

Review Time

The Valley of Amazement, Amy Tan

Amy Tan's *The Valley of Amazement* explores the world of Shanghai courtesans and as such is geared more towards adult readers. It opens in 1905, as a stunningly self-assured seven-year-old named Violet Minturn bursts on to the page.

“When I was seven, I knew exactly who I was: a thoroughly American girl in race and manners ... whose mother ... owned a first-class courtesan house in Shanghai.”

The precocious Violet is in for a rude awakening.

This is a world in which women are sold and their names changed to suit the whim of whoever owns them. Violet's life as a woman leaves her totally vulnerable to exploitation. Her experiences, determination and travails give you an insight into another world, a microcosm of China in the early 20th Century; but the plight of women in this era, as in earlier ones, was similar across cultures. *The Valley of Amazement* also resurrects pivotal episodes in history: the collapse of China's last imperial dynasty; the rise of the Republic and the explosive growth of lucrative foreign trade and anti-foreign sentiment.

Her writing in this novel is a little laboured and at times, verges on melodrama, but is still a very interesting narrative.

Amy Tan has made her name with novels such as *The Joy Luck Club* (1987) and *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2000), both excellent novels.

Library Opening Hours

Before School – 8:30am-
RAK (Wednesday 9am-
Assembly)
Recess 2
Lunch 1 – Years 10-12

Study Periods - Years 11-12
Homework Centre – 3:30-
5pm

Library Newsletter

Kempsey High School – Winter 2017

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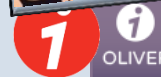
Children's Book Week

ESCAPE TO EVERYWHERE
CBCA BOOK WEEK 19-26 AUGUST 2017

The CBCA, through Book Week every year, highlights literature for young Australians. They inform, promote critical debate, foster creative responses, and engage with and encourