

Staff Picks@ RTDL: December 2009/January 2010

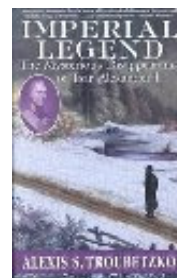
Sitting Practice by Caroline Adderson/FIC ADDERSON



Newlywed Iliana Alexander is paralyzed in a car accident weeks after her wedding. Her husband Ross, who was driving, is filled with guilt and he alienates himself from Iliana physically and emotionally. Ross takes up Buddhist meditation to help ease some of his pain and the book's title refers to this and Ileana's new life seated in a wheelchair. Far from depressing, *Sitting Practice* observes the Alexander's marriage and their strengths and frailties clearly and wittily. -Brooke

Imperial legend: the disappearance of Tsar Alexander I by Troubetzkoy, Alexis S./BIO ALEXANDER

This book combines history and mystery in the early 1900's in Russia. -Beckie



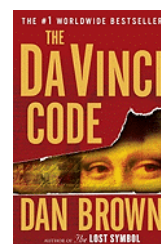
Blue Heaven by C.J. Box/FIC BOX

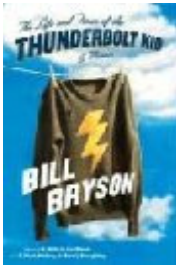


In North Idaho, William and Annie, a young brother and sister, witness a murder in the woods. The murderers know who they are, and they know they aren't safe. The next 48 hours takes them through a breathless series of events culminating in the surprise finish. I couldn't put it down, yet was scared to have it end. Very well written. - Kim

The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown/FIC BROWN

Even though this book is a bit old, it is a great read! It kept me up and reading late into the night when I should have been sleeping. It mixes fact with fiction and keeps you guessing up until the very end. If you have seen the movie and enjoyed it but you did not read the book...as always, the book is much better. Pick it up and read it! You will not be sorry. -Nancy





The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid:
A Memoir by Bill Bryson/BIO BRYSON

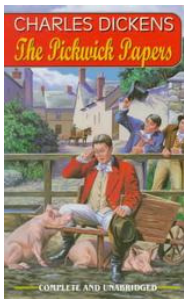
This book is a hilarious look at the author's life growing up in the Midwest in the 1950s. It is also a thought provoking social commentary about today's values versus those of the Baby Boomer generation.- Amy

Graceling by Kristin Cashore/ TEEN FICTION
CASHORE

This Teen fantasy novel depicts a world of seven kingdoms with certain residents who are “graced” with extra powers. Some powers are somewhat ordinary like bread baking and others are more extraordinary like mind reading. Gracelings are taken from their families to serve their king, as Katsa has. The story follows Katsa as she comes to understand her “grace” and her journey to find peace with it. Find this book @ Teen Fiction Cashore. – Karen



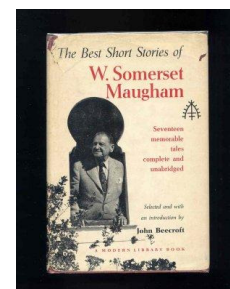
The Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens/FIC DIC

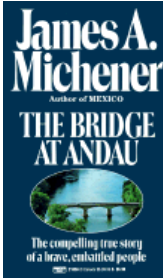


Dickens' first novel is one of the funniest books I've ever read. It all starts when the proper gentleman Mr. Pickwick and some of his friends decide to form the Pickwick Club, a group dedicated to noble adventuring around the English countryside. Along the way they meet some zany characters and get into a lot of mischief! My favorite part of the book is the story of the man who ate too many crumpets. A great book to get wrapped up in over the holidays, it includes a memorable Christmas Day ice skating adventure. - Christine

The Best Short Stories of William Somerset
Maugham by William Somerset Maugham/FIC
MAUGHAM

This is an old book with wonderful characterizations and situations that are still relevant today. Although they are 'short' stories, I know that at least two were made into feature length movies- one with Bette Davis.-LaDonne





The Bridge at Andau by James Michener/
943.91M

This is a non-fiction work that chronicles the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. It is based on James Michener interviews with Hungarian refugees as they crossed the border to the safety of Austria escaping from Russia's communistic grip. -Lisa

The Traveler: A Novel by John Twelve
Hawks/FIC TWE

This is the first in a trilogy that is part thriller and part fantasy. It is the story of the last known "travelers" whose spirits can travel to other worlds. The travelers are protected by highly skilled, sword-carrying body guards known as Harlequins. They are all struggling to exist, and attempting to make changes, in a world where privacy and freedom are difficult to obtain because a powerful group known as the Tabula has begun monitoring everyone's behavior and activities. - Carol

