

## For the Love of Reading

# Little Jewels--Haiku



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If you like haiku or are merely curious about the art, dive into this book. It traces the origin of the form in English from Ezra Pound's "In a Station at the Metro" through the effusive Beats (Kerouac, Gary Snyder, and Allen Ginsburg) to contemporary masters of these powerful small poems. In the introduction, Billy Collins describes his love for these small gems and unlike many of the other artists included here, he writes in the familiar 5-7-5 syllabic pattern.

Here are a few of my favorite haiku included in the collection. But alas, there were so many good ones, it was hard to choose a small sample:

passport check

my shadow waits

across the border

--George Swede [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 2, 2014

Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years

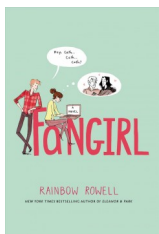
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# Fangirl



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Over Christmas after a Griffy walk, gift-giving and catching a new flick, I picked up this YA book about a Nebraska college freshman obsessed with writing fan fiction. Now if you don't know what that is? I didn't until a patron explained it to me a couple of years ago--it's a new trend where people (mostly young) write new endings, beginnings, and middles, sequels and prequels for books they love in the style of the author.

"Fan Fiction is what literature might look like if it were reinvented from scratch after a nuclear

apocalypse by a band of brilliant pop-culture junkies trapped in a sealed bunker," Lev Grossman said in *Time* magazine. Cath loves the Simon Snow series--magical fantasy--and the book includes many postings from the invented FanFixx.net where her tag-name is Magicath.

But when Cather enters college, life gets complicated. First of all, her twin Wren decides not to room with her. And Wren already abandoned fan fiction as too juvenile for a college student. Do you notice the wordplay in the twins' names? Their parents had expected one child whom they planned to call Catherine. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 26, 2013

[Fangirl](#)

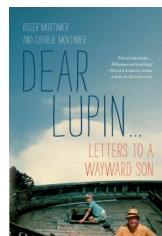
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## Dear Lupin



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I've always loved collections of letters. Perhaps, it's the draw of reading words meant for a specific person? a stranger that you will never meet. Some books of letters are huge and it's like tackling a life in a thousand plus episodes. But these letters, written by an apprehensive English father beginning during the rock and roll, drug days of the late 60s and 70s, are a more manageable 187 pages.

All the letters were penned by the father, Roger, a former military man, and POW who later became a racing columnist for the *Sunday Times*. In them he offers tons of advice to his wild, drifter son, Charlie. Providing much of the humor in this book are Charlie's comments that describe his reactions to his Dad's words at the time.

The letters begin with a young Charlie as he flunks out of elite Eton. Soon he leaves with a record of very bad grades for a lowly "crammer" school. No "firsts" or "seconds" or even a degree for this young man. Soon Charlie embarks on a series of low-paying jobs in agriculture, oil, and real estate. Even when he lands a promising job, he can't stick with it and bolts off for long vacations to Greece, Africa, and South America. For his Greek trip his dad advises, don't talk politics. Don't do drugs; you may land in a gaol. Watch the alcoholic drinks there, they are incredibly strong. Later, when Charlie sets off for vagabonding through South America, his dad asks, have you ever considered a life in the church? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 17, 2013

[Dear Lupin... :Letters to a Wayward Son](#)

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# Dog Songs



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Who can resist a good dog book? OK so there are a few cat people out there (right here beside me in fact), and bird people, snake people, even for Heaven's sake, skunk lovers and gerbil-groomers. But what makes this book special is that it's a book of poems that gives tribute to the special dogs in renowned nature poet Mary Oliver's life.

There's Luke, the junkyard dog, Benjamin, the canine that is always dragging a chewed-through rope, Bear the small curly-haired who hates to stay overnight at boarding, Bazougey that dark little dog/ who used to come down the road barking and shining, Ricky, the talker, and Percy named after the famous poet Shelley. Oliver penned a tribute to this hound mischievously patterned after Christopher Smart's "For I will Consider My Cat Geoffrey."

