



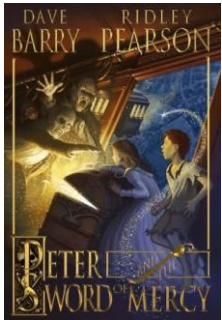
# Athenian Library Notes

December 2009

## Happy Holidays from the Library!

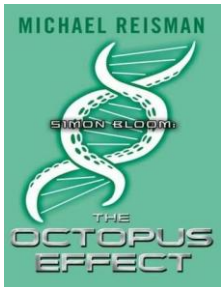
We've put together a few suggestions for your reading pleasure over the Winter Break – or to inspire your gift-giving. All of these titles are available in the Middle School and Upper School libraries. Happy reading!

### For Middle Schoolers: adventures and exploration of all kinds.



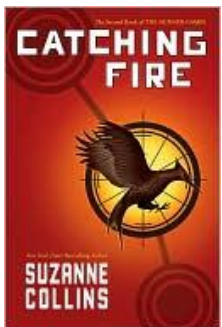
***Peter and the Sword of Mercy***, by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

James, one of Peter Pan's original Lost Boys, asks George and Molly Darling to help him find a secret cache of starstuff, which is hidden in a vault that can only be opened with a secret key kept with the crown jewels. When Molly disappears, it is up to her Wendy and Peter to rescue Molly, protect the treasure, and defeat Captain Hook. The newest in the *Starcatchers* series. Find the whole series in the Middle School Library.



***Simon Bloom: The Octopus Effect***, by Michael Reisman.

When twelve-year-old Simon becomes the official Keeper of the Order of Physics, he and his friends Owen and Alysha face extreme danger as they try to protect the Universe from destruction by evil forces. The sequel to *The Gravity Keeper*, which is also available in the Middle School Library.



***Catching Fire***, by Suzanne Collins.

In the second of the *Hunger Games* trilogy, we find that by winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families. But because they won by defying the rules, they've unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. Both current *Hunger Games* titles are available in the Middle School Library; the third will debut in June, 2010.



***Swindle***, by Gordon Korman.

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal back the card, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.



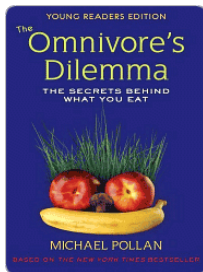
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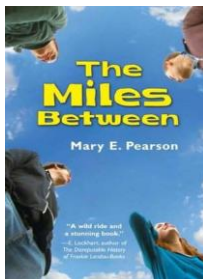
***Bloodhound***, by Tamora Pierce.

Beka Cooper, having become at last a full-fledged member of the Provost's Guard, travels to Port Caynn to investigate the appearance of counterfeit coins in Tortall's capital. She finds herself falling for charming banking clerk Dale Rowan. The sequel to *Terrier*, also available in the Middle School Library.



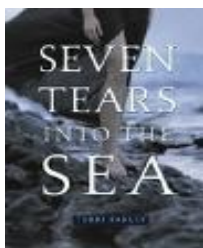
***The Omnivore's Dilemma: the Secrets Behind What You Eat***, by Michael Pollan, adapted for younger readers by Richie Chevat.

The best-selling book has been revised so that younger readers can explore the origins of the different food chains that have sustained humans throughout history. The book discusses how certain foods and cuisines have become a popular part of people's daily diets.



***The Miles Between***, by Mary Pearson.

Four teens escape boarding school for a day when 17-year-old Destiny Faraday happens upon a pink convertible with the key in the ignition. Themes of lurking secrets, the supernatural, joy, and the affirming power of friendship make this a superb read.



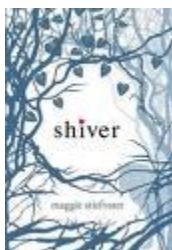
***Seven Tears into the Sea***, by Terri Farley.

Seventeen-year-old Gwen is returning to her childhood home by the sea where she once had a strange encounter with a boy who whispered to her and disappeared. Perhaps the sea itself is calling to her. Perhaps it's time for her to face her destiny.



***If I Stay***, by Gayle Forman.

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death. For more mature readers.



***Shiver***, by Maggie Stiefvater.

In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.



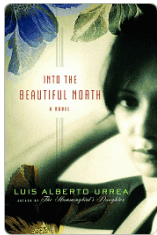
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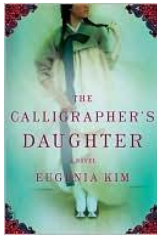
## For Upper Schoolers (and some for their parents and teachers too): new fiction and nonfiction choices.

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***Into the Beautiful North***, by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli becomes aware of the lack of men in Tres Camarones after watching the movie *The Magnificent Seven* at a local theater. She comes up with a plan to travel to the U.S to recruit a group of men to return with her to Mexico to protect and repopulate her remote village.



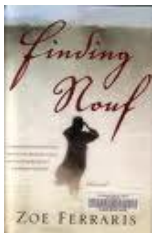
***The Calligrapher's Daughter***, by Eugenia Kim.

Najin Han, the headstrong daughter of a calligrapher in early twentieth-century Korea, is sent by her mother to become a companion of the young princess so that her father will not be able to force her to marry. But when the king is assassinated, Najin faces countless hardships on her quest for education and love.



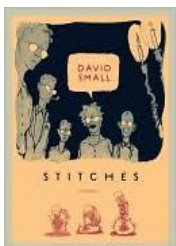
***Batman: Heart of Hush***, by Paul Dini.

Hush returns and is intent on sabotaging Batman, while the superhero begins to see repercussions from the secrets he shared with childhood friend and brain surgeon Tommy Elliot. The latest in the *Hush* graphic novel series.



***Finding Nouf***, by Zoe Ferraris.

The family of sixteen-year-old Nouf calls upon desert guide Nayir ash-Sharqi to investigate her disappearance. When her body is found in the desert and it is determined she died from drowning, Nayir teams up with lab worker Katya Hijazi to find out what really happened.



***Stitches***, by David Small.

A graphic novel that chronicles the life of American author and illustrator David Small, author of *Imogene's Antlers*, detailing his sickly childhood and teenage years, his relationship with his parents, his cancer, and more.



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***The Good Thief***, by Hannah Tinti.

Young Ren, an orphan in nineteenth-century New England, is rescued from the orphanage by Benjamin Nab, who claims to be Ren's brother; but as time goes on Ren begins to question who he can and cannot trust.



***The Maze Runner***, by James Dashner.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.



***Unwind***, by Neal Shusterman.

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.



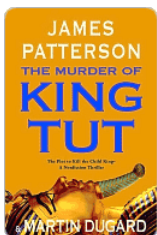
***Best African American Fiction: 2009***.

A collection of sixteen fiction stories and novel excerpts by African-American authors, including ZZ Packer, Helen Elaine Lee, Michael Thomas, and others. Originally published from 2006 through 2009.



***Zeitoun***, by Dave Eggers.

Details the experiences of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a Syrian-American and New Orleans resident, and his family, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and details how he was arrested and falsely imprisoned because of his ethnicity.



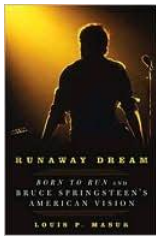
***King Tut***, by James Patterson and Martin Dugard.

The authors relate their findings from investigating the death of King Tut. They propose that the boy king was murdered and did not, as many believe, die of disease.



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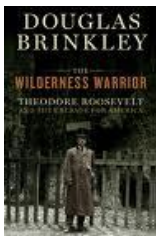
***Runaway Dream***, by Louis Masur.

Chronicles the making of the album that launched Springsteen and his E Street Band into the firmament of American music, deftly sketching the ambition, history, and personalities that combined to create the enduring masterpiece, *Born to Run*.



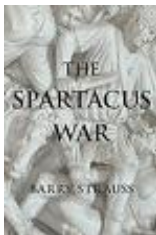
***You Are Here***, by Christopher Potter.

Offers a concise, scientific history of the universe, and discusses how nothing came to be everything: quarks, galaxy clusters, black holes, and more.



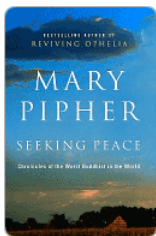
***The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America***, by Douglas Brinkley.

Examines the life and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, covering his efforts to conserve the American wilderness, exploring the influences of figures such as John James Audubon and Charles Darwin on Roosevelt, and examining his impact on the lives of today's America.



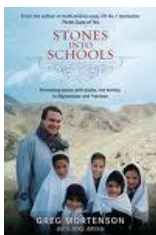
***The Spartacus War***, by Barry Strauss.

"I am Spartacus." The Spartacus War is the extraordinary tale of the most famous slave rebellion in the ancient world, the fascinating true story behind a legend that has been the inspiration for novelists, filmmakers, and revolutionaries for 2,000 years.



***Seeking Peace***, by Mary Pipher.

A memoir in which the author discusses her search for love and happiness while examining the lessons she has learned as a daughter, mother, wife, and therapist, covering her upbringing, professional career, and work at re-centering after her success with *Reviving Ophelia*.



***Stones into Schools***, by Greg Mortenson.

Picking up where 2003's *Three Cups of Tea* left off, Mortenson describes the efforts of his nonprofit organization, Central Asia Institute, to establish schools in the secluded northeast corner of Afghanistan, in the heart of Taliban country.