

Open Shelf

May 2005

This month:

Time of the Twins by Margaret Wise and Tracy
The Chosen by Chaim Potok
Dragonflight by Anne McCaffrey
New Found Land by Allan Wolf
America: The Book by Jon Stewart
So You Want to be a Wizard by Diane Duane
D-Day by Stephen E. Ambrose
Doctor Illuminatus by Martin Booth
The Princess Bride by William Goldman

city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



At last, it is May, that glorious month which heralds the end of the school year. Rejoice, for soon we shall be freed of the prison known as school! Unless, of course, your school lasts until June. In that case, you have my most sincere condolences. These books ought to help you last through that ultimate push of finals and A.P. exams.

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Time of the Twins

by Margaret Wise and Tracy

This is the story of a man named Caramon Majere, a Hero of the Lance. He gets involved with his brother, the dark mage Raistlin's, plan to be master of past, present, and future. He tricks a cleric named Crysania into helping him on his quest to stop his brother and on the way teams up with a Kender named Tasselhoff Burrfoot and a gully dwarf named Bupu.

I'd suggest reading this book and the two that follow it. It's exciting and full of suspense—the first in a trilogy. I was sad at times because it wasn't afraid to show the darker side of things: death, broken trust, and the apocalypse. Still, a good book.

– Paige Davis ★★★★★

The Chosen

by Chaim Potok

This book is truly a masterpiece. Seriously. Potok writes with such conviction that one cannot help but connect with the characters. *The Chosen* chronicles the relationships of two young Jewish boys who are radically different in belief as they find friendship from hatred and love from solitude. I loved it—it made me cry.

– Luke Lambert ★★★★★

Dragonflight

by Anne McCaffrey

Lessa is the last remaining member of the Ruatha bloodline and is hot for vengeance against the man who butchered her family—Fax. He's a ruthless Alexander the Great type determined to rule all of Pern, and convinced that he can dominate even the Weyr, home to Dragonkind. Lessa is just the strong-minded young woman F'lar, wingleader of Benden Weyr, is looking for to Impress, or bond with, the soon-to-hatch Queen Dragon, the last hope for the Weyr's survival.

Full of adventure, comedy, and (yetch!) romance, this is well worth reading if you like dragons, time travel, or adventure!

– Patricia Langevin ★★★★★

New Found Land

by Allan Wolf

Though history books are usually not my thing, this was well worth the effort. *New Found Land* tells the story of Lewis and

Clark from fourteen different perspectives. Of course, two of these are Lewis and Clark themselves, but who would expect the input of a one-eyed river man, a dog with an alter ego, or a slave? And yet, with so many different perspectives, the author manages to keep the storyline together and tell an excellent new story about a historical event.

I enjoyed it and I definitely suggest it to all students and teachers. Enjoy!

– Deidre Oberpriller ★★★★★

America: The Book

by Jon Stewart

To any political comedy junkie, this book is a godsend. Written by the approaching-divine cast of the Daily Show, the book slings barbs at democrats, republicans, government, Americans, and, well, the entire world. Designed as a fake text book, it is separated into such



rating system

bad; needs work ★
so-so ★★
average ★★★
good ★★★★
excellent; perfect ★★★★★

Visit the Library's Web Site:

www.mesalibrary.org
and see the Teens page!

chapters as "Congress: Quagmire of Freedom" and "Meeting the Rest of the World in Twenty-Two Pages," where you will "dismiss thousands of years of history in two paragraphs."

Anyone interested in history, politics, or just laughing your extremities off—read *America: The Book*.

– *Mary Beth Hutchinson*

★★★★★

So You Want to be a Wizard

by Diane Duane

So You Want to be a Wizard takes place in modern New York. Juanita Callahan, while running from a group of bullies, literally gets grabbed by a strangely titled book in the public library. After taking it home, she opens it to find that it is a manual on wizardry. Nita takes the Wizard's Oath, pledging to protect the universe from the Lone One, a terrible entity focused on pushing forward entropy and death. Nita and her wizardly companion Kit are shoved into a literal "whole new world" as they attempt to stop the Lone One as he tries to take over Manhattan.