Luke was "born in a junkyard, / not even on a bundle of rags/ or the seat of an old wrecked car/ but the dust below." This beautiful German Shepherd loved flowers: "her dark head// and her wet nose/ touching/ the face/ of everyone." In the poem's closing Oliver expresses one thing dogs show us about the world: "we long to be--/ that happy/ in the heaven of earth--/ that wild, that loving." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 16, 2013

[Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay](#)

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## While you're waiting for Bill O'Reilly's new book.....

The holiday season seems like an appropriate time to read about the historical Jesus. While you are waiting for the best selling book by Fox News host Bill O'Reilly - *Killing Jesus* (Main Library and Ellettsville Adult Nonfiction 232.96 Ore) - the latest in his "Killing..." series; you might want to check out some of these books on the life of Jesus by some award winning authors and respected historians ....

*Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History* by Dale C. Allison (Main Library and Ellettsville Adult Nonfiction 232.908 All) --- What did Jesus think of himself? How did he face death? What were his expectations of the future? In this volume, now in paperback, internationally renowned Jesus scholar Dale Allison Jr. addresses such perennially fascinating questions about Jesus. The acclaimed hardcover edition received the Biblical Archaeology

Society's "Best Book Relating to the New Testament" award in 2011.

*The Historical Jesus: Five Views* by James K. Beilby (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232.908 His) --- 2011 Christianity Today Book Award winner! The scholarly quest for the historical Jesus has a distinguished pedigree in modern Western religious and historical scholarship, with names such as Strauss, Schweitzer and Bultmann highlighting the story. Since the early 1990s, when the Jesus quest was reawakened for a third run, numerous significant books have emerged. And the public's attention has been regularly arrested by media coverage, with the Jesus Seminar or the James ossuary headlining the marquee. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views* provides a venue for readers to sit in on a virtual seminar on the historical Jesus.

*The Challenge of Jesus : Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* by N.T. Wright. (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232 Wr) --- Today a renewed and vigorous scholarly quest for the historical Jesus is underway. In the midst of well publicized and controversial books on Jesus, N. T. Wright's lectures and writings have been widely recognized for providing a fresh, provocative and historically credible portrait. Out of his own commitment to both historical scholarship and Christian ministry, Wright challenges us to roll up our sleeves and take seriously the study of the historical Jesus.

*The Jesus Quest : The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth* by Ben Witherington III. (Main Library Adult Nonfiction 232.9 Wi) --- Voted one of *Christianity Today's* 1996 Books of the Year! In recent years Jesus' time, place and social setting have received renewed scholarly attention. New research on the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Jewish and Hellenistic texts has resulted in a surge of new images of Jesus and new ideas about his ministry. Dubbed the Third Quest for the historical Jesus, this recent effort is a transformation of the first quest, memorialized and chronicled by Albert Schweitzer, and the second quest, carried out in the 1950s and 1960s in the wake of extreme Bultmannian skepticism.

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--- Annotations courtesy Amazon.com

Posted by Jim G. on December 11, 2013

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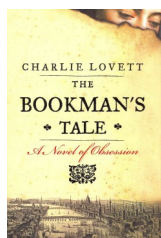
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## Recommended Reads from Library Staff



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It's that time of year again when lots of publications and websites publish their recommended books of the year. This year I polled library staff to see what some savvy readers had discovered in 2013. MCPL folks had lots of nifty recommendations. So whether you are looking for books to help you through the long dark nights of winter or searching for that perfect gift for a loved one or

friend, here are some suggestions from some local book people. We do have paper copies of this list and other 2013 favorite book lists available at the Information Desk at the main ILibrary.

## **FICTION**

***And Everyday Was Overcast*** by Paul Kwiatkowski FICTIO**N** Kwiatkow

Described on the cover as an illustrated novel, this work is more a scrapbook interspersed with stories detailing the author's coming of age in southern Florida. The photos don't match the stories exactly and are stronger as a result. They cover drug use, adolescent violence, and teenage sexuality.

***The Bookman's Tale: a novel of obsession*** by Charles C. Lovett FICTIO**N** Lovett

Anyone who loves the hunting, buying and selling of rare and old books should read this. Filled with emotion, intrigue, mystery, suspense, and tragedy, it also covers love lost and gained as well as the quest for Shakespeare and his writings. Very well written and hard to put down! [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on December 10, 2013

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