



كلية طب وايل كورنيل في قطر
Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Member of Qatar Foundation

The Foundation Times

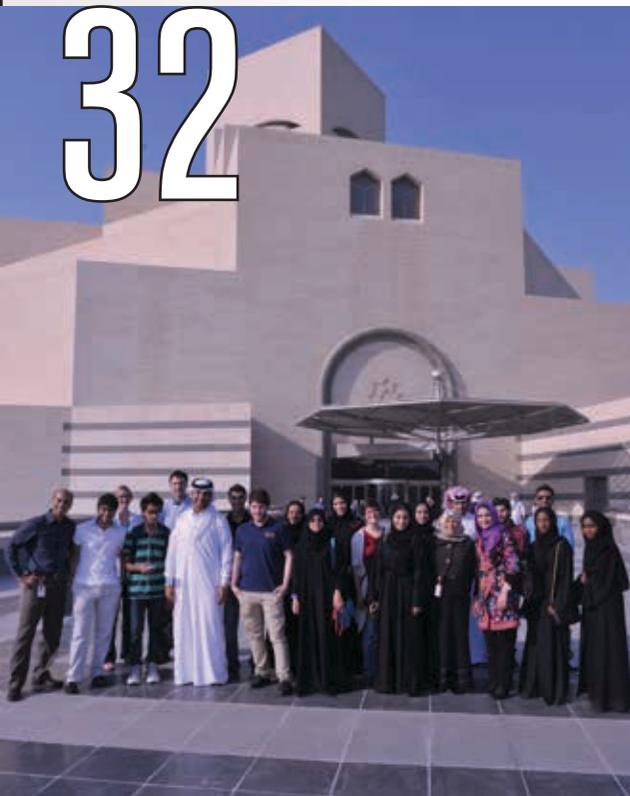


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Introduction



It is with pleasure that we present to you this year's edition of the Foundation Times. As a way of showcasing their development and achievements, the Foundation students have compiled a number of their artifacts here. You will read about events such as Mole Day and The Trip to the Museum of Islamic Art; you will read book reviews written by students on novels that

they read in the Extensive Reading Program throughout the year; finally, you will get a sampling of blogging and group projects done in English class.

We hope you enjoy this compilation and are glad to give you a taste of our students' intelligence, creativity and achievement. We know that it is the students' families that have supported, pushed and encouraged them the most, and so we want to

say thank you by giving you a sampling of some of the fruits of what your support helped achieve.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bendriss and Anna Psiaki



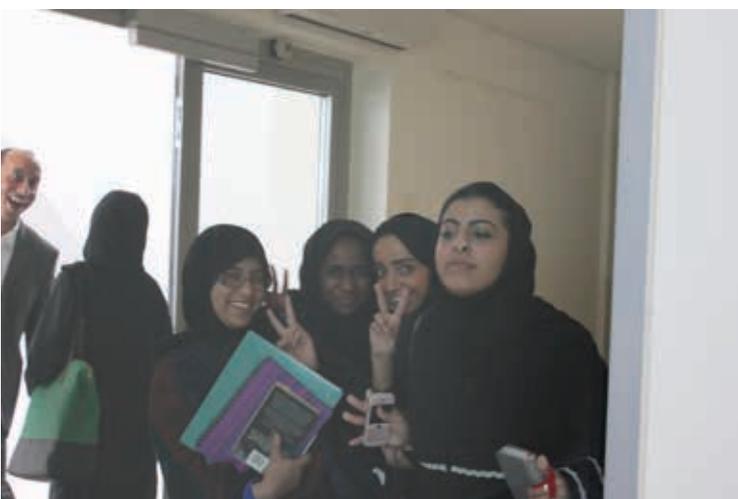
كلية طب وايل كورنيل في قطر
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Welcome
to
WCMC-Q



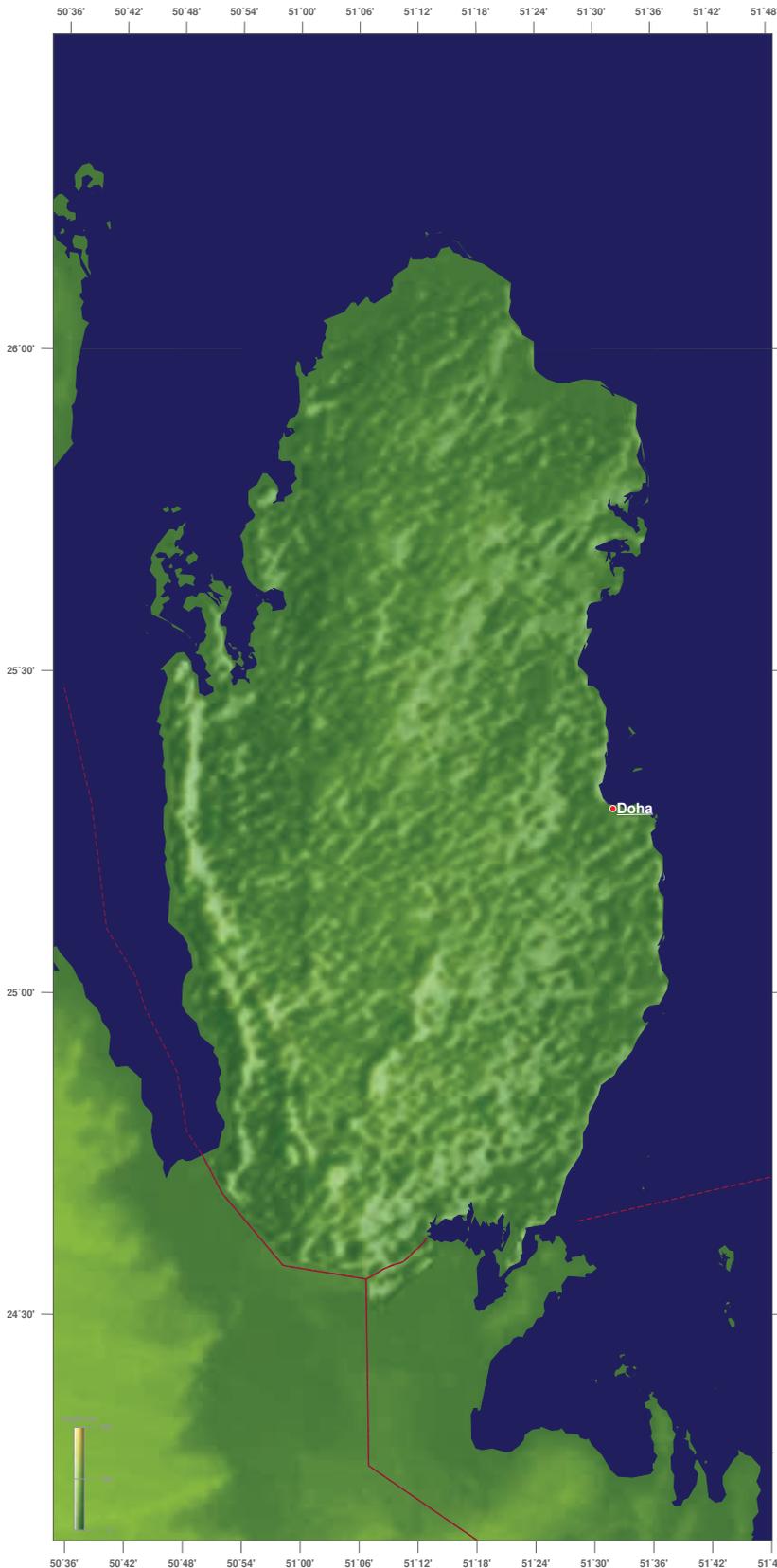








Cultural Awareness



The Thing About Qatari People...

