

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

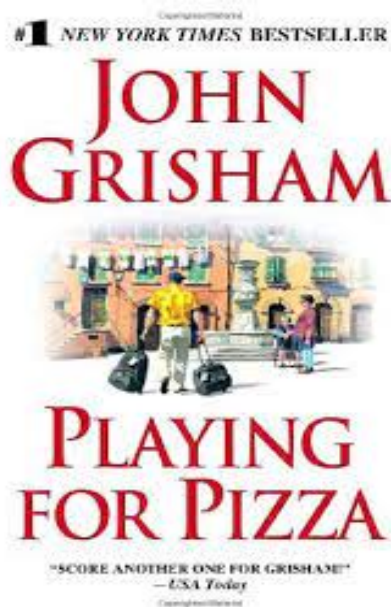
OCTOBER 2022

Welcome to the October 2022 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads *Playing for Pizza*, *120 days of Sodom* and *The Manga story of Jo Nijima: a quest for freedom*

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

Playing for Pizza by John Grisham



In the start of the book Rick Dockey wakes up in a hospital bed without knowing what happened to him. The last years, he was a reserve quarterback, a position in American Football, for several professional teams in the US. In the game the day before he had the worst performance in the history of the league and was knocked out in the end. He was immediately cut from the team. But football is the only thing he knows so he tries to find a new team. However, no team in the league wants him.

Now imagine red roof tiles glistening in the sun. A market square with an ancient cathedral standing tall to its side. Turn a couple corners and you'll have walked past a couple of pizzerias. This is Parma, a typical Italian town except that it has an American Football team. This team gives Rick a chance to play again. Rick, however, doesn't speak Italian or even know where Italy is.

Parma has a few surprises for Rick. Small cars and fine wines to name two. Reading how Rick figures out his life in Italy was fun to read. He finds satisfaction living and playing football in Italy. His fled to Italy eventually gave him a new, better life.

I feel a connection with Rick, not only because we almost have similar names but also because he is living in a foreign country. The book made me laugh at times and I loved to read each page. I believe that a good book is a book that you keep wanting to read.

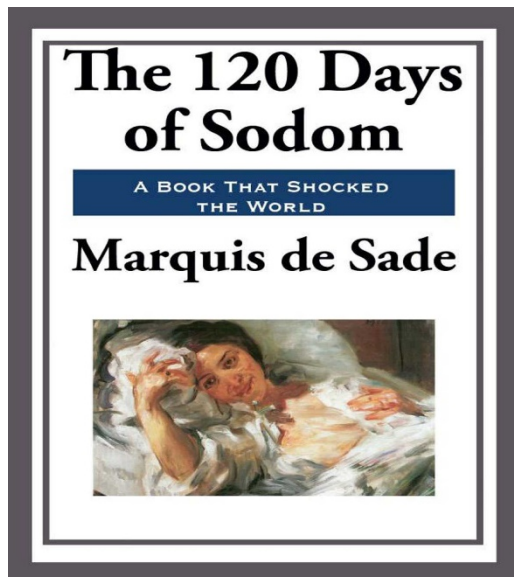
This makes me wonder, perhaps, this is a way for people to read more and not make it feel exhausting. This book is nothing fancy or impressive in a literary sense but I still find this one of the most brilliant books I've read. If you feel that you are exhausted by reading or do not like reading, maybe you could try to find a book with the only precondition that the topic interests you, just you not because it's viewed good. Reading can be fun in this way.

Thank you
Rik Lancelot Dijkman
Exchange Student
2022 Cohort

Location: FIC 813.54 GRI

120 days of Sodom by Marquis de Sade

Earning the epitaph of the most immoral book ever, this famous work by de Sade still brings out the feeling of moving in a revolting gutter when one reads it. This book was more like a chore rather than a pleasurable read. Falling into the deepest abyss of shame and debauchery, this book is irredeemable. However, personally, I found traces of a liberal mind who has satirized the society where he lived. Even before Rousseau, this man had seen the corruption within his society.



The book itself has little or no literary merits if judged from the eyes of a didactic reader. Yet, with Pasolini's interpretation of the work as a means of criticizing Fascism, this work has been given a new dimension. I cannot support the madness of de Sade nor vouch that the book is worth a read since de Sade's "Juliette" is far better than this book. But a fact that cannot be undermined is that the book can be used as a psychological study.

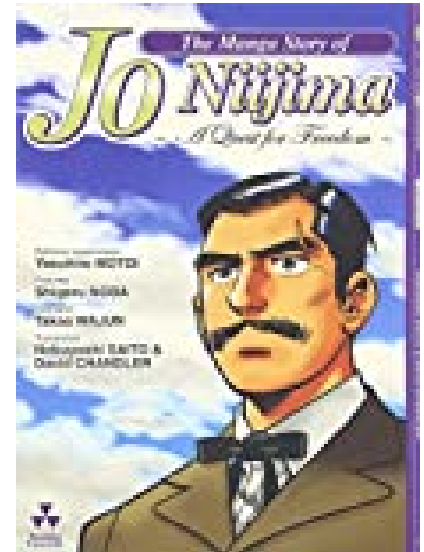
Moreover, the book was used as a means of expressing bodily freedom from the stifling norms of a repressive society where being "humane" or expressing one's inner thoughts was considered to be against the genteel social norms which people were supposed to abide by.

Thank You
Sangay Zam
BA English Studies
Cohort 2020.

The Manga story of Jo Nijima: a quest for freedom by Yasuhiro Motoi

During her years in Japan, Carmen Sterba had many lovely acquaintances, but the most striking person she met was Nijima Jo, a man she had only read about in literature. He was given the name "Jo" by Captain William Savory on the ship Berlin after being given the name Nijima Shimeta.

The young explorer, who was resolved to leave his home in order to learn English and find God, became his friend. From his brave travel to the United States in 1864-5 to his return to Japan as a preacher to the realization of his dream of founding Doshisha University in Kyoto in 1888, the author charts Jo's illustrious life. Despite all obstacles, Jo rose to prominence as one of Japan's most fascinating heroes, and even today we may learn from the way he lived life to the fullest. With the help of this intriguing biography, we can learn how a historical individual who is not well known contributed significantly to the advancement of Japan.



I would suggest this story to everyone since it is appropriate for readers of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds and because it discusses the value of education and how it may alter a society. Bhutanese may also find it to be a fascinating case study in the development of their perspectives on schooling.

Thank You

Ugyen Rigsel Wangchuk

BSc Env Mgt

Cohort 2021.

Location: FIC 823.8 MOT

Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to jitshendema@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thank you!!

