

## **New Fiction books - Upper School library, Sept-Nov 2007**

We have catalogued nearly 150 new fiction books in the last two months. Here is just a selection from those additions. We have tried to make the sample a cross section of genres.

Debbie Kingston and Pam Carragher, Upper School Librarians

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Margaret Atwood - The Blind Assassin

Story of two sisters and their secrets. It is an epic tale of memory, intrigue and betrayal.

Jeanne Birdsall - The Penderwicks (Winner of National Book Award for young people's literature)

Four Penderwick sisters stay on beautiful Arundel estate for summer, looking for fun exploring the sprawling grounds along with Jeffrey, son of Arundel's owner. Jeffrey's mother less than thrilled with the sisters, warns them to stay out of trouble ..Of course they will, won't they?

Judy Blume – Blubber

When pudgy Linda reads out her whale project in class, everyone laughs at her. Jill joins in with the cruel teasing that follows. Would it have been different if Jill had known who the bullies' next victim would be .....?

Ann Brashares - The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

Four very different friends. One pair of magical pants, and a summer apart .. and ten rules governing the use of this special pair of jeans ... including no washing, no double cuffing, or picking of nose while wearing them.

Charles Butler – Death of a Ghost

A creepy supernatural thriller with a chilling twist. When Ossian reluctantly returns to his father's house, he begins to question the accuracy of childhood memories and wondering why the place seems to hold such power over him. One thing he is sure of: the ghosts are still haunting him ....

David Chotjewitz - Daniel Half Human

A tense and thought – provoking story of racism and friendship, in the aftermath of Kristallnacht. Daniel is living in Germany and joins Hitler Youth with his friend Armin in 1933 – then a bombshell. David discovers his mother is Jewish, making him in Aryan eyes (and his own) half human. Armin and David are set against each other, and each holds the other's life in their hands as World War II progresses....

Kim Edwards - The Memory Keeper's Daughter

It begins in 1964 when a blizzard forces Dr Henry to deliver his own twins. When he recognizes one of them has Downs' syndrome, he asks his nurse to take the disabled twin to an institution. Instead she disappears with the child. It is a story of parallel lives, family secrets and the redemptive power of love.

Alan Gibbons – Shadow of the Minotaur

What would you choose? Real life or death defying adventures of the Greek myths? Easy choice for Phoenix. He hates his new home and the new school where he is bullied. He is embarrassed by his computer geek dad – but he can be a hero when he logs onto The Legendeer game ... it feels as though he is really there ... The Legendeer is more than just a game – play it if you dare.

Debi Gliori – Deep Water

Being a teenager is tough for Titus and Pandora. Mrs McLachan, witch and housekeeper extraordinaire, has disappeared, baby sister Damp thinks she's a bat, his vengeful Mafia uncle has struck a bargain with Hades and the pet dragon is driving everyone mad with her new diet.

Sara Gruen – Water for Elephants

Atmospheric, gritty and compelling novel of star-crossed lovers set in the US circus world, in about 1932.

Margaret Peterson Haddix – Among the Hidden

Luke had never been to school. He has never even had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the population police. He's lived his entire life in hiding. Then one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window where he knows two other children already live – finally a shadow child like himself. Does Luke dare to become involved in Jen's dangerous plan and risk everything to come out of the shadows?

Ann Halam - Siberia

She grew up in a prison camp with her mother, but they escaped. She had to change her identity and run again carrying a living treasure that was the hope of the world. She becomes a heroine to survive.

Elizabeth Cody Kimmel - Lily B on the brink of Cool

Diary of a teenager.

Jhumpa Lahiri – Interpreter of maladies (Pulitzer Prize winner)

Collection of short stories charting the emotional journeys of characters seeking love beyond barriers of nations and generations. She captures the out-of-context lives of immigrants, expatriates, and first generation Americans of Indian descent.

Ursula Le Guin – A Wizard of Earthsea

A tale of wizards, dragons and terrifying shadows. This is the first book of Earthsea.

Sallie Lowenstein – Sender Unknown

Mark, having changed his life from low key fix-it man to corporate business man with flash job, buys a very old house. He then starts to receive strange toy catalogues. On a whim he orders some action figures from one of them .... But now he has his hands full, and there are no refunds and no returns – too late he remembers the old warning “Let the buyer beware!”

Lois Lowry – Anastasia has the answers

A tale of the emotional up and downs of being thirteen. Anastasia feels humiliated every time she tries to climb the ropes in gym class? How come everyone else can climb them? As she has decided to become a journalist, it should be easy for her to answer most questions, so why can't she understand about her friend's parents' divorce? Finally Anastasia thinks she has the answers .....

Jenny Nimmo- The Rinaldi Ring

Eliot can feel the ghostly presence clinging to the house, the lingering traces of a tragedy that once drove a woman to the edge of madness. No one believes Eliot. Grieving for his dead mother, he's always strange and unpredictable. Is he really being haunted, or could he too be losing his mind?

Yann Martel – Life of Pi

Pi Patel is the son of a zookeeper. When Pi is sixteen, his family and their zoo animals emigrate from India to North America on a cargo ship. Alas, the ship sinks, leaving Pi in a lifeboat with his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra and a 450lb Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi. Can Pi and the tiger find their way to land? Can Pi's fear, knowledge and cunning keep him alive until they do?

Sarah Matthias – The Riddle of the Poisoned Monk

Charlie's mother is about to be taken for witchcraft along with Charlie. With the aid of his cat Balthazar, Charlie escapes – only to find himself in another time and a different kind of danger. There are sinister goings on at the Abbey. Someone is poisoning the monks. Can Charlie decipher the medieval riddle and solve the mystery?

Linda Newbery – Lost Boy

Matt is startled to see his own initials – M.L. – on a roadside shrine. A boy of his own age was killed there in a tragic accident. Then he meets Robbo and Tig, who blames Wil Jones, the old man Matt has seen roaming the hills with his dog. Tig is determined that Wil should be punished – and Matt is persuaded to join in. But when the confused old man mistakes him for another lost boy, things become complicated. How many lost boys are there? Why does Matt feel haunted by Martin Lloyd?

Meg Rosoff – just in case

Watching Justin Case is like watching a train wreck. He's impossible. He's irresistible. He's convinced Fate is out to get him. And he's right. Fate is watching him – watching and plotting a million terrifying things that might happen to Justin today.