

David McCullough

Just as Mark Twain's river pilots were so caught up interpreting the Mississippi's telltale language that they failed to appreciate the beauty surrounding them, we too become the victims of our own little world. Then along comes a writer like David McCullough.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1933, the Yale-educated author holds the Pulitzer Prize, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, the National Book Award (twice), and the Francis Parkman Prize (also twice).

Beginning in 1968 McCullough produced an interminable parade of best sellers. In his first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, he narrates the failure of an earthen dam built to create a resort lake enjoyed by Pittsburgh's wealthy. When the structure burst, the resulting deluge killed over two thousand residents living downstream. In *Mornings on Horseback* McCullough cites the factors that formed Theodore Roosevelt who, at the age of forty-three, was tragically propelled into Office. Exercising nearly superhuman energy, charm and political skills, in two world-changing terms as our 26th President Roosevelt became the dynamic architect of a new age. In *The Path Between the Seas* McCullough describes the fulfillment of a 400-year-old dream to construct the Panama Canal, telling of the project's engineering feats and medical accomplishments – even its failures. In *The Great Bridge* he shows how spanning New York's East River required the same determination and vision needed to construct Europe's great cathedrals. McCullough not only creates the saga of an engineering marvel (the Brooklyn Bridge), but presents a sweeping narrative of the existing social climate.

In *Truman* – the book I enjoyed most – McCullough reveals how this extraordinary man from Missouri was far more than the simple bumpkin we first thought him to be. Thrust unexpectedly into the Presidency, Truman immediately applied the strengths he'd accumulated over a lifetime – notably personal courage and integrity – and quickly grasped complicated concepts. (He had to; FDR had never briefed him.) Truman viewed wise government as a rarely used arrow in the human quiver, and never hesitated to employ the power of his office to good effect. His achievements in world peace, national security, and European reconstruction still shine like beacons of light in the otherwise grey-cast nuclear age. Finally, in *John Adams*, McCullough presents a non-fiction with the breadth and bounce of a great novel, and gives us rare insight into the life of a prominent Founding Father.

– essay by Bill Lounsbury

KRL has a all of these books & audio editions of several

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Wednesday, April 17th is Snapshot Day. Bring your camera!



Spring Storytimes: Every Tuesday thru May 21st

Share stories, rhymes and songs with our children's librarian!
Stay for music and crafts.

Toddler Storytime: 10:30 am

Preschool Storytime: 11:30 am

Classes at Manchester Library:

e-Readers: Taught by our own Chief Librarian, Zak Sherman

Friday, April 19 from 3 – 5 pm

Bring your Kindles, Nooks or iPads

Computer Tutor Class: Monday, April 22nd 6-7:30 pm

Tutoring in Microsoft software, e-mailing, e-book downloading and the Internet.

STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE: Auction Items for Library Fundraiser

We have had a donation of a large work of art called "Land of the Free" by artist Alan M. Hunt. It is hanging above the laptop bar and it is up for raffle. There is also a week's lodging at a foreign location of your choice. Tickets are \$2.00 at the Library. The drawing will be in September 2013 at Amy's on the Bay Takeover, date TBD

Review by your editor: In January, we recommended *Among Others* (2012) by Jo Walton, noting that it was science fiction/ fantasy and winner of Nebula & Hugo awards. Having enjoyed science fiction since I was in 4th grade, I put myself on the KRL "hold list." The tale is a coming of age story of a young Welsh girl, set in England between 1975-1980. The young girl, Morwenna, is the most prodigious reader as you learn as she names all the great science fiction writers and most of their books in the course of telling her tale ... which includes her twin sister Morganna, a functional/ dysfunctional family, a mad witch and fairies. But, when you finish the book, you might find that you doubt the fantasy and love most of the family. This is a great book, for middle teens through adults. It is dedicated to librarians!

KRL's Featured Writer Series

Manchester Library will host:

on Monday, April 29th, Dylan Tomine coming at 6 pm to talk about his book, *Closer to the Ground: An Outdoor Family's Year of the Water, in the Woods and at the Table*. He walks readers through four seasons of family foraging, cooking and eating from the woods and sea.