



Please return completed application to:
Karen Thompson, City Secretary
100 East Main Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 589 (78691)
Pflugerville, TX 78660
By fax 990-4364
By email to citysecretary@pflugervilletx.gov

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

All information provided in this application is public information pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Public Information Act.

The Library Board submits a 5-year comprehensive library plan; makes recommendations concerning library policy and procedure, programs, services, grants, and fundraising. The Library Board is composed of 7 regular members serving 2-year terms and 1 alternate member serving a 1-year term. The alternate member may vote if a regular member is absent.

Candidates are required to be registered voters of the City and to have resided within the corporate limits for at least twelve months preceding the appointment and must not be employed by or hold any other position in the City's government. All appointments are made by and at the discretion of the City Council. Because vacancies may arise before the next regular appointment period, all applications are kept on file until the next application period.

Name: CARL WASMUTH Telephone: _____

Residential Address: 1510 SANTOLINA COURT, PFLUGERVILLE, TX

E-mail Address: _____ Alternate Telephone: _____

Resident of the City of Pflugerville for 10 years.

Are you are a registered voter of the City of Pflugerville? [X] Yes [] No Voter Registration No. 118688

Have you attended a meeting of the Library Board? [] Yes [X] No

Does any potential conflict of interest exist which may interfere or inhibit you to carry out the duties of a Library Boardmember? [] Yes [X] No (If Yes, please explain.)

Why are you interested in serving on the Library Board?

Please see attached page.

Do you have any previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience?

I am a former member of the Pflugerville Planning and Zoning Commission and a former president of the Bohls Neighborhood Association. I was a delegate to the Texas Republican Convention, Fort Worth, 2012.

What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer?

How will the organization benefit from your participation?

What do you expect from us so that your experience is satisfying?

Please provide any additional information you feel would be useful to the City Council in considering your application. Please use additional sheets as necessary. A cover letter and/or resume may also be submitted with the application.

By signing this application, I hereby affirm that I am aware of the requirements for the position and certify that I meet those requirements.

Applicant Signature: Carl Wesmuth Date: Nov. 15, 2012

Response to: "Why are you interested in serving on the Library Board?"

An online book discussion was begun by the Pflugerville Community Library this year as part of the "Pflugerville Reads One Book" program. The first two books selected for this were *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and *Death Comes to Pemberley*.

The 2012 online discussion (in part recorded on four of the attached pages) was well led and moderated but the level of participation from the city was low.

I am applying for a position on the Library Board for 2013 - 2014 mainly to work toward promoting more interest in online book discussions.

pflugervillereadsonebook

Online book discussion

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FEB
10

February 6 through February 10

Posted on February 10, 2012 by Pflugerville Community Library Online Book Discussion

Hello PF-Readers!

I hope you are enjoying our story so far. I didn't realize the chapters were so short or I would have suggested we read more than just the first!

In **Chapter One: The Cyclone**, we are introduced to Aunt Em and Uncle Henry and of course Dorothy and her beloved little dog Toto. We know that they live in Kansas and are farmers and from the description of the land, house and people we know life is fairly harsh, so much so that the sound of Dorothy's laughter startles her Aunt. We also learn that Dorothy would be lost without Toto who is the one thing that keeps her from growing as gray as her surroundings. It is in this chapter that the cyclone hits and Dorothy is whisked away.

For our first discussion question: What do you think makes *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* so appealing, so timeless and so easily adapted to other media?

Discuss... and feel free to post!

For next week read chapters 2-10!

This project was funded through the Texas Reads Grant administered by the Texas State Library and Archives, the Friends of the Pflugerville Community Library and the Pflugerville Community Library.ention.

Submitted on 2012/02/06 at 4:35 pm

Hello, thanks for commenting!

Yes, I've read that the political and economic themes in the story are still used as teaching tools in universities in the United States and the United Kingdom. I am not that familiar with the political history of the time but I did read (granted it was on Wikipedia) that Baum was a political activist in the 1890s so if that's true it is conceivable that the story is a political allegory.

For anyone wanting to learn more check out *The historian's Wizard of Oz: reading L. Frank Baum's classic as a political and monetary allegory* edited by Ranjit S. Dige and *The Wizard of Oz and philosophy: wicked wisdom of the West* edited by Randall E. Auxier and Phillip S. Seng, available at the Pflugerville Community Library
<https://pflugerville.bibliomx.com/atoz/catalog/>

Does anyone want to comment on symbolism in the *Wizard of Oz* in the context of it being a political and economic commentary?

Self-contradiction in the *Wizard of Oz*?

The *Wizard of Oz* as a Buddhist parable?

Carl Submitted on 2012/02/05 at 8:05 pm

As reading of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is beginning in Pflugerville, it might be of interest to mention "The *Wizard of Oz: Parable on Populism*," an article by Henry M. Littlefield (<http://www.amphagogy.com/oz.htm>) that describes the possible influence that the political climate of the time during which the book was written may have had on the plot and the choice of characters.

In "The *Wizard of Oz as a Monetary Allegory*" (<http://tinyurl.com/Sutopdd>), it is pointed out that Littlefield later backed away from his analysis, but his theory is apparently still receiving attention.