The attitude of punctuality differs from culture to culture. For example in America or Britain, punctuality is related to efficiency and success, where lateness shows sloppiness.

In contrast, in Qatar punctuality has a different connotation that is often negligible when judging a person's attitude towards you

Welcome To Qatar Organization

When in Qatar, you should not expect people to show up on time. Therefore, do not feel offended if someone is late. It does not reflect disrespectfulfulness and is by no means personal.

Even though punctuality is not taken strictly, it is not done on purpose. It is because the culture does not accustom people to be precise about the passage of time. In your culture you might be used to checking the time frequently to the minute. However, in Qatar it is often an approximation.

Therefore, we advise you to keep time, but to be relaxed about it and not be on your toes all the time. Simply keep an open mind about the accuracy of time perception when meeting someone in Qatar.



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DOS AND DON'TS!

- Do not become influenced by Qatari habits and show up late to your appointments.
- Keep an open mind (they view your culture the same way you view theirs).
- Do not be offended if someone keeps you waiting.
- Put effort into forming friendships with Qatari people.
- Enjoy your time in Qatar and the company of Qatari people.

ENGLF
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Extensive Reading Program



Foundation Extensive Reading Program

The Foundation Extensive Reading Program is designed to facilitate students' involvement with and love of reading. Over Winter Break every student read a novel of their choice, blogging about it weekly on the Foundation Blog at www.writingmajlis.com.

This spring students read another novel of their choosing. Through writing a book review and discussing their novels together in weekly reading circles, students were given the opportunity to thoughtfully interact with literature.



Aisha Al-shahwani

“Lord of the Flies” by William Golding, a 203-page book is allegory, adventure story, castaway fiction, and loss of innocence fiction. It’s a story about a group of British kids whose plane crashed in an isolated island. Together they decided to make a survival plan in order to be rescued from the island. However, due to the harsh conditions they suffered from, they gradually forgot about their survival plan and began fighting each other to prove their leadership and power.

Lord of the Flies is a story that tells us how the innocence of children can vanish in such harsh conditions and environment. For instance, the boys were meant to work together and become a team; however, shockingly the boys developed hatred toward each other. Furthermore, they started killing each other without feeling any guilt. It was awful for me to imagine the way that

some of the boys were killed. From Golding’s description, the way children were killed really shows that the humanity and emotions in those children completely disappeared. Golding also focuses on how pride and power can interfere with friendship and human values. For instance, the boys were considered as “innocent little children”, but they actually turned out to be little monsters that attacked each other and stabbed their peers back. The story highlights the awful transformation of characters as they adapt to the harsh circumstances they went through on the island. Moreover, Golding’s description allowed me to picture and live the adventure on the island. However, the detailed description of the writer’s style confused me as well as prevented me from enjoying the values of the story.

As Golding said, “Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through



the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.” These were the last words that ended the story. Ralph was such a mature boy and it made me sad to read how he ended up being chased all over the island to be killed after he was the chief. Ralph wept for how people can be so awful regardless of their age. Moreover, Ralph was touched because the only loyal friend that supported him the whole time was killed by the other boys. So, the story also emphasizes the importance of loyalty and respect for friends.

“Lord of the Flies” can give you an insight into the awfulness of people and how violent they could turn out to be. But it also highlights the importance of friendship and cooperation to survive. Although some parts of the story seemed depressing, reading the novel will allow you to view life from different perspectives and will teach you basic themes about life.



Mohammed AlSubaie
"Fight Club" Book Review

"Fight Club" is the first novel that the author Chuck Palahniuk published and only his second novel written. The origin of this novel was an act of retaliation against Palahniuk's publishers because they rejected his first novel. The reason was that his novel was too disturbing, so Palahniuk sought out to write an even more disturbing novel. Unexpectedly, the publishers were willing to publish this utterly original novel and did so by 1996. The story is told through the perspective of an unnamed narrator. The narrator, bewildered with insomnia, was struggling

through life until fate brought him into the path of Tyler Durden, the enigmatic future founder of fight club. Tyler took over the narrator's life and flipped it over: he gave him a cause to live for, but he was also responsible for bringing chaos and anarchy into his life.

"It's only after you've lost everything," Tyler says, "that you're free to do anything." (Palahniuk, 69)

The story consists of a great many themes that are evident in the life of any man that is facing a midlife crisis. Violence, masculinity, chaos, sacrifice, consumerism and isolation

are evident from the first chapter because the novel is in medias res; the plot starts at climax and the narrator is recalling the events that led him there. The main theme was finding one's own purpose in life, breaking free from the confines of society to gain self-realization. It's the narrator's struggle to remove the shackles bestowed upon him by society, to create a better life for him and his space monkeys.

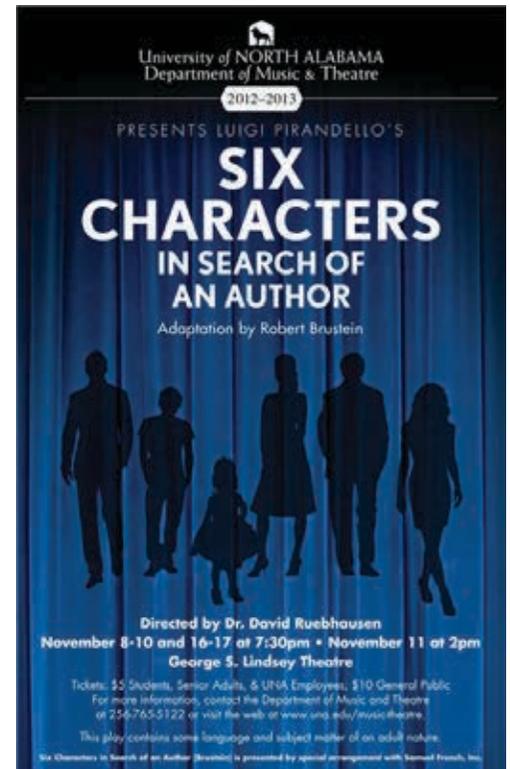
"Like a monkey, ready to be shot into space. Space monkey! Ready to sacrifice himself for the greater good" (Palahniuk, 122)



In my honest opinion, "Fight Club" is not for everyone. Taking into consideration the themes mentioned earlier, this novel is not applicable to adolescents and women. First of all, sacrifice, consumerism, and isolation are not really suitable for audiences of younger age, since they are of a darker tone and support violence; thus, only a mature audience would find it worth its time. Secondly, considering that not only all main and minor characters consist of males with the exception of Marla Singer, who is hated upon by the narrator, a major theme is masculinity, so this novel was not written to shelter a female audience, and might actually be considered a bit sexist. Fortunately for myself,

this novel was very engaging as I thought it was thrilling and filled with suspense: it grabbed my attention from the very first pages. Moreover, I found the novel very entertaining to read and always kept me wanting more. The most fascinating aspect of the novel is the relationship and the dynamism between the narrator and Tyler. Finally, Palahniuk's use of the Narrator's mental state adds exhilaration to the novel by signifying the struggle of life.

