... Can't find what you want by genre? You can search by title.

Do you have movies you want to share with others? Bring your USB to the Library and we will unlock the computer and add them for you.

## Next Issue:

Banned Book Week - Have you read a banned book lately?

Recommended Reads - Do you have you read a book you would like to recommend to others? We would love to hear from you. Send your review to [amckinney@rtc.bt](mailto:amckinney@rtc.bt) or come by the library and see me.

There are more than 9,500 books on the Media Sharing Space. What sort of titles do we have? Find out more.

News from the Reading Club.