Overall, this book is great, combining fantasy-wizardry with the science fiction of universal physics and modern science. This book details the story of a pair of teenagers trying to grow up in a world that has just gotten more real than they could ever imagine.

– *Gabrielle Hall* ★★★★★

D-Day

by Stephen E. Ambrose

Ahh, Stephen E. Ambrose. Creator of such atrocities as *Undaunted Courage* and *This Vast Land*. However, this time, he's turned out a book NOT about Lewis or Clark, and it's even interesting at times. *D-Day*, as the title suggests, is the story of the Allied invasion of Normandy. It follows Ambrose's habit of putting too many characters in too few pages, but some of these are the stories of privates, who, from the very bottom of the chain of command, provide their own view of the war. Some of the anecdotes, I must admit, are quite interesting, even though I'm no history junkie. The actual plot of this book is centered, obviously, around the invasion and defense of the beaches of Normandy, but before you get to that, there are about ten chapters of background information. DO NOT JUDGE THE BOOK ON THESE. I fell asleep after the first ten pages—I kid you not. However, the book picks

up momentum around the time they begin describing the technology used, the craft invented, and the reconnaissance techniques employed prior to the invasion. If you have to, skip from chapter to random chapter to get an idea of the book's structure.

Overall, the rating of this book depends on how much you like World War II history — if you can't stand it, subtract one or two stars and don't touch this book, because it will literally put you to sleep. However, if history floats your naval craft, then add a couple of stars and enjoy a very thorough view of D-Day told by a master historian.

– *Jeremy Davis* ★★★

Doctor Illuminatus

by Martin Booth

Pip and Tim are twins who move with their parents into a very ancient house in present day England. There they meet the son of an alchemist who used to live in the house over six hundred years before. The son, Sebastian, has been asleep for more than six hundred years because his father gave him a potion. He wakes every time that there is evil around—and he just so happens to awaken when Pip and Tim move in.

In my opinion, this book was great and if you like books that deal with magic, I highly recommend it.

– *Matt Sexton* ★★★★★

The Princess Bride

by William Goldman

Oh, yes. There is a book! And a very good one, too. Luckily, Goldman wrote the screenplay as well as the book, so they are equally good. This is one of the few things I've read where not only did I see the movie first, but I actually enjoyed the movie just a tiny bit more than the book!

Buttercup is the most beautiful woman in a hundred years. Skin of wintry cream and hair of autumn—heck, she got into the top twenty on sheer potential. One of her favorite pastimes is bossing around the Farm Boy, who does every task commanded of him with a simple, "As you wish." When she figures out that she loves him, and he loves her, well, it's a shoo-in for a marriage. Only Westley, being a poor farm boy, has no money for a house or marriage, so he goes off to America to make it. He doesn't ever get there.

I don't want to spoil things for those who haven't seen/read this, but I'll tell you that this

book is one of my favorites of all time. I hope you pick it up—it's funny, romantic, adventurous, cynical...and a fairy-tale to boot. I promise you'll enjoy it.

– *Jenny Knatz* ★★★★★

Teen Summer Reading 2005

Sign up for Read Your Way to the Ballpark, Teen Division, May 23-July 31, to earn prizes, entries for grand prize drawings, and a free Diamondbacks game ticket. Call 644-2734 for more information.

Read the Teens' Top Ten/YA Galley books nominated by teens nationwide to participate in the online vote during Teen Read Week in October. See the Teens' Top Ten icon at mesalibrary.org.

Pick up a copy of the huge Summer Reading issue of *Open Shelf* to hear what YAAC teens recommend!

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 in Mesa Public Library's Young Adult Room at the Main Library as volunteers and assist with programs.

If you are interested in becoming a member of YAAC, call (480) 644-2734 or stop by the Young Adult service desk and ask for an application.

Learn more at:

 mesalibrary.org
City of Mesa Library on the Web



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Great People, Quality Service!