Fight Club by Chuck Palahniuk
 Norton New York
 ISBN: 0-393-32734-5
 ISBN: Pages: 218



Al Dana Shahbik Book Review of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

Six Characters in Search of an Author is Pirandello's greatest work. It is a very complicated play in which the truth is to be sought. The play starts as a rehearsal to another play, and then six characters interrupt and start performing a play within that play. Furthermore, the six characters represent different themes: "remorse in the case of the FATHER; revenge in the case of the STEPDAUGHTER; disdain in the case of the SON; grief in the case of the MOTHER;" and the last two characters are a little girl and a boy who are lost within these absurd characters. The six characters interrupt the play rehearsal as they explain that they are in "search of an author" to write their story. Then, they start performing a play

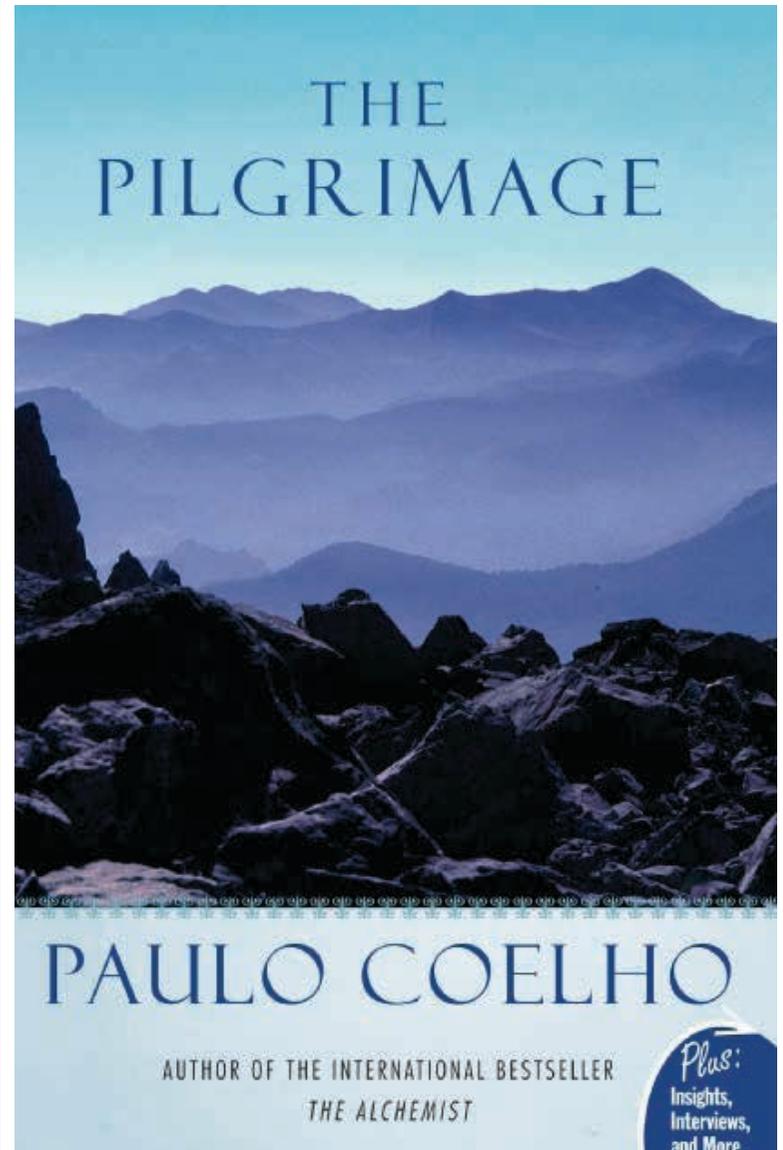
to answer the director's question about their story.

The director gets really interested about what the six characters present to him, as he feels that different themes can be brought to life by these characters. Furthermore, the Father and the Stepdaughter, who are leading the play, try to persuade him to be the author of their drama. It is quite confusing as they address themselves as characters of drama that are alive rather than human beings. The characters acclaim that they were brought to life by an author who wrote their story yet failed to finish his job; thus, they are in search of an author to finish writing their story.

As noted in the play, Pirandello portrays the misery of the six characters because they do not have the freewill of choosing their actions for themselves. He presents them in

a way as if they are puppets to be controlled. Significantly, Pirandello evokes the difference between having a freewill and being restrained; he highlights the difference between what is real and what is an illusion. The play is quite complicated and confusing. However, when thinking about what Pirandello is trying to deliver, the message becomes clearer.

Six Characters in Search of an Author
New York: Signet Classic Book, 1998
ISBN – 0451526880
74 pages



Reem Mubarak
The Pilgrimage Book Review

Paulo Coelho delivers a message that in one's quest for something, one should focus on the journey instead of one's goal. He opposes each saying of how one should "keep his or her eyes on the prize". Coelho takes the readers on a journey of self-discovery. Ever from the start of his journey, the readers are taken on a path where they are gradually maturing as the characters do. Coelho is in search of his sword. He does not mention what

the sword symbolizes, nor what the function of the sword is.

Throughout the road to Santiago de Compostela, Coelho meets a guide who teaches him the RAM practices (Rigor, Adoration, Mercy). The author gives detailed instructions on how these practices are carried out. By doing so, he encourages readers to try them, which makes the readers more engaged in the story and live through the journey itself.

Paulo Coelho has established himself as an adventurous author in the publication of "The

Alchemist", in which many people gained interest in his writing style that delivers his message gradually, and takes the readers on a journey to introduce his purpose. The Pilgrimage is a good read, for it takes the readers on a journey where they can forget about the real world's troubles and focus on a much more important thing, the road.



Beloved by Toni Morrison

Source: Wikipedia.com

Toni Morrison, an American writer and teacher, writes about African American literature. Her book, *Beloved*, a work of postmodern literature, is a story about life soon after slavery. The book introduces the main characters Sethe and Denver immediately and plainly. It starts with "124 was spiteful"; several things have happened for 124 -the house- to become unpleasant, such as the death of the grandmother, Baby Suggs and the flight of Sethe's boys, Howard and Buglar. Soon Paul D was brought up; a man who has been in love with Sethe for years. The plot circles mainly around most of the characters in the book and their past and how they relate to one another. The story makes the audiences guess about who the new girl Beloved is later on in the book. At first, Morrison hints that the Beloved is Sethe's baby; however, we later know that she is not.

The book is written after slavery and so the characters in the book have experienced hardship and cruelty by the whites. Morrison describes Paul D's experience in prison with the care of a white person and the discrimination stirring at that time. Chain-up completed, they knelt down. The dew, more likely than not, was mist by then. Heavy sometimes and if the dogs were quiet and just breathing you could hear doves. Kneeling in the mist they waited for the whim of a guard, or two, or three. Or maybe all of them wanted it. It wanted it from one prisoner in particular or none or all. "Breakfast? Want some breakfast, nigger?"
 "Yes, sir"
 "Hungry, nigger?"
 "Yes, sir" (107-108)

There is a lot of ownership present in the book. When the new girl Beloved enters the lives of Sethe and Denver, voraciousness for one another begins to increase. "Beloved, she my daughter. She mine." affirmed by Sethe "She's mine,



Beloved." stated by Denver and "I am Beloved and she is mine." This possessiveness relates to the fact that Sethe, a woman who lost her boys, her husband, and Baby Suggs, wanted to keep Beloved, the girl who she thought was her baby, to ease the suffering she had all her life.

