



## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

...VOLUME 4: NUMBER 11.....NOVEMBER, 2009

### Life and Art

Many authors have explored the circular influence of life upon art and art upon life, but perhaps no work has more elegantly sought the limits of imagination's power over reality than the acclaimed 2001 novel by British author, Ian McEwan, our library selection for this month.

### Featured This Month:

*Atonement* by Ian McEwan

Set in pre-World War II Britain, the first part of the novel takes place at the country estate of the Tallis family where fanciful 13-year old Briony Tallis, who has already determined her future career as a writer, witnesses and misunderstands a series of incidents involving her elder sister Cecilia and the housekeeper's son, Robbie Turner. Robbie, though of a lower class, has been educated at Cambridge alongside Cecilia through the Tallis family's generosity and recognition of Robbie's quality. Cecilia, unsure at first why Robbie disturbs her, realizes that what they feel is the first spark of a deep passion developing between them. But to the naïve young Briony, their behavior is shocking, and believing that her sister must be protected from sexual aggression, Briony builds a misguided prejudice against Robbie that condemns him when the Tallis's visiting cousin Lola is raped by someone Briony dimly sees but swears before the police was Robbie.

The consequences of Briony's accusation are played out in the second and third parts of the novel. Robbie is first sent to prison and then released on condition that he serve in the army. Wounded and retreating with the troops across France to Dunkirk, he is kept alive only by his desire to see Cecilia once again. Cecilia, meanwhile, has turned her back upon her family and become a nurse, waiting for her lover in a wartime London besieged by German bombing raids. And Briony, with maturity, has come to realize the tragedy of her mistake and tries to make amends for the damage she has done.



The last part of the novel reveals that the story is being recounted by the 77 year-old Briony Tallis, now a successful writer nearing her own death, who explains what finally happened to her “characters,” whether she indeed achieved atonement, and beyond the novel's boundaries, raises the question of how an author like McEwan, through his readers, influences real life via a work of the imagination.

*Reviewed by Mary Anne Ciancia*

### Library Board Notes

Please note that evening hours have changed. The library will be open between 4:00pm and 6:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the winter months.

The Library has a new website:

[www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com](http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com)

Please visit us for Library news, catalog search, reviews, and information.

### Special Events

Be sure to mark your calendar for

**Christmas in the Foothills**

**Saturday, December 5 from 10:00am to 4:00pm  
at the Hillsboro Community Center**

Pick up some holiday treats at the Library's baked goods table and don't forget the \$49.99 auction of local authors' books in a special Library bookbag!

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## New at the Library

### Classics

**Winesburg, Ohio** by Sherwood Anderson  
**You Can't Go Home Again** by Thomas Wolfe  
**Selected Shorter Writings of Mark Twain** edited  
by Walter Blair

### Non Fiction:

**My Invented Country** by Isabel Allende  
**Nights of Ice** by Spike Walker  
**The Hidden Life of Dogs** by Elizabeth Thomas  
**No Such Thing as a Bad Day** by Hamilton Jordan  
**The Lexus and the Olive Tree** by Thom. Friedman  
**Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's  
Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See**  
by Erik Weihenmayer  
**Classic Slave Narratives** edited by Henry Gates, Jr.  
**Funny in Farsi- a Memoir of Growing  
Up Iranian in America** by Firoozeh Dumas,  
**The War of the World-Twentieth Century  
Conflict and the Descent of the West** by Niall  
Ferguson

### Films on DVD

**The Adventures of Robin Hood**  
**The Basketball Fix**  
**Batman Begins**  
**Children of Men**  
**Freedomland**  
**The Goodbye Girl**  
**Out for Justice**  
**The Searchers**  
**Serenity**  
**Vengeance Valley**

### Fiction:

**Heart Mountain** by Gretel Ehrlich

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit  
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

### Films on VHS

**28 Days**  
**Avalon**  
**The Believers**  
**Clockwatchers**  
**Immediate Family**  
**In Harm's Way**  
**Keeping the Faith**  
**Killer: A Journal of Murder**  
**King of Texas**  
**The Legend of Bagger Vance**  
**little man tate**  
**Message in a Bottle**  
**Moscow on the Hudson**  
**Polish Wedding**  
**Postcards from the Edge**  
**The Russia House**  
**Shadow of Doubt**  
**Sliding Doors**  
**Six Degrees of Separation**  
**Stanley & Iris**  
**The Story of Us**  
**Tin Cup**  
**The War of the Roses**  
**What Women Want**

### Bookmobile: Wednesday, November 18

Hillsboro, 1:00 – 2:00 pm  
Kingston, 2:30 - 3:30pm

### Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed  
Tues. 4:00 – 6:00pm    Wed. 1:00 – 4:00pm  
Thurs: 4:00–6:00pm    Fri: 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am–2:00pm

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