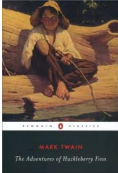


Coming of Age

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn



In 1885 the year of its US publication, a number of public libraries banned The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from their stacks. According to the American Library Association, it was the fifth most-frequently-challenged book in the United States in the 1990s. Despite strong arguments that the book supports positive racial themes, Huck Finn has been controversial from the beginning. Last year NewSouth Books published a sanitized edition, effectively keeping this book in the news and on the minds of both those who have loved and hated this classic American book. When was the last time you visited Huck Finn? Interested in learning more and sharing your ideas?

Join us next week for a panel discussion of this story that continues to both attract and repel members of our community. Does Huckleberry Finn belong in the literary canon and in our schools? What does it reveal about race relations, art and the power of language?

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Posted by sbowman on April 27, 2012

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Split by Avasthi



Some of the best fiction books take a situation of which you have very little first-hand knowledge and through sympathetic characters and solid storytelling create some sort of understanding of what living that life would be like. Swati Avasthi's first Young Adult novel about domestic violence and abuse, Split, is a great example. Avasthi is able to allow the reader to care about the main character and his struggles with both the violence of his father and the legacy he is hoping to avoid.

Teenage Jace leaves his parents' house with almost nothing after a particularly brutal fight with his father. He sets off from Chicago with his camera and the New Mexico address of his older

brother who disappeared several years earlier. Jace's brother Christian is less than thrilled to see him with a bruised face despite having come from and escaped the same back ground. Their transition is rocky and a lesser book would have trivialized this time. Instead their difficulties felt genuine.

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Posted by sbowman on April 11, 2012

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Because I Am Furniture by Thalia Chaltas

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Posted by Chris H. on March 12, 2012

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How Beautiful the Ordinary, edited by Michael Cart



How Beautiful the Ordinary, edited by Michael Cart, is a welcome addition to the small but growing collection of young adult fiction exploring gender identity and sexual orientation. Being a young person is difficult, what with all the changes physical, emotional, and social. Most of us spend our whole lives getting to know ourselves, and those initial explorations in our youth are some of the most confusing and painful (and exhilarating and profound) because they are so new. All of this can be overwhelming, and when you throw in societal condemnation of some of these identities and/or lifestyles it is especially hard. This collection of short fiction by well-respected young adult authors takes a loving and unrelenting look at the struggle not only to discover what we are as young women and men, but to accept and own that identity as well.

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Posted by Chris H. on February 28, 2012

[How beautiful the ordinary : twelve stories of identity](#)

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Whip It

No, this post is not an ode to Devo (though I do love [that song](#)), but rather a look at the world of roller derby. I attended my first bout the other night and had the opportunity to see Bloomington's Bleeding Heartland Roller Girls win. Afterwards, I was inspired to pick up the feature film [Whip It](#), a look at one teen's coming of age through the roller derby. [Read more](#)

Posted by intern on June 18, 2011

[Whip it \[videorecording\]](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

[Sports](#)

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The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate



I admit to being a streaky reader - I think this time last year I was on a World War I fiction kick. And this winter I read three books in a row about the Johnstown Flood including both fiction and non-fiction titles - [Three Rivers Rising](#), [In Sunlight In a Beautiful Garden](#), and [The Johnstown Flood](#). The latter is by David McCullough, a famous historian and two time Pulitzer Prize recipient who is from Pittsburgh near the area where the flood occurred.

Recently though it seems I am reading a lot of coming of age novels featuring girls as the main character. E. Lockhart has written some wonderful contemporary coming of age novels, but for something historical I also have recently fallen for [The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate](#) by Jacqueline Kelly.

[Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on February 22, 2011

[The evolution of Calpurnia Tate](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

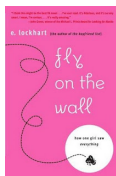
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Newest Most Favoritist Young Adult Author



The teenage female protagonists of E. Lockhart's novels are funny, smart, interesting, questioning and underneath it all resilient and strong. They don't always make the best initial choices, but are willing to learn and adjust as they go. These coming-of-age novels feature a romance (or two), but not at the cost of ignoring other similar and frequently troublesome themes of any young life - parents, school, friendships and finding your niche.

[Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on February 16, 2011

[The boyfriend list : \(15 guys, 11 shrink appointments, 4 ceramic frogs, and me, Ruby Oliver\)](#)

[Fly on the wall : how one girl saw everything](#)

[Dramarama](#)

[The disreputable history of Frankie Landau-Banks : a novel](#)

[Coming of Age](#)

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Scott Pilgrim vs. the World



I wasn't sure what to expect when I first put [Scott Pilgrim vs. the World](#) in my DVD player. It was not even close to what I got. For those who are not familiar with the plot Scott Pilgrim [Michael Cera], the bass player in a small band, has fallen for the new "cool girl" in town, Ramona Flowers [Mary Elizabeth Winstead]. In order to date her he must first defeat her seven "evil exes". [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on January 17, 2011

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