New York City’s Morgan Library is unique

One of the most remarkable libraries in the United States is New York City’s Morgan Library and Museum. This library was once the personal property of banking mogul Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913), a 19th-century American entrepreneur who collected rare books, drawings, manuscripts, prints, and ancient artifacts. When his extensive collection became too large for his home, he commissioned a personal library to be built adjacent to his residence.

This unique library was built between 1902-1906 in the Italian Renaissance style, emphasizing geometric principles, and representing America’s Age of Elegance. The architecture features elements such as Doric pilasters, Ionic columns, bronze doors, allegorical bas reliefs, and statues of Assyrian lionesses. Tennessee pink marble was the primary building material.

In 1924, upon the death of Pierpont Morgan, his son, J.P. Morgan, Jr., inherited the property and the collections. He instantly recognized that his father’s library was too special to remain in private hands, and so he donated the facility for public use. The building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1966.

The library is located at Madison Ave. and 36th Street in New York City. The complex of buildings includes the original library, a reading room, a museum, an exhibition hall, an education hall, a scholarly research center, a gift shop, a garden courtyard, and two restaurants.

Literary artifacts included in the Morgan’s collection include letters and manuscripts by Twain, Austen, Thoreau, and Wilde; drawings and sketchbooks by Raphael, Michelangelo, DaVinci, Blake, and Turner; and musical manuscripts by Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven, and Verdi. Some of these holdings have been digitalized and are available for public viewing online at www.themorgan.org.

The History Channel web site offers free history, government resources

Social Studies teachers, students, and other interested individuals will find a treasure trove of free history and government resources on a fascinating web site sponsored by The History Channel.

One feature offered on the site is This Day in History, and you can also check out what important historical events occurred on your birthday. You or your students might want to have some fun with the history quiz, which offers a group of 10 general history questions, scores responses, times the participant, and ranks the participant relative to others who have taken the quiz. There is also information about the US citizenship test.

Some of the other materials available are popular topics, including people and themes, photo galleries, videos, audio presentations, downloadable interactives, and study guides. Teachers are also invited to sign up for a classroom email newsletter.

It is particularly helpful that much of the available resources are offered in Spanish. Visit this fun and informative web site at www.history.com and check it out for yourself!
What will libraries of the future look like?

There will be an emphasis on technology in library spaces of the future, reports Thomas Sens in his article “12 Major Trends in Library Design” (Jan. 4, 2010). Sens suggests that every space in the library should be infused with technology. “From providing more power outlets for laptop users to installing complex 3D simulators, library spaces must be planned with appropriate technological amenities in mind,” states Sens. Other technological services Sens predicts will be provided by libraries of the future would include wireless internet and printing access, practice presentation rooms equipped with projection systems and conference tables, advanced computing centers with the latest video and graphics, science software lockers with built-in outlets for charging personal devices such as cell phones and laptops, and distance learning classrooms that provide videoconferencing capabilities and electronic flip charts to share information graphically. He also predicts the availability of 3D visualization spaces such as Fakespace or CAVE, which would provide realistically simulated situations that allow students to interact in virtual environments.

Social site encourages online book discussion

Teachers who assign an outside reading requirement to their students might want to consider encouraging their students to join a school-sponsored social networking site where they can talk to other students about the books they have read. This program is a great way to increase the use of technology in the classroom and encourage student discourse about books, while at the same time cutting down on the teacher’s paper-grading load. Simply ask your students to join the school’s online book club. To do this, go to the ERHS Home Page and click on the Library shortcut. Then click on the link that says “Online Book Club” and follow the given directions to create an account. Once the account has been created, students can add books to their personal “book shelves” in one of three categories: Books I Have Read, Books I Am Currently Reading, and Books I Want to Read. Then the students must request other students in the class and also you as the teacher as a “friend.” It is important that the teacher be added as a friend so that the online conversation between the students can be monitored. Teachers can rely on the safety of the program, as it was created by Follett, the company which created the Destiny library cataloguing system that is used throughout the district. Consider giving this online book club a try!

Notable authors born in the month of March

- March 1, 1913: Ralph Ellison
  - Invisible Man; Shadow and Act
- March 4, 1965: Khaled Hosseini
  - The Kite Runner; A Thousand Splendid Suns
- March 6, 1928: Gabriel Garcia Marquez
  - One Hundred Years of Solitude
- March 12, 1936: Virginia Hamilton
  - The People Could Fly; Justice and Her Brothers
- March 13, 1958: Guillermo Arriaga
  - Un Dulce Olor a Muerte; El Bufalo de la Noche
- March 15, 1825: Harriet E. Wilson
  - Our Nig
- March 20, 1828: Henrik Ibsen
  - A Doll’s House; An Enemy of the People
- March 26, 1874: Robert Frost
  - New England poet
- March 26, 1911: Tennessee Williams
  - A Streetcar Named Desire; The Glass Menagerie
- March 26, 1941: Sandra Benitez
  - A Place Where the Sea Remembers; Bitter Grounds
- March 28, 1926: Ronyoung Kim
  - Clay Walls
- March 30, 1920: Anna Sewell
  - Black Beauty

—Chinese Proverb

“A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.”

—I took up a sort of hobby of just hanging around the local library. I’d pick out an author and I would read all their books.”

—Tom T. Hall
Interview: What is on Patty Bickel’s book shelf?

Each issue we interview a member of the Mustang community to find out his or her all-time favorite books. This issue we asked Ms. Patty Bickel, an instructor in the Science Department, to talk about reading.

