

Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News

for the Hiram College Library Community

August 2012

New and improved: now includes bonus film review action!

Any comments, questions, or requests can be sent to [Jessica Olin](#).

Fiction:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Teju Cole	<i>Open City</i>	F C6763o	About the experience of immigrants in New York City, told from the perspective of a young Nigerian doctor.
Jon Michaud	<i>When Tito Loved Clara</i>	F M58235w	15 years after the end of their relationship, Tito shows back up – disrupting Clara’s carefully constructed life.
Toni Morrison	<i>Home</i>	F M8347h	Morrison’s newest novel is about a Korean War veteran and his experiences rescuing his sister from medical abuse.
Paul Murray	<i>Skippy Dies</i>	F M965s	How can a 14 year old boy being found dead on the floor of a doughnut shop in Dublin, Ireland be funny? You’ll have to read the book to find out.
Anne Tyler	<i>The Beginner’s Goodbye</i>	F T9712b 2012	Tyler once again explores middle age, and this time the theme is recovering from a loss.

Juvenile:			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Randa Abdel-Fattah	<i>Ten Things I Hate About Me</i>	JF Ab31t	The protagonist is Lebanese-Australian, and she exerts a lot of effort to hide her Lebanese roots (both literally and figuratively, since hair dye does enter into the picture). And then one day she

			can't handle it any more. (Reading level: ages 12 and up.)
Carlo Collodi	<i>The Adventures of Pinocchio</i>	JF C6981a	If you think you know <i>Pinocchio</i> because you've seen the Disney movie, think again. Illustrated by Roberto Innocenti. (Reading level: grades 4 and up.)
Rachna Gilmore	<i>A Screaming Kind of Day</i>	JF G425s	There's nothing special in a story about a little girl who is being punished for fighting with her brother, until you realize she's deaf. Illustrated by Gordon Sauvé. (Reading level: ages 4 and up.)
Gary Paulsen	<i>Crush: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Love</i>	JF P2854c 2012	A young man with a crush spends his time observing and theorizing about love instead of acting on his own crush. (Reading level: ages 9 and up.)
Alexander McCall Smith	<i>The Great Cake Mystery</i>	JF M1244p	This is the story of where Precious Ramotswe (the protagonist of "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" series) got her start. (Reading level: ages 7 and up.)
Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn Wright	<i>Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care</i>	J 362.733 Wil	Gently teaches about the processes and facts of foster care. There are also some lovely illustrations by Alissa Imre Geis. (Reading level: ages 4 and up.)

Graphic Novels & Comics:

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Derf Backderf	<i>My Friend Dahmer</i>	364.1523097 Dah-D	See extended review below.
Tom Batiuk	<i>The Complete Funky Winkerbean v 1: 1972-1974</i>	741.56973 Bat	Includes the first two years of the strip, plus a foreword by R. C. Harvey .
Will Bingley (author) & Anthony Hope-Smith (illustrator)	<i>Gonzo: A Graphic Biography of Hunter S. Thompson</i>	070.92 Tho-B	Yup. Another biography of Hunter S.
Kazuki Ebine	<i>Gandhi: A Manga Biography</i>	954.03 Gan-E 2011	Exactly what you'd expect from the title, wonderfully illustrated.
Harvey Pekar	<i>Harvey Pekar's Cleveland</i>	741.5973 Pek 2012	It's Pekar. Do you really need more inducement than that?
Shimura Takako	<i>Wandering Son v 1</i>	F Sh629w	Being on the threshold of puberty is hard enough, but when you add a case of gender dysphoria, it makes that time of life even worse.

Memoir & Biography:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Anthony Arthur	<i>Radical Innocent: Upton Sinclair</i>	813.52 Sin-A	The author is a former Fulbright scholar and a professor emeritus from the English Department at California State University at Northridge.
Josef Eisinger	<i>Einstein on the Road</i>	530.11 Ein-E 2011	Eisinger used the diaries that Einstein kept during the height of his fame as the basis for this book.
Margaux Fragoso	<i>Tiger, Tiger</i>	362.76092 Fra	A blurb on the back from Alice Sebold: in this memoir, "Margaux Fragoso achieves the unthinkable with empathetic clarity: she humanizes a pedophile."
R J Smith	<i>The One: The Life and Music of James Brown</i>	782.421644 Bro-S	A 455 page biography of the Godfather of Soul.
Lewis Sorley	<i>Westmoreland: The General Who Lost Vietnam</i>	959.70434 Wes-S	Another book that is exactly what you'd expect from the title.

Nonfiction:

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
John S. Allen	<i>The Omnivorous Mind: Our Evolving Relationship with Food</i>	616.8526 All	Looks at our culture and biology through the perspective of what we eat.
Claudi Alsina and Roger B. Nelson	<i>Icons of Mathematics: An Exploration of Twenty Key Images</i>	516.0076 Als	Includes a chapter about Garfield's Trapezoid . Yes, our Garfield.
Brian Cogan (ed.)	<i>Deconstructing South Park: Critical Examinations of Animated Transgression</i>	791.4572 Sou-D	A book about <i>South Park</i> that considers gender and literary history and art? Yep.
Peter Decherney	<i>Hollywood's Copyright Wars: From Edison to the Internet</i>	346.730482 Dec	Researched and written by a scholar of cinema studies, English, and communication.
Rainer Emig and Antony Rowland (eds.)	<i>Performing Masculinity</i>	809.933521 Per	This collection of essays discusses representations of masculinity in popular culture, ranging from Byron to <i>The Thin Red Line</i> .
Akash Kapur	<i>India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India</i>	330.954 Kap	Kapur grew up in India, spent his young adulthood in the West, and then returned to India.
John MacCormick	<i>Nine Algorithms That Changed the Future: The Ingenious Ideas</i>	006.3 Mac	Exactly what you'd expect from that title, except the fact that the book is readable for everyone and not just

