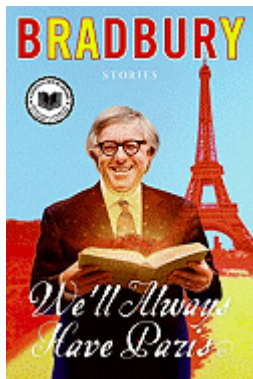


Staff Picks @ RTDL: April/May 2009



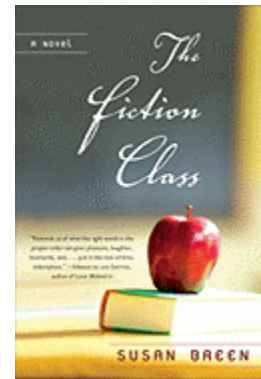
We'll always have Paris: stories

by Ray Bradbury/NEW SS BRA

This is a never-before published collection of Bradbury's short stories. This varied collection has something for everyone.-Beckie

The fiction class by Susan Breen /FIC BRE

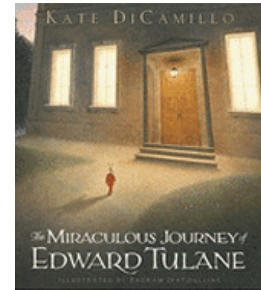
The Fiction Class is about a woman who spends her Wednesday evenings teaching a creative writing class. After class, she visits her mother who is in a nursing home and with whom she has a difficult relationship. The author uses an interesting device: she includes the class exercises in the book, allowing the reader to participate. The plot isn't riveting, but I did want to see how it would all work out.-Linda



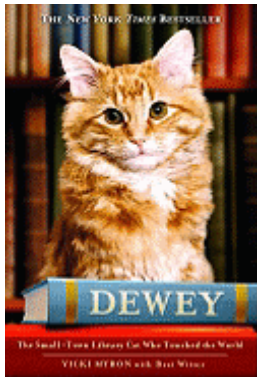
The house at Sugar Beach: in search of a lost African childhood by Helene Cooper /BIO COOPER

Helene Cooper describes her idyllic childhood as a direct descendant of one of the original founders of Liberia. Her world came crashing down in 1982 after the Liberian president was overthrown and the country descended into chaos. The rest of the book follows Helen's new life in America, culminating in a trip back to Liberia to search for her adopted sister. A fascinating memoir, recommended to anyone with an interest in African history or stories about family.-Dana

The miraculous journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DeCamillo /J FICTION DeCamillo



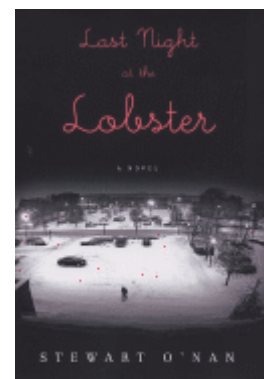
Edward the china rabbit learns about love and loss. A great example of life as a journey, and the places it'll take you. The illustrations at the beginning of each chapter are top notch.-
Kendra



Dewey: the small-town library cat who touched the world by Vicki Myron/NEW
636.809 MYR

Dewey comes to Spencer, Iowa via the library book drop on a bitterly cold morning. He survives to live a long life at the library and to delight, enchant and be loved by the town. His local fame and appeal eventually spread internationally. Dewey's story warmed my heart, made me laugh out loud and wipe away my tears. One of my favorite funny parts, which I enjoyed sharing with my family, was of Dewey's adventures finding small places to hang out - including a Kleenex box. An enjoyable read for all - cat lover or not.-Kim

Last night at the Lobster by Stewart O'Nan/ FIC ONA



On a snowy December morning, General Manager Manny De Leon opens his Connecticut branch of Red Lobster for the final time. O'Nan makes the routine interesting as he relates the details of running a restaurant [obnoxious customers, indifferent employees, and routine tasks] on this bittersweet but all-too-ordinary day in Manny's life.-Brooke

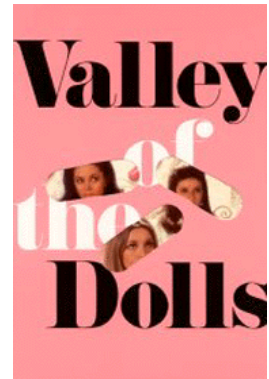


Ceremony by Leslie Marion Silko/ FIC SIL

This is a story of a Mixed Race Pueblo Indian who served in WW2 and eventually suffers mental trauma as a result of being a POW. The novel addresses the issues surrounding what is considered "native" and what is considered "American"; it's an interesting blend of traditional ritual and fiction story. The ultimate theme is questioning what defines who you are. -Chips

Valley of the dolls by Jacqueline Susanne /FIC SUS

Originally published in 1966, Valley of the Dolls is a cult classic. It chronicles the meteoric rise and tragic fall of three young starlets: Anne, Jennifer and Neely. (HINT: "dolls" are barbiturates.) You don't have to be a fan of soap operas, romance novels or chick lit to enjoy this delightfully trashy read. Also, be sure to check out the 1967 motion picture of the same name, starring Sharon Tate, Patty Duke and Susan Hayward. -Dana & Brooke



Of parrots and people: The sometimes funny, always fascinating, and often catastrophic collision of two intelligent species by Mira Tweti /NEW

636.686 TWE

This shocking book drastically changed my outlook on parrot ownership, especially the portions describing exactly what goes on behind the scenes with breeders who supply our pet shops with thousands of cute little baby parrots each year, and how parrots' natural intelligence and independence in turn results in hundreds more of them being dumped in shelters each year. An essential book for parrot owners, would-be parrot owners, and those concerned with animal welfare. -Christine

The glass castle: a memoir by

Jeanette Walls /BIO WALLS

I truly was amazed by *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. It is a memoir of a girl being raised with her 3 siblings in a dysfunctional family by parents who were self absorbed and neglectful leaving the children to fend for and support each other. She is brutally honest and does not shy away from the horrific life that she and her siblings had to endure, but also speaks about her parents with love and affection. This true story about unconditional love for family and succeeding against all odds is a fascinating read.-Nancy