People have recommended reading this book because they said it would make me emotional. I wanted to relate myself to the book and feel the sentiments and compassion towards the characters. Nevertheless, reading the first page, I was quite confused how I was going to relate to it. The language used is quite unique and relates to the way the characters speak, which reminds one of the atmosphere of slavery and the weak education of blacks. Also, the writer provides a few twists to who Beloved is in the end by providing eventually more and more information to deduce her identity.

Dena Al Dabhani



Shaikha Al-Thani
As I Lay Dying

"He had a word, too. Love, he called it. But I had been used to words for a long time. I knew that that word was like the others: just a shape to fill a lack; that when the right time came, you wouldn't need a word for that any more than for pride or fear ... One day I was talking to Cora. She prayed for me because she believed I was blind to sin, wanting me to kneel and pray too, because people to whom sin is just a matter of words, to them salvation is just words too."

Blurry lights, rushing thoughts, and unrecognized noises, is how this novel first feels like, until you finally hear one loud voice that makes everything clear. That is how William Faulkner, a Nobel and Pulitzer prize winner's, style first felt to me, until my brain was able to soak it and embrace it; I was lost in a world I did not understand.

To be perfectly honest, I was ner-

vous to read the novel when I realized that there were several narrators. Nonetheless, I picked up the book because of the title, and till this day I still find the title captivating. This fictional novel took me through a roller coaster of confusing emotions, as the ideas of religion, hypocrisy, death, and family were integrated so subtly yet so obtusely throughout. It engulfs you, you literally lose yourself in the characters' thoughts and as you keep reading, it is like you just had an epiphany and you start to understand the actions and the characters' way of thinking. As *I Lay Dying* is truly a classic, Faulkner's ambiguous humor hits you in a shocking way rather than humorous, which makes it magnificent in its own twisted way.

"I could just remember how my father used to say that the reason for living was to get ready to stay dead a long time. And when I would have to look at them day after day, each with his and her secret and selfish thought, and blood strange to each other[s] blood and strange to mine, and think that this seemed to be the only way I could get ready to stay dead, I would hate my father for having ever planted me."

Life as we know it looks different through other people's eyes. Faulkner illustrates the concept of life and the ever-changing reality through the perception of 15 characters. The collision of emotions and thoughts that is displayed through the narratives of the characters, as they set out to bury Addie in Jefferson, resembles the collision of

emotions and thoughts in the life that we live in too. And you as a reader will ultimately realize that the characters are mentally so far apart and are only connected by one event, which is the burial of Addie. The act of burying the corpse of their mother seems so trivial to the characters as they are so preoccupied by their own set of secrets. Faulkner shows that no matter how tough a situation is, whether you are setting out to bury your mother in the ground once and for all, or whether you are sending your brother to a mental institution, life goes on. It always does. Faulkner is able to constantly change the reader's emotions towards the characters, hence keeping you on your toes every time you pick up the book to read.

The journey the characters undertook and the obstacles they faced will slowly help the reader unravel their secrets. By slowly uncovering their deepest secrets, light is shown on the scandalous affairs committed by the so-called religious individuals, and the realization that this novel is also a story of revenge, as "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," a woman like Addie.

Clear lights, steady thoughts, and distinguished noises is how this novel finally feels, after accepting it, and allowing it to take you through the journey Faulkner intended for it to take you on.

As I Lay Dying
Vintage International
ISBN 0-679-73225-X
217 pages



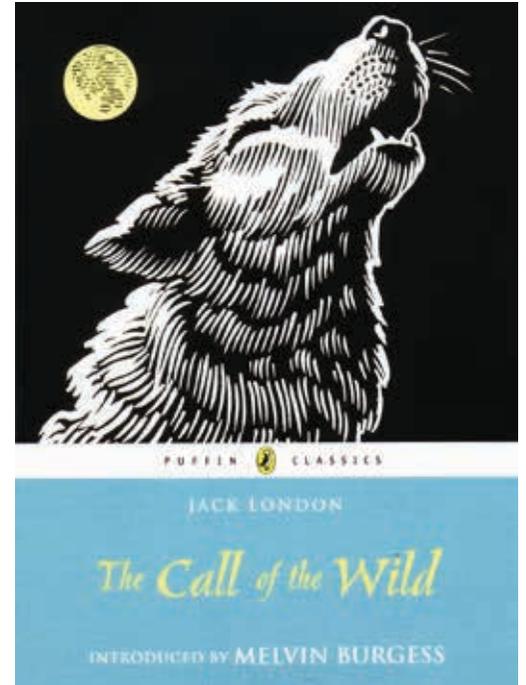
The Call of the Wild Book Review Fatima AL-Mohannadi

“In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled in a fury, his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely. Never in all his life had he been so vilely treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry.”

I have never thought that I could emotionally connect with a dog or any type of animal until I read the fictional book “The Call of the Wild” by the American author and journalist, Jack London. The way London describes the situations Buck, the husky dog in the story, goes through really attracted my attention. I first chose to read the book because the cover of the book had a picture of a husky dog on it. I have always been

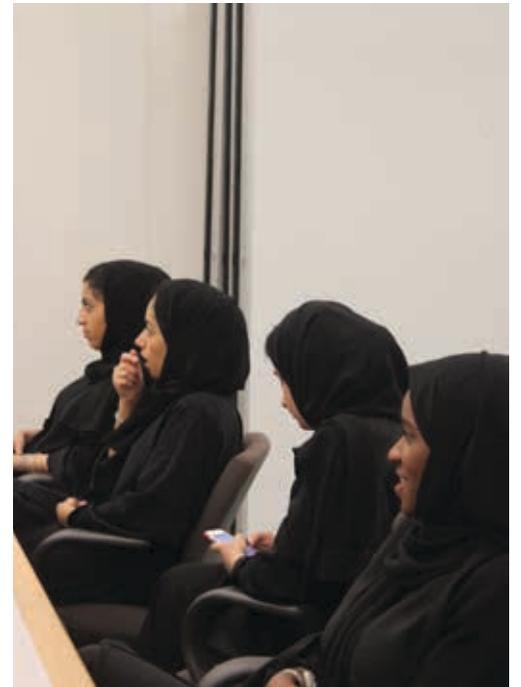
fond of the physical appearance of huskies, but I do not consider myself a dog person. I got a feeling that the book would bore me, but when I started reading the book, it truly proved my feeling wrong. I immediately established a strong connection with Buck and related to the emotional rollercoaster rides he went through.

The book started with the story of the luxurious life of Buck in Santa Clara Valley. He used to live there with Judge Miller and his family. However, he was abducted one day by a gardener named Manuel. Buck was taken away from Santa Clara Valley and beaten several times by his new owner. He was bought many times by different owners who mistreated him. Buck was used to pull sleds due to his incredible strength. He enjoyed being the leader of the team and in control. The most brutal owners were Charles, Mercedes and Hal because they treated the dogs cruelly. For instance, they would starve them or give them horse food instead of meat. One day, a man named John Thornton witnessed those owners beating the dogs and he was furious. He saved Buck and decided to take him. Thornton took good care of buck until he got his full strength back. Buck saved Thornton’s life many times and even won him a bet once. Unfortunately, one day Indians attacked Thornton’s camp while Buck was gone and killed Thornton along with his friends. Buck was crushed and decided to join a pack of wolves because he did not want to be owned by another man after



Thornton.