	<i>That Drive Today's Computers</i>		computer scientists.
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Feature Films:			
Title	Director	Call #	Comments
<i>Alien Quadrilogy</i>	Ridley Scott, James Cameron, David Fincher, and Jean-Pierre Jeunot	Feature Film AL43 2003 DVD	All four films with lots and lots of extras. What's not to love?
<i>Godzilla</i>	Ishiro Honda	Feature Film G561 1954 2012 DVD	This includes the original 1954 Japanese film as well as the 1956 American reworking.
<i>The Human Condition</i>	Masaki Kobayashi	Feature Film N6227 1959 2009 DVD	This 9.5 hour film "tells of the journey of the well-intentioned yet naïve Kaji... from labor camp supervisor to Imperial Army soldier to Soviet POW."
<i>Wall-E</i>	Andrew Stanton	Feature Film W1547 2008 DVD	Is it a love story where the lovers are robots instead of humans? Is it a commentary on our society's wasteful and lazy ways? Can't it be both?
<i>Wings of Desire</i>	Wim Wenders	Feature Film H575 1987 2003 DVD	An angel wants to experience love, so he makes the choice to become mortal. (German language with optional English dubbing, English and German subtitles.)

Films:			
Title	Director	Call #	Comments
<i>Flow: For Love of Water</i>	Irena Salina	Film 333.9116 F6691 2008 DVD	There's another subtitle that explains the topic perfectly: "How Did a Handful of Corporations Steal Our Water?"
<i>See What I Mean: Difference Between Deaf and Hearing Cultures (2nd edition)</i>	Thomas K. Holcomb and Anna Mindess	Film 305.9082 Se31 2009 DVD	Also includes a teacher's guide (in pdf format).

Awards:

Award	Details	Comments
Thurber Prize for American Humor	The three finalists were announced. The winner will be announced October 1.	The Associated Press article has details.
Women's National Book Award	Ann Patchett	According to the association's website , "The award is presented by WNBA to a living American woman who derives part or all of her income from books or the allied arts and has done meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties or responsibilities of her profession or occupation."

Obituaries:

Jean Craighead George, 92	The award winning children's and young adult author died May 15, 2012. For more details about her life, here is the New York Times obituary . If you'd prefer to honor her passing by reading some of her books , we can help you with that as well.
Nora Ephron, 71	Best known for her romantic comedies, the author & screenwriter died while being treated for acute myeloid leukemia and pneumonia. For more information, you can consult the LA Times obituary . We also have a few of her books and movies available in the library, if you're interested.
Gore Vidal, 86	"The eclectic author who faithfully chronicled the major shifts and upheavals in the United States in books, essays and plays," died, from complications associated with his pneumonia, in his home on July 31, 2012. CNN has more details , and we can help with his writings .
Harry Harrison, 87	The science fiction author was best known for his "Stainless Steel Rat" series. The CNN obituary has more details. We have Make Room! Make Room! (which was the basis for the movie <i>Soylent Green</i>) and OhioLINK can help you with his other books .
David Rakoff, 47	The Thurber Prize winning humorist (for <i>Half Empty</i> in 2010), died after a long illness, according to an LA Times obituary .

Featured Review:

***My Friend Dahmer*, written and illustrated by Derf Backderf, published in 2012 by Abrams Comicarts.**

I know what you're thinking: "That [Dahmer](#)? Is Jessica actually reviewing a graphic novel/biography that examines the high school years of one of the most notorious serial killers in recent memory?" The answer to both questions is: "yes."

The author/illustrator went to the same high school as and was sort of friends with Jeffrey Dahmer, and his book definitely reflects that perspective. [Backderf](#) went beyond his own experiences, however. He did his research, gathering information from other high school

friends, media reports, and even Dahmer's father, before embarking on creating this text. All his work was worth it, because Backderf manages to portray Dahmer as a tragic figure – dark and disturbed and frightening, but also tragic. This book traces the evolution of Dahmer's mental problems through high school up to the night of his first murder (months after graduation). Backderf's assertion is that things didn't have to turn out as they did: that some adult in Dahmer's life could and should have noticed that something was wrong, that what happened to and with Dahmer was not inevitable.

The story is definitely compelling, but beyond that there's the art. If you've read any of my previous reviews of graphic novels, you will probably remember my biggest assertion about this format: that the end product must be more than words plus pictures. The whole should be better as a result of the combination. Good graphic novels can't be told as pure words, and neither can they be told as pure visual (such as a movie). That is exactly the situation with *My Friend Dahmer*. For instance, Dahmer's eyes get obscured behind his glasses – a visual representation of his mental separation from his friends. Also, Backderf always draws Dahmer as slightly off, a little darker and a little strange. The creeping horror that was growing inside Dahmer's head (as he shared in multiple interviews after being caught) shows in Backderf's illustrations. This makes for an intense and disturbing graphic novel, but one that takes the best advantage of the format. Not an easy read, but definitely an enjoyable one.

Unless it has been checked out, you will find this title, and many others, on the new bookshelf on the first floor of the library. Once it has moved to its permanent home, you will find it in the second floor with the rest of the books about criminology and crime, under [364.1523097 Dah-D](#).

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