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Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News for the Hiram College Library Community September 2011

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

Fiction			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Muriel Barbery	<i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i>	F B2339e	There are two people who hide their true selves, one the middle-aged concierge at a downtown Paris hotel and the other a preteen resident of the same hotel. When both encounter a new resident of the hotel, a wealthy man from Japan, things change.
Jon Evans	<i>Beasts of New York: A Children's Book for Grownups</i>	F Ev158b	The protagonist is Patch, a squirrel, who wakes one day to find his whole world has been taken away from him and he must now fend for himself.
Félix J. Palma	<i>The Map of Time: A Novel</i>	F P180m	If we could change time, should we? This novel, set in a fictional Victorian England, tries to answer that question. Translated by Nick Caistor.
Judy Pascone	<i>Our Father Who Art in a Tree</i>	F P2632o	When a young girl climbs a tree to deal with her grief over her father's death, she hears him speaking to her.
Juvenile			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
		JF C8118L	

Zizou Corder	<i>Lionboy</i>	v.1	See extended review below.
Vanita Oelschlager	<i>Ivy in Bloom</i>	J 811.6 Oel 2009	Famous lines of poetry are woven into a story about a young girl waiting for spring to arrive. Illustrated by Kristin Blackwood. (Reading level: ages 4-8.)
Komako Sakai	<i>Mad at Mommy</i>	JF Sa291b	A young rabbit explains why he's mad at his mother. So very cute. Illustrated by the author. (Reading level: ages 4-8.)
James L. Swanson	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i>	J 973.7 Boo-S 2009	It's hard to do children's nonfiction well, but judging by what the critics are saying (starred reviews everywhere I've looked), Swanson has managed to do just that. (Reading level: young adult.)

Graphic Novels

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Barry Deutsch	<i>Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword</i>	JF D4891h	The tagline at the top on the cover captures this book nicely: "Yet Another Troll-Fighting 11-Year-Old Orthodox Jewish Girl."
Kazue Kato	<i>Blue Exorcist V. 1</i>	F K1566a v. 1	The protagonist of this manga series is an apprentice exorcist who finds out he's the child of Satan.
Gene Luen Yang (author) and Thien Pham (artist)	<i>Level Up</i>	JF Y163L	Yang, a multiple award winning author, revisits one of his favorite topics: a Chinese American boy comes to terms with his heritage. This time the story focuses on the protagonist's obsession with video games.
Fumi Yoshinaga	<i>Ōoku: The Inner Chambers</i>	F Y833o v. 1	This manga series is an alternate history. What if a disease had wiped out all but 25% of the male population of Edo period Japan and women had to take over the roles traditionally filled by men?

Memoir/Biography

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Lawrence M. Krauss	<i>Quantum Man: Richard Feynman's Life in Science</i>	530.092 Fey-K	Looks at the famous physicist's life.
David Lavery and Cynthia Burkhead (editors)	<i>Joss Whedon Conversations</i>	791.430233 Whe-J	You may not know his name, but you know his work (<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> is one of the many television series he created). This book collects a broad range of interviews Whedon has given.
Stacy Schiff	<i>Cleopatra: A Life</i>	932.01 Cle-S 2010	In the past, Schiff has been nominated for the Pulitzer for one book and won the Pulitzer for another. This is her most recent work.
Dick Van Dyke	<i>My Lucky Life In and Out of Show Business: A Memoir</i>	791.4302809 Van	It's hard to imagine anyone who reads this newsletter not knowing who Dick Van Dyke is. So, instead, I'll just link to a YouTube that has a side-by-side comparison of all three opening sequences for his eponymous show..

Nonfiction

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Gregory Claeys	<i>Searching for Utopia: The History of an Idea</i>	321.07 Cla	The title explains the subject matter. Let me add that it's gorgeously illustrated as well.
Robert Hunger and Luke Beckerdite (editors)	<i>Ceramics in America</i>	Q 738.0973 Cer 2010	This is the most recent edition of the yearly publication.

Michael G. Lacy and Kent A. Ono (editors)	<i>Critical Rhetorics of Race</i>	305.800973 Cri	Includes an essay, titled "Tales of Tragedy: Strategic Rhetoric in News Coverage of the Columbine and Virginia Tech Massacres," by Cyndy Willis-Chun, Hiram College Assistant Professor of Communication.
Sarah Moss and Alexander Badenoch	<i>Chocolate: A Global History</i>	641.3374 Mox	This is one book from a series, all covering the histories of particular foodstuffs, that we recently added.

Awards

Award	Details	Comments
Dayton Literary Peace Prize - Fiction	<i>The Surrendered</i> by Chang-rae Lee	This work was also nominated for the Pulitzer Prize this year, and yes, the Hiram College Library owns a copy .
Dayton Literary Peace Prize - Nonfiction	<i>In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance</i> by Wilbert Rideau	We don't own it, but there are many copies available via OhioLINK .

Obituaries

William Sleator, 66	Sleator wrote science fiction for a YA audience. He died at the beginning of August while in Thailand. Here is the nytimes.com article if you want to read further.
Ruth Thomas, 84	Another YA author, Thomas was best known for her debut novel, <i>The Runaways</i> , died at the end of August. The Guardian.Co.Uk article had more details.

Featured Review

***Lionboy*, written by Zizou Corder, published in 2003 by Dial Books.**

Two things you need to know about *Lionboy* (and about the sequels [Lionboy: The Chase](#) and [Lionboy: The Truth](#)):

1. We are not talking about serious literature.
2. There are lots and lots of kitties.

If you're still here to read the rest of the review, you've made the right choice. These books have an engaging story and are a lot of fun to read. The protagonist, Charlie Ashanti, can speak Cat due to a childhood accident wherein his blood was mingled with the blood of a leopard cub. This skill becomes more useful after his parents get kidnapped by a controlling (and evil) corporation. Charlie ends up finding his way into the employ of a floating circus that happens to have six lions on board. Now you see why Charlie's ability to speak Cat is very convenient, and you also see where the series gets its name.

While trying to rescue his parents (and help the lions gain their freedom) Charlie travels widely (London, Paris, Venice, Morocco) and makes powerful friends and enemies (the King of Bulgaria, the Doge of Venice, and the Head Chief Executive of the corporation that took his parents). There are heavy handed pro-environment and anti-corporation messages, but so long as you don't let them get in the way - by concentrating on the kitties, perhaps - you'll have a great time reading this series.

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 Chamberlain Room with the rest of the children's literature, under [JF C8118L v.1](#).

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