Ms. Bickel tells us that reading is a leisure-time activity that she learned to enjoy as an adult. “When I was young, I never really enjoyed reading. It always felt like a chore,” she admits. “Now, I cherish any free time I might have to myself—to have the opportunity to open a book, or turn on my Kindle, and escape into another world.” She reports that her favorite place to read is on her front porch on a warm day.

Ms. Bickel’s favorite genre of reading material? She says that lately she has been reading biographies and autobiographies. She says, “I think it’s inspirational to hear some of the struggles that people had to endure through their life.” Her favorite author? “Most recently it has to be Alison Arngrim, Nellie Oleson from Little House on the Prairie. She is hilarious!” says Ms. Bickle.

Here are Ms. Bickle’s five all-time favorite books:

- The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
- Sula by Toni Morrison
- Confessions of a Prairie B-Word by Alison Arngrim
- The Bible

khanacademy.com offers great math tutorials free!

Math teachers looking to guide their students toward some really great math tutorials to help clarify or reinforce concepts taught in the classroom might want to consider khanacademy.com. This web site presents over 1600 short, repeatable lessons on subjects such as basic edition, algebra, simple equations, linear equations, intro to limits, calculus, physics, and SAT math. The difficulty level of the material goes from high school up to college level. Lessons are accompanied by web-based exercises to give students an opportunity to practice the concepts covered.

Khan’s tutorials are presented in a very simple manner—looking very much like the blackboard and chalk of traditional classrooms—but many students find these simple “electronic blackboard” presentations easy to follow.

The author of these tutorials, Salman Khan, has an extensive background in math, engineering, computer science, and investment management. He holds three degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from Harvard. Additionally, Khan’s web site garnered a Microsoft Technology Award for Education in 2009 and the personal praise of Bill Gates. But the site’s best endorsement is the number of hits it receives—khanacademy.com receives over 35,000 hits each day.

Reference books about world poets available in Mustang Library

Language Arts teachers might be interested to know that there is a three-volume encyclopedia set about world poets available in the reference section of the Mustang Library.

This reference source was written specifically for high school students, and can be trusted for accuracy, as it was edited by Ron Padgett, and published by Scribner’s Sons under the auspices of the Gale Group, New York, in 2000.

Each entry includes a brief biographical sketch of the poet, a photograph, if possible, and a sample poem by that author. Sidebars define key terms and other unusual words from the entry. A selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, including pertinent web sites, can be found at the end of each entry.

In addition, the volumes contain thematic essays on various poetic subjects. Topics such as oral poetry, Tudor and Elizabethan poetry, Native-American poetry, Harlem Renaissance Poetry, Spanish-American poetry, Asian-American poetry, calligrammatic and concrete poetry, performance poetry, and troubadours. Some basic poetic forms and advice on writing poetry are also covered.

An appendix covering poetic meter and an appendix providing lists of major prizewinners are also included.

“The essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple.”

—S. Gudder
**Book Review**

Odysseus’s epic journey retold in richly illustrated graphic novel

Anyone who teaches Freshman English, art teachers, and anyone who loves classical mythology will certainly want to examine the newest version of *The Odyssey*, a graphic novel by Gareth Hinds, which has just been added to the ERHS Library collection. This beautiful book was published in 2010 by Candlewick Press.

Hinds’ book preserves the original plot-line of the classic story by Homer. The hero Odysseus attempts to return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War, a journey that takes him 20 years. His journey is fraught with danger and delay, because many people, creatures, and gods create obstacles he must overcome. The men under Odysseus’ command are loyal to him, but they are very bad at following orders, which results in even more delays and many tragic deaths. In fact, only Odysseus returns home alive. Meanwhile, his faithful wife Penelope patiently waits for him while fend off scores of impatient suitors. Luckily for the hero, he does have a few powerful allies, including the goddess Athena.

This lavishly illustrated book is comprised of 250 pages of beautiful color images. The rough layouts, final type, panel borders, and dialogue balloons were created digitally. The story-line pictures were first drawn in pencil and then painstakingly colored with multi-hued watercolors. Hinds’ art very skillfully captures the wine-dark sea, the rosy-fingered dawn, the Land of the Dead, and many of the other settings and characters found in the original text.

Customer reviews published on Amazon rated this volume at five stars. Additionally, it has received rave reviews from *Library Journal* and *Booklist*.

![The Odyssey](image)

New books added to the catalogue of the Mustang Library

**Nonfiction**

- *The Air-Raid Warden Was a Spy and Other Tales from Home-Front America in World War II* by William Breuer
- *Unraveling Freedom: The Battle for Democracy on the Home Front During World War I* by Ann Bausum
- *The Good, The Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll’s History and Her Impact on Us* by Tanya Lee Stone
- *Classic Wiley: A Lifetime of Punchers, Players, Punks, & Prophets* by Ralph Wiley

**Fiction**

- *The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel* by Gareth Hinds
- *I Was Jane Austen’s Best Friend* by Cora Harrison
- *Real Live Boyfriends* by E. Lockhart
- *A Time of Miracles* by Anne-Laure Bondoux
- *Son of a Witch* by Gregory Maguire
- *Ghost Ship* by Dietlof Reiche
- *The Sledding Hill* by Chris Crutcher

The mission of the Corona Norco Unified School District is to ensure that students use information and ideas effectively and demonstrate the ability to access, locate, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The vision of the Corona Norco Unified School District is to ensure that all students are information-literate and that students are independent, competent readers.