London challenges many themes in his story, such as survival of the fittest, loyalty and how humans treat animals. I felt that he tried to convey the message of how humans mistreat animals in some parts of the world. He was successfully able to make me see life through the dogs’ eyes and that made me connect to their suffering. I definitely would not put an age range for reading this book because everyone will enjoy reading about Buck’s exciting adventures. Young and old people will find themselves hooked to this book the second they read like what happened to me.



Visit us at

www.writingmajlis.com

The screenshot shows a WordPress blog post from 'The Majlis'. The page header includes the site name 'The Majlis', a 'Follow' button, and a 'New Post' link. The main content area features two posts. The first post is titled 'The Pilgrimage by Paulo Coelho', posted on March 3, 2013, by reemmubarak. The text of the post discusses the importance of the journey (the road) over the destination (the goal) and the role of love. The second post is titled 'The Fellowship of the Ring', posted on March 3, 2013, by abdulla. The text describes a scene from the book where hobbits get lost in a forest and Frodo falls into a river. The footer of the page includes 'The Majlis' and 'Blog at WordPress.com. Theme: Twenty Eleven.'

The Pilgrimage by Paulo Coelho
Posted on March 3, 2013 by reemmubarak

In this chapter of his book, Coelho is more focused on the road than on getting his sword. After he knew the types of love in the world, nothing was more important to him than the possibility of experiencing the strongest form of love, agape. Personally, I think we are all trying to reach our goals thinking we don't need love. We get so caught up in life that you stop thinking or caring about it. But in reality, and deep down, everyone wants to be loved and accepted. That is why, as Coelho's message is, people should focus more on the "road" that leads them to their goal, because in that road is where they will be able to meet all kinds of people and be able to really find themselves.

Posted in Uncategorized | Leave a reply

The Fellowship of the Ring
Posted on March 3, 2013 by abdulla

The hobbits set off through heavy mist the next morning. They take a path and end up in the Old Forest. Upon arriving, the group lose their path and begin wandering around in order to find an exit through the dense forest. The trees in the old forest keep blocking the hobbits way and every time they find a way out. After wandering off aimlessly, the company decides to rest except Sam. He wanders around in order to find the ponies. Upon his arrival he sees Frodo fallen into a river at the foot of a tree. He then notices Merry being squished by another tree. Crying desperately for help, Frodo and Sam hear a song.

The chapter clarifies the point that the hobbits care about their friends well-being. The hobbits always look after each other even in dangerous situations. Sam risked his life to Frodo from drowning and both of them try their best to help their friend Merry.

The Majlis | Blog at WordPress.com. Theme: Twenty Eleven.





Tuesdays With Morrie

Posted on [January 26, 2013](#) by [Hanof.A](#)

Pages 21-40

Morrie gave up so much of his life to this disease. He gave up dancing, swimming and driving. Eventually Morrie was unable to even walk. Morrie described his disease to a lit candle, saying it "melts your nerves and leaves your body a pile of wax." The writer is very descriptive and because this is based on a true story it gives me an overall emotion of sadness and presents a theme of depression.

The writer also continuously flashes back to his university days and this is good because it gives further information on Mitch's past life and the type of relationship he shared with Morrie. I admire the relationship Mitch seems to have with Morrie and I love his honesty and bluntness. Also, I have great admiration for his decision to make death his final project and I am interested to know more about it. So, I am enjoying the book so far.

Hanof Ahmed

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

Edit

Six Characters in Search of an Author

Posted on [January 26, 2013](#) by [danashahbik](#)

The director gets really interested about what the six characters present to him. He feels that different themes can be brought by these characters. Furthermore, the Father and the Stepdaughter, who are leading the play, try to persuade him to be the author of their drama. It is quite confusing as they address themselves as characters of drama who are





Hamad Almuhammad

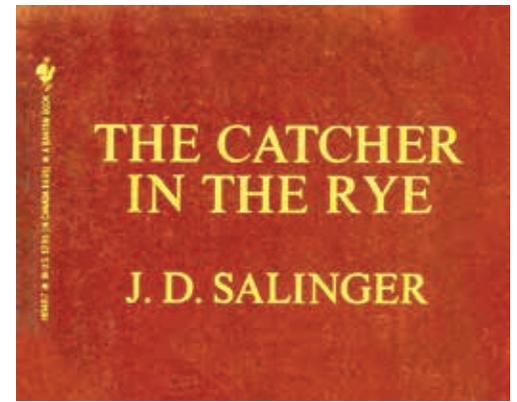
The Catcher in the Rye: A Book review
 "I'm the most terrific liar you ever saw in your life. It's awful. If I'm on my way to the store to buy a magazine, even, and somebody asks me where I'm going, I'm liable to say I'm going to the opera. It's terrible." (Chapter 3)

The Catcher in the Rye is a Bildungsroman (coming-of-age novel) novel written by J.D. Salinger in the early 1950s. The story is narrated through a sixteen-year-old boy, Holden Caulfield, who was expelled from his high school yet again for failing his courses. Holden withdraws from his high school, "Pency", a few days before the end of the fall semester in order to relax. He heads to New York City for four days before he meets his parents' inevitable anger for being kicked out of high school for the fourth time. His stay in New York was only filled with lonesomeness and grief as Holden is stuck in the transition between childhood to adulthood, and the novel follows his feelings and thoughts through this. Holden's doubts of becoming a man are seen through the first chapters. As the story progresses, you will see that he is a pessimistic, immature

character who uses foul language and is filled with sorrow.

Some of the author's experiences were used to describe these feelings since Holden resembles Salinger himself in several ways. Both Holden and Salinger were kicked out of multiple schools due to their low grades. Also, Holden claimed, "Anyway, I'm sort of glad they've got the atomic bomb invented. If there's ever another war, I'm going to sit right the hell on top of it." (183) This is similar to the author Salinger, when Salinger fought in World War II, he was sent home with "combat stress reaction", which indicated his distaste for war. Many other similarities between Holden and Salinger exist; they had bad romantic lives, very few friends, and were generally alone most of the time. All these similarities between Holden and Salinger may have helped Salinger describe Holden's feelings accurately.

The story demonstrates the difficulty of a teenager to adapt to adulthood. It uses motifs such as lying and deception. They are used in order to reveal the struggle of the transition from the innocence of childhood to the phoniness of adulthood. Children usually never lie and deceive others to get what they want; however, adults usually lie and deceive others when necessary; in the introduction quote, you can see Holden admitting that he is a "terrific" liar, but it is "terrible". This shows that he feels guilty from his lies, but he is benefiting from them; this struggle occurs due to his difficult transition from childhood to adulthood. Salinger used false love stories and description in order to illustrate this dilemma. The author, along with negative tones and concise dialogues, used run-on sentences. The characters' negative tones may sometime annoy



and depress you, especially Holden's negative tone. However, you will grow to like Holden due to a few incidences during the tale. You will see that he is good within his tough exterior.

