Bridging the Gap

Books to Add to Your “To-Read” List

The Loney by Andrew Michael Hurley: Winner of the 2015 Costa Book Award, this novel has been referred to as “a masterful excursion into terror” by the Sunday Times and could almost certainly be read in one sitting. With a similar theme to that of “Of Mice and Men”, the story is about two brothers—one a mute, the other his lifelong protector. Every year the family visits a sacred shrine on a deserted stretch of coastline known as the Loney, desperately hoping to find a cure for the mute Hanny. During these visits the boys often wander off on their own exploring the old cottage which was at the end of a path. Years later the body of a child is found on the Loney and by implication, all leads point to Hanny having been the child’s murderer. This debut novel uses the bleak landscape to create a menacing and haunting tale of superstition which exploits the blurring of events to create a classic horror story.

The Bone Labyrinth by James Rollins: This fast moving thriller combines true historical figures with mythological events to create an exciting story about the effects of modern genetic science. An archaeologist discovers the bones of a Neanderthal woman in a subterranean chapel, as well as a series of cave paintings which depict a battle between the tribe and an enemy which is painted as a monstrously shadowy form. Before the investigating team can explore the meaning of these ancient paintings, they are attacked and, at the same time, a bloody assault is made on a primate research centre near Atlanta. Are these events linked and who is behind these attacks? Commander Gray Pierce and his group of special agents start an investigation into the two incidents which takes them across the world in a race against time to prevent a Chinese mastermind from creating a superhuman race.

The Ghosts of Manhattan by George Mann: This is the first book in a new Science Fiction series which brilliantly combines a thrilling detective story with the alternative history which the steampunk genre offers. The setting is 1926—the Roaring Twenties in New York, but with a difference. The streets are lined with coal-powered cars and the skies dotted with zeppelins and biplanes. America is locked in a bitter cold war with the British Empire which dominates half of the world and society is still recovering from the first World War. A battered police force is struggling to cope with a sea of powerful gangsters, with one in particular, the Roman, controlling the streets with his henchman. As the body count continues to rise, the city is in need of a superhero to make the streets safe once again. Can the Ghost restore peace to the streets of New York? A page-turning thriller.

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo: Meet Flora Belle Buckman a cynical young 10-year old girl who gleans most of her life’s lessons from comics and follows the mantra “Do not hope; instead observe”. Flora rescues a squirrel from the leaves which a neighbour’s garden vacuum cleaner had sucked up. She names him Ulysses and sneaks him into her room. But Ulysses is no ordinary squirrel—he has super strength and is able to think like a human being. Flora and Ulysses become close companions and go off on many adventures together. But their life together is threatened by Flora’s mother Phyllis who wants to get rid of Ulysses as he has made a habit of typing out much of his life’s philosophy and thoughts about the world on her typewriter. Can Flora and Ulysses outwit Phyllis? A wonderful story about true friendship and a different view of life.

22 July 2016
Brainteaser
What number should replace the “?” in the third circle?

Send your answers to the following e-mail:
Library@bridgehouse.org.za — a bite-size chocolate for the first correct entry received.

The two synonymous words were “ointment” and “liniment” - both circles were read anti-clockwise starting with the missing “o” in the left hand circle and the missing “l” in the right hand one.

From: The Most Enormous Book of Brainteasers

November 2016

GET EXCITED — IT’S ONLY 10 WEEKS TO THE END OF TERM!