


# Branches



November/December  
2003

Book Review Newsletter of the City of Mesa Library  
Dobson Ranch Branch Young Adult Advisory Council

## Letter from the Editor!



November and December: one minute you're scrambling around trying to make those grades pleasing before the semester ends, and the next minute you're off having fun with friends and family for a few glorious weeks! This may be the busiest time of the year, but soon enough we'll be off on winter break. Whether you're stressed about tests and want a break or you have nothing to do, check out this issue of Branches and pick up a great book! Not only will books give you some genuine entertainment, but they'll also rid you of your stresses (at least for a little while ☺).

--Nehal Thakkar  
Branches Editor

Send comments and suggestions to  
[filmimonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:filmimonkey@yahoo.com)

## Rating System

start a fire	★
punishment for bad children	★★
decent	★★★
masterpiece	★★★★

### A More Perfect Union: The Making of the United States Constitution

By William Peters

★★★★

When I first picked up this book, I was thinking, "Ehh... there's no way I will be able to read this." Amazingly enough, I read the whole book without a single yawn. After finishing the last page, I sat there in awe. **A More Perfect Union** is a historical book that gives a detailed account of the creation of the Constitution we live by today. The book begins in 1787, when the delegates from twelve of the thirteen existing colonies were appointed to meet and reform the government. It took these men about four years to finally establish a constitution that accommodated the needs of each state. During this time period, the struggles and different viewpoints threatened to tear the country apart. Yes, you are probably thinking that this is not your idea of a good read; however, this book is brilliantly written. I absolutely loved this book, and I really do hope you will read it if you like history.

Linh Nguyen

### Terry and the Pirates

By Julian F. Thompson

★★★★

When Terry's mother announces that it is time for her darling daughter to get ready for boarding school, Terry knows that it's time to hit the high seas. Stowed away on a yacht bound for the Caribbean, her carefully laid out plans begin to go awry when another sailor on board turns out to be a boy whose past incarnate, the dashing Marquis de Framboise, often pops in for a visit. From that point on things get even more crazy: a shipwreck, a rescue by a blood-thirsty pirate clan with a taste for frozen food, a talking myna bird, and a komodo dragon named Bubba. Will Terry's cheerful disposition and a little bit of luck be enough to carry her through this madcap, hysterical journey through the pirate world of the 21st century? Will she ever find the mysterious treasure of "Black Molar" island? Most importantly, will she ever get home in time for school?

Hilary Waterman



## Murder on the Orient Express

By Agatha Christie

★★★★

"All aboard the Orient Express!" While rocketing across Europe on a three-day trip, the Orient Express comes to a sudden halt. The train becomes victim to a ferocious snowstorm, and with all the tracks covered in snow the conductor has no choice but to wait it out.

Meanwhile, inside the train, detective Hercule Poirot is awoken by a soft groan followed by running footsteps and ringing bells. Thinking nothing of it, he drifts back into sleep. The next day, a man is brutally murdered in the compartment next to Poirot's compartment. Determined to get to the bottom of this mystery, Poirot must use a limited amount of clues to solve the puzzle.

This book is a real thriller! It keeps you thinking one way and suddenly a completely different way. **Murder on the Orient Express** is easily the best mystery I have ever read!

*Andrew Wang*

## The Count of Monté Cristo

By Alexandre Dumas

★★★★

**The Count of Monté Cristo** is a great classical tale of love, revenge, and honor. Edmond Dantés is a young sailor who lives in the small town of Marseille. Life is great for him: he is supposed to become captain of a ship and marry the prettiest girl in town. But alas, Dantés has enemies too! He is framed for being a Bonapartist and thrown into prison to be locked away forever.

Luckily for Dantés, a fellow prisoner, Abbe Faria, tells him of a great treasure on the Isle of Monte Cristo. Now, with his mind set upon finding the treasure and extracting his revenge on those who betrayed

him, Dantés plans his escape.

Can Dantés escape and find the great treasure? Will he be able to avenge himself by making those who betrayed him miserable? The answers to these questions await you in Alexandre Dumas's novel, **The Count of Monté Cristo**.

*Henry Jiang*

## Time Stops for No Mouse

By Michael Hoeye

★★

Halfway into this book I was \*yawn\* sleepy. Once in a while, the book held my attention. **Time Stops for No Mouse** is the story of a mouse named Hermux Tantamog who quickly falls into an adventure concerning one of his clients, Linka Perflinger. One day, in his watch workshop, Linka appears handing him a dismantled watch. She states that she wants the watch to be fixed as quickly as possible. After Hermux finishes fixing her watch, he waits for her to come and claim her watch. However, she never comes. Hermux then goes on a search for Linka; the mouse who holds his heart when he discovers that there is more to her than looks.

This novel has a fantastic plot, but the words seem to drag on too much. If you have time, I suggest that you read this book; if not, there are others to read.

*Loan Nguyen*



*The failure to read good books both enfeebles the vision and strengthens our most fatal tendency--the belief that the here and now is all there is.*

Allan Bloom

# What is YAAC?



The Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) is a group of teens from many of Mesa's junior and senior high schools. They hold meetings twice monthly to review books for this newsletter and to plan special activities. They also help the librarians at the City of Mesa Dobson Ranch Branch Library as volunteers and assist with programs.

If you are interested in becoming a member of YAAC, call (480) 644-3441 or stop by the Reference desk and ask for an application.

*Check out our*

# Teens

*page at*

*mesalibrary.org/teens*

- **Homework help** with biographies, math, science, social issues, and more!
- **College & Career Information** to help you plan your future.
- **Library Events** - Find out what is going on at the library and around town.
- **Real Life** - Help with issues you deal with every day.
- **Teen Takes** - Reviews written by teens for music, movies, cool hangouts, and more.

## Dobson Ranch Branch Library

2425 S. Dobson Rd.  
(602) 644-3441



**CITY OF MESA**  
*Great People. Quality Service!*