In my opinion, teenagers are most likely the best audience for this book. This type of audience would connect greatly with Holden as they may experience his struggles. The tale may get a bit slow-paced and boring through the first chapters, but you will find yourself connected with this character during the middle of the tale. The connection occurs due to the sympathy you will develop for Holden and your curiosity for the next event. After finishing the book you may find the ending unsurprising and anticlimactic, something that disappoints initial expectations. The depression of the character may in turn make you depressed if you connect too strongly to Holden, so I recommend a reader that can endure depression and resist it knowing that it is a fictional story. This way, the reader will most likely enjoy it more than the reader who connects with Holden by exhibiting depression. Besides a reader that can tolerate depression, being a critical reader is necessary in order to get the most out of the tale.

The Catcher in the Rye
 Publisher: Little, Brown & Company
 ISBN-13: 9780316769488
 Page count: 274



Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning (43).

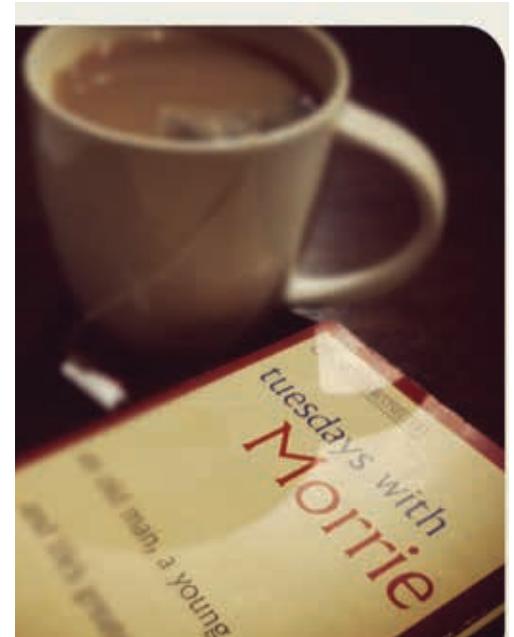
Morrie Schwartz is very inspirational with his wise words and outlook on life. Mitch Albom addresses Morrie's perspective through *Tuesdays With Morrie*. This philosophical, non-fiction novel was published in 1997 and is based on a true story. Curiosity led me towards reading this book; it was awarded the number one international best seller. The best selling author, Mitch Albom, is a journalist and screenwriter having been published in

forty-one territories and in forty-two languages around the world (<http://mitchalbom.com/bio>).

In *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Albom tells his personal story and experience with Morrie Schwartz who was his old university professor at Brandeis University. Mitch reunites with Morrie after sixteen years when Morrie was diagnosed with ALS, an incapacitating disease. The book is engaging and touching with a theme of melancholy; it is quite depressing but surely stirring.

Morrie examines the major complexities in life by defining them with simple principles. I admire his honesty, bluntness and how he presents these simple principles in *Tuesdays with Morrie*; life is simple, so why overcomplicate it? It was quite clear that Morrie had a profound impact on Mitch due to his philosophies and distinctive way of life that was incredibly motivating to study as a reader. Mitch is guilty of many behaviors in life that Morrie is against, and there is a clear transformation in Mitch's character throughout the book. He transformed from being a man driven by money to a man driven by love and forgiveness.

The various lessons within the book were definitely constantly mentioned in life, such as in films or heard from parents. They do not behold much originality and are frankly cliché, but I enjoyed how the book reminds me of what is important in life by reiterating the major lessons. Cleverly Morrie explains and discusses his lessons in a powerful and alluring manner. The book



inspired me in a sense that I wish to adopt some of Morrie's ways of life because how Morrie contributed to society was beautiful.

Wisdom develops with age and Morrie himself says, "Aging is not just decay, it's growth" (118). Morrie was truly wise in his words and emphasized the expected values in today's world. Although there wasn't a great deal of innovation in his lessons, Morrie's philosophies were stimulating to examine. But what I liked was the language and how these lessons were presented and the use of symbolism throughout the book. Overall, I would recommend this book if you are looking for a stirring, quick read. Albom truly brought forward and documented the wise words of a dying, old man in this quite inspirational book.

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Random House

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192 pages



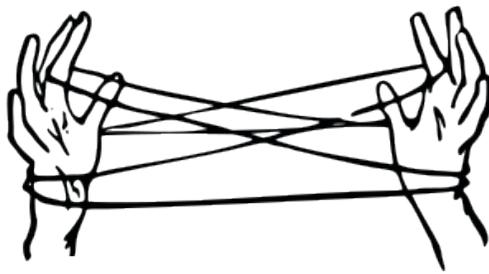
Maryam Own

A Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

A Cat's Cradle is a science fiction novel written by Kurt Vonnegut. If you are into outer space science fiction, then this is not for you. If you are like me, then it is just right, as it does not dwell much on the science fiction bit. It has to do more with human interactions on so many levels, which is why Vonnegut was awarded his Master's degree in

Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

"All of the true things I am about to tell you are shameless lies'
My Boknonist warning is this:
Anyone unable to understand how a useful religion can be founded on lies will not understand this book either."



"See the cat? See the cradle?"
"No cat, and no... cradle."

Through Boknonism and the "Cat's Cradle", Vonnegut creates a new ideology within the reader's mind where believing in a made up religion and its non-existence becomes one belief, and at the same time not an oxymoron. This might sound confusing at the beginning, but through this, Vonnegut creates the perfect fictional place, San Lorenzo, where religion is practiced in secret, while knowing that it is completely made up by this man.

I picked this book because I wanted something to analyze, to give meaning to something, and maybe

know that I have my grasp on certain philosophies deepen. Instead, the book made me confused, not because of how things were connected, and certainly not because of the plot: It was simply because one had to wait until one point in the book, but not because of that only. The only reason it made sense later was because the idea kept dwelling in my mind, while either driving to school, or drifting to sleep.

Vonnegut does not mock religion in a way that he attacks it, where someone who believes in a deity will find it offensive. He mocks it in the way he praises its ways, so that the reader at the end decides whether there is cat or a cradle. The elements in which Boknonism has in common with real life religions addresses how society is organized, and why religion is important, when it comes to providing the "zest" in people's lives.

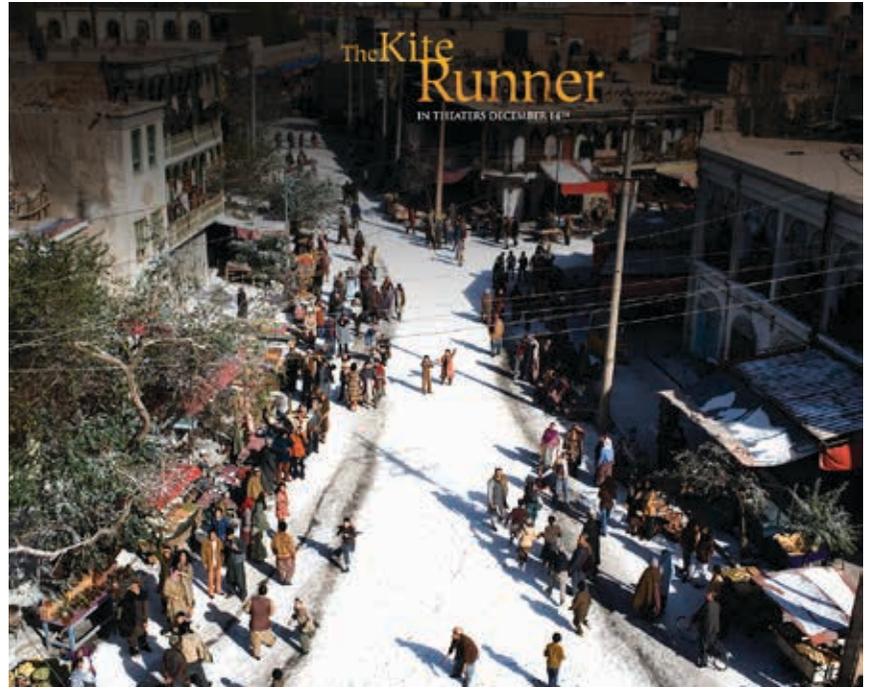
The ending somehow brought the big picture to mind regarding spirituality and humanity, but yet it left me thinking about what it all meant, and if it could have gone differently, to which I succumbed to the idea that it wouldn't have.



Latifa A. Albadr
The Kite Runner

It has been a long time since I read a book that made me cry and feel the closing up of my throat and a heaviness entering my chest. "The Kite Runner", by the Afghan writer Khaled Hosseini, is a fiction novel that digs into the deepest sorrows. Sorrows that is associated with frequent letdown. I did not need anything more than its good reputation to start reading it and travel through its pages to three different destinations: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and America.

The first destination [Kabul – Afghanistan]:
In Kabul, a beautiful but rare friendship was initiated between the Pashtun boy Amir and his loyal Hazara servant Hassan. Their friendship contained many protocols that sometimes prevented them from acting as friends, but more like a master and servant. In unique and



dramatic events their beautiful friendship ended, and they separated.

The second destination [Peshawar – Pakistan]:

In Peshawar Amir was trying to bury his sad memories of betraying his childhood friend. Amir did not stay for a long period of time there because he had to move with his father to America.

The third destination [America]:
There in America Amir lived peacefully for twenty years. He completed his education and became a successful writer. He got married, and his life was stable. But one day he received a phone call from his father's old friend asking him to return back to Peshawar.

Between these lines there are a lot of unrevealed events that Amir tells, not only about the loss of his childhood, but the loss of his country as well: "There are a lot of children in Afghanistan, but little childhood."

The events of this story happened in the last peaceful days of the monarchy, just before Afghanistan's revolution and its attack by Russian forces and the initiation of the Taliban. Hosseini in his novel tried to show the Taliban exactly like they are shown in the western media, and this really annoyed me because there are a lot of good things that the Taliban did for Afghanistan particularly.

In fact, Hosseini has written a 371 page, page-turner novel. Full of heart, full of truth, The Kite Runner is a novel about seeing the pain in a similar life with different characters in Afghanistan. This book touches the heart by tackling important issues such as friendship, loyalty, and regret. I highly recommend reading this book, and I promise that it will be a tearjerker.



Ramez Rawhani

Watchmen by Alan Moore

“Watchmen” is a graphic novel written by Alan Moore. The genre is action, drama, mystery, sci-fi, and thriller. It is a story about a group of superheroes that are a part of a group called “The Minutemen”; they save humanity from disasters and calamities. The main character is one of the minutemen named Rorschach, who has this deep character and comes off as rather intelligent and dangerous. Many fear him.

The comedian, one of the other minutemen, was murdered by a mysterious person. Investigators have been trying to find the murderer. Rorschach goes on his own quest to find the murderer and bring him to justice. During this time, the rest of the living minutemen get back in business and start helping the

people once again.

Dr. Manhattan is one of the most popular of the minutemen, and is considered like a God to people because of his invincibility and extraordinary powers. This shows a slight religious aspect to the story. People find it easier to believe in something they can see, and Dr. Manhattan is both visible and has God-like powers, which is why people believe him to be God himself. He has been to a lot of wars and fought for the Americans and has always prevailed; the enemies surrender and bow down to him as a sign of respect. Of course, not everyone thinks of him that way: he was accused of being a cause of cancer to his former girlfriends and was questioned by the press.

Throughout the story there is a conflict between the Americans and the Russians. A sudden explosion

had occurred in New York City and was thought to be the Russians, but experts found out that the signal that caused the blast could have only come from Dr. Manhattan, but in reality he was not the cause.

Towards the end most of the events that had occurred throughout the book all are elucidated to make an epic conclusion that is mind-blasting. It was clear that all the unexpected events that happened during the story actually had a purpose.

“Watchmen” is a book worth reading if you are a fan of having pictures tell you the story and enjoy unexpected twists at the end of a story. It has a creative story that is bound to attract the reader. I very much recommend reading it, and it has a story that will not let you down.



Yaser Janahi

“The Fundamentals of Tawheed” written by Bilal Philips is a non-fictional book that deals with the teachings of Islam for the non-Arabic speaker. The book was originally targeted for Minaret ar-Riyadh English Medium Islamic School and therefore has a lot of simple English, which makes it easier to understand. At the same time it approaches fundamental and important aspects of Islam and its teachings. The author himself illustrates the importance of his book saying: “...Tawheed is the very foundation of Islam on which all the other pillars and principles depend. If one’s Tawheed is not sound, the rest of one’s Islam becomes, in effect, a series of pagan rituals.” (Philips, iv)

The theme of this book is that it teaches Islam to those who are not familiar with it, so it returns to basic principles and explains them thoroughly to ensure the understanding of its audience. So the target audience for this book is non-Arabic speakers that are either Muslims that do not know about their religion and would like to expand their knowledge, or non-Muslims who would like to be

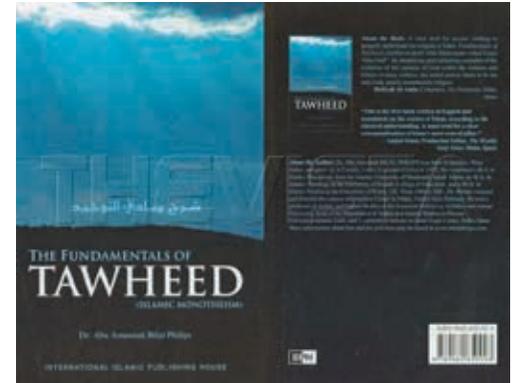
introduced to this religion and know about it.

The organization of the book relates to its genre which is non-fiction. Since it aims to teach, there are certain sections that should be taught initially in order for other sections to be understood. Also, the style of the book utilizes the format of a research paper where it presents results, supports them with evidence (mostly from the Quran and Hadith), like when he explained about the ignorance that comes with believing in Astronomy and Horoscopes:

“Essentially these paths, represent a vain attempt to escape Qadar (fate) . The ignorant believe that if they know what is in store for them tomorrow, they can prepare from today. In that way they may avoid the bad and ensure the good. Yet, Allah’s messenger was told by Allah to say:

“If I knew the unseen, I would surely have only sought the good. But, I am only a warner and a bearer of glad tidings for believers.” “(Philips, 96)

This quote shows that he utilized definitions he used in previous chapters to build on the knowledge that he is presenting to the audience. Also, he used evidence from



the Quran to illustrate his point. This referral to the Quran is a major motif in the book where he uses it frequently to provide evidence.

I find this book very helpful and it is a good resource to my non-Muslim friends, and I highly recommend it to those who practice Islam but do not necessarily understand the basics of it. Also, I recommend it to foreigners traveling to a Muslim country who want to know about the religion of the country they are in. I also like that everything is supported with Quranic evidence, which encourages people to read the Quran instead of making judgments about it and classifying actions of extremist Muslims as something from the Quran. Also, I found that a major positive point for the book is its unique style, which explains the subject matter with English speakers in mind since it provides information on complex subject matters in a simple, basic, and approachable way.