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May 2012

April 2012

March 2012

February 2012

January 2012

Categories

Death Comes to Pemberley

Now at the Library

Sam's Letters to Jennifer

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Uncategorized

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MAR
30

Death Comes to Pemberley

Posted on March 30, 2012 by Pflugerville Community Library Online Book Discussion

Hello Everyone,

By now you should have gotten through the first part of *Death Comes to Pemberley* by PD James. The prologue is pretty much a summary of *Pride and Prejudice* with a little literary license for what happened in the six years between *Pride and Prejudice* and *Death Comes to Pemberley*. If you are familiar with the original, you might be as surprised as I to see that it is Kitty who is unmarried! Didn't we all suspect it would be poor Mary? Having said that, James lets it be known that Lydia is received at both her sister Jane's and her sister Elizabeth's homes. Wickham however, is not.

In any case, back to the novel. Lydia has arrived at the home of her sister Elizabeth (aka Mrs. Darcy) in a state of hysteria screaming that her husband has been killed. We know from the prologue that Lydia is in disgrace for running off with Wickham who then had to be paid off by Fitzwilliam Darcy to marry Lydia. Had Darcy not coerced Wickham into marriage then he would not have been free to marry Elizabeth due to the scandal. Plus, Darcy feels guilty that he did not warn Elizabeth and her family about Wickham's character in the first place.

So, this disgraced Lydia comes screeching to the Darcys' doorstep in the middle of the night on the eve of a very important social occasion, the Lady Anne's Ball. Elizabeth and her sister Jane (aka Ms. Bingley) attempt to calm Lydia as Charles (Mr. Bingley) sends for the doctor.

Last week's question was *Given their "disgrace", do you think the treatment of Lydia and Wickham by the Darcy's and the Bingley's is historically accurate? Too lenient or too harsh?*

Commenter Carl writes:

If the attitude toward Wickham depicted by Austen did not seem to be a plausible and authentic possibility for the time, it would seem to be less likely that her novel would have been accepted as well as it was.

I agree with Carl that Austen's treatment of Wickham and Lydia is absolutely plausible. Disgrace of that nature could and did ruin many women (not so much men) in the Regency Era. They were shunned. Cast-off by society and their family.

While Lydia's marriage helped alleviate some of the stigma, it did not eliminate it. In Austen's novel, the couple is packed off to the "North" presumably to keep contact with them and gossip about them to a minimum. Yet, in James' novel we see Lydia apparently makes frequent (albeit unwanted) visits to Elizabeth and Jane, mostly Jane. Still, I have to wonder, would she have been received at all by her sisters? I think society at that time would have dictated that she not be but human nature and sisterly obligations may well have trumped society and the two women might perhaps have quietly put-up with Lydia's visits. It would be consistent with Jane's gentle character and Lydia's selfish character. I have not read a ton of sequels to *P&P* but I do find that in the three that I have read, poor Lydia never matures or learns from her mistakes. She was only 15 when she ran off. One would hope she would eventually get it together or at least realize what a mess she has made!

Next week: *Read The Body in the Woodland* if you have not done so already. We'll discuss.

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 253

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[August 2012](#)
[July 2012](#)
[June 2012](#)
[May 2012](#)
[April 2012](#)
[March 2012](#)
[February 2012](#)
[January 2012](#)

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[Death Comes to Pemberley](#)
[Now at the Library](#)
[Sam's Letters to Jennifer](#)
[The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#)
[Uncategorized](#)
[Watch the Skies](#)

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Carl on April 9, 2012 at 6:21 am said

Death Comes to Pemberley was written as a sequel to Pride and Prejudice. It was also apparently written as a detective story of the usual sort with clues that allow the reader to identify the perpetrator of a crime before the identity is openly revealed. P.D James, the author, has affirmed in a You Tube video (<http://tinyurl.com/7evr28b>) that such clues do exist.

So it should be interesting for the reader to try to find the clues.

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APR
9

The Body in the Woodland

Posted on April 9, 2012 by Pflugerville Community Library Online Book Discussion

Hello Everyone,

Check-out Carl's comment on the previous post! He provided a great link to a You Tube Video <http://tinyurl.com/7aw28u> of PD James talking about *Death Comes to Pemberley*.

It is in Chapter Two of Book Two Darcy and Fitzwilliam take a small party of men out to the Woodlands where Denny and Wickham had last been seen. Elizabeth, Jane and Bingley were left behind with two servants to look after Lydia.

While we have learned that the woodland is reportedly haunted, we also know that the family of one of the servants lives in the cottage formerly occupied by Darcy's great-grandfather. In this book we get a little insight into Darcy's character by way of the deeds of his great-grandfather George Darcy who apparently rejected his duties and ran off to live as a hermit with his dog in the Woodland. In doing so he was viewed as an embarrassment to his family for shirking his responsibilities. Later, as he and his dog aged, George Darcy shot his dog and committed suicide in the Woodland adding to the stigma. George had apparently left a note requesting to be buried next to his dog but instead he was buried in the family plot and his dog buried in the woodland with a small granite headstone.

In Book Two, we further learn that Darcy's father had feared there might be some weakness in the bloodline and hammered home the importance of his obligations as the inheritor of the estate which explains a lot about why Darcy is a bit... particular.

So, with all of that in mind, the men enter the Woodland and find Wickham bending over the lifeless body of Denny saying "Denny's dead! he was my friend, my only friend, and I've killed him!"

The men pack-up Wickham and Denny and head back towards Pemberley.

This week's discussion question:

Do you think Wickham killed Denny? If so, was it an accident?

For next week:

Read *Book Three: Police and Pemberley* and *Book Four: The Inquest*.

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[April 2012](#)

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[February 2012](#)

[January 2012](#)

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