The Fundamentals of Tawheed by
Bilal Philips
International Islamic Publishing
House
\$ 8 USA and Canada
2013 pages



Mole Day



Mole Day
By Fatima Al-Mohannadi and Reem Mubarak

It happens every year. An exciting event for chemistry teach.... I mean students. That is why we had to prepare something with a different twist for Mole Day this year. The class decided on a creepy theme, where the main event of the day was a play where three witches were casting a spell to bring Avogadro back from the dead.

"Your name is Avogadro and you're a gas
Some thought your theory just wouldn't last
It's not hard it's safe to assume
The same number of particles have



the same volume
You made the mole the standard unit
But students on tests just can't do it
You're not here to start no gas
You're just here to count the molar mass."
After casting the spell, Avogadro came back to life, but so did the zombies in the cemetery. Then the zombies surrounded Avogadro in order to take his mole against his will "YOU KNOW THAT WE WANT

YOUR MOLE, IN ORDER TO REACH OUR GOAL!!!" They sang. The day included many other activities engaging the crowd such as "Who Wants to be a Moleonaire," a standup comedy show, and a mole hunt. The event was concluded with a nice buffet for the guests. Overall, the event was successful because the audience had fun, enjoyed themselves, and had FREE FOOD and GIFTS. Therefore, we felt that our hard work paid off.

The Museum of Islamic Art



MIA Interviews

By Shaikha Al-Thani and Aldana Shahbik

Four people answering the question: what did you find interesting on the trip?

The interesting parts of the trip for Aisha were when she viewed the basic inventions, such as the camera. The people demonstrated how the camera "obscura" functioned.

She also enjoyed how the museum actors were dressed up. "They had me travel back in time."

For Maryam, the interesting things were how in the 16th century they used "F's" instead of "S's". She also was drawn to the jewelry and the exaggerated portraits of the bearded men. She also "loved the 1001 inventions" and the camera obscura. Ramez announced that the interest-

ing things were the inventions such as the telescope as it was "really nice and innovative for individuals all around the world." Also, he found it interesting that they wrote the "F's" instead of "S's". It was fascinating that "some of the medical supplies are still used today."

Hamad did not expect the Arabs to have discovered so many things. Also, he was fascinated by the historical sculptures presented in the Museum of Islamic Art. He finally stated, "The 1001 inventions opened my eyes to new facts."

Describe the trip in one word

Aisha: joyful

Latifa: inordinate

Maryam: fun

Hanof: enlightening

Ramez: amazing

Mohammed Al-Subaie: nice

Mohammed Al-Debs: sucks

Yaser: phenomenal

Dena: educational

Fatma: interesting

Hamad: spectacular

Soud: fascinating

Reem: informative

Abdulla: awesome

Jawaher: wonderful

Experiential Learning



Observership By Jawaher Elkhatib

This winter break I decided to participate in the observership at Hamad Hospital. I have always wondered what a doctor feels when he works! I chose to observe what happens in the ER section. The first day, I was very excited because I really wanted to know if I could take seeing blood. First, we were introduced to Dr. Samir who showed my peers and me the ER section. I learned how the ER is divided according to the patient's

priority. For example, if the patient's case were severe, the patient would be transferred to priority one. Dr. Samir took us to observe in priority one. While I was looking over the cases, suddenly doctors were screaming, trying to save a woman. She stayed for fifteen minutes without oxygen. Then ultimately doctors saved her. I asked the doctor about this case, and he said her brain was dead now. I felt at that moment how life is short. Every person has to live their day as if it is their last. The second day, Dr. Hiwadi taught us to stitch; it was a great expe-

rience. We even saw the way the doctor gave stitches to patients. I was really surprised at myself that seeing the blood did not affect me. The third day, Dr. Hiwadi also taught us how to check patients' blood pressure.

The fourth day, Dr. Khalid taught us how to read an ECG (Electrocardiography to measure and diagnose abnormal rhythms of the heart) report for some patients. I also saw the abnormalities.

The last day, we went on rounds in all sections. I saw a patient who was 23 years old; he had shortness of breath because he was a smoker. Then doctors gave him an oxygen mask; after that he was totally fine. When I saw the smile on his face again, it was really a wonderful feeling. It was really nice when Dr. Samir introduced me to the other doctors as Dr. Jawaher; I felt so happy and proud at that moment. This experience made me realize where I stand. Now I can visualize my future. At the beginning, I was wondering, "Is medicine going to be my path?" Now I am not wondering because I am sure that medicine will be my present and my future. After this experience, I promised myself that I would be Dr. Jawaher, and I would do my best to follow this pathway. Being a doctor is not easy, but I believe it is worth it because people respect doctors and appreciate their job. I wish to make my dream come true.

Art



It is a message addressed to all countries of the world. It is an international language in which any individual can read and comprehend. It is read through the line and the expression of color brought by the internal thoughts, the creativity and the bound senses of the artist. It is a daily practice I perform for myself. I hold the wooden brush, relax and let go. Let go of any stresses and embrace any feelings I hold at that very moment, thus, transforming a white spread of canvas to a vibrant marriage between colors and lines. I feel, beyond doubt, connected with the brush as it runs across naturally driven by my inner feelings. An endless talent and it is that talent that I develop to produce the most exhilarating paintings. I can

incorporate my idea of beauty and express it and myself through the artwork in my free time. Art is an area of strength and passion for me. I have inherited my mother's striking artistic skills and I love to embrace them with zeal. This extraordinary talent has enhanced my attention to detail. A quality in which doctors must possess is the ability that allows them to pay attention to the small things that may seem unimportant and that may make the great difference in the development of medicine. By having this creative and artistic characteristic to myself I can bring these elements onto the ground of my University as this side changes my perspective on everyday life matters and opens a whole other

kingdom. I approach life in a different way. I draw a plan in my head and have become a practical thinker. A leader. When faced with problems I know how to deal with them proficiently and effectively to reach a solution. This is because any negative emotions are passed and exerted into my artwork. It is a way for me to clear my head and to then resolve any problems with an open mind and not put forth any anger on any individual. My mind is free to drift. A talent that has impacted the person I am today and yet will impact the person I will become tomorrow and the way I take on life and its baggage.
Hanof Ahmed



Leadershape Conference

Truly an amazing
experience . . .



Hanof Ahmed:

A select few from Weill Cornell Medical College were chosen to participate in the LeaderShape program. This one week program was able to implement leadership skills into our lives. Two students chosen for LeaderShape 2013 were foundation students. I think that this experience is one to remember for a long time. Being placed into a completely different environment, secluded

away from busy Doha and electronic devices, to a certain extent, was new and exciting. I have learnt so much from this program because I was introduced into the world of becoming a great leader.

Mohammed El-Debs:

The LeaderShape program was an amazing experience! The program was filled with hard work but definitely filled with excitement and

knowledge. I was able to meet a lot of different individuals from all campuses in education city and shared this experience with. The program was filled with great activities, practices and discussions. I think I mostly enjoyed the discussions that we had because a lot was learnt and a lot was shared. The experience was eye opening and I acquired many new skills that I am planning to incorporate into my daily life.

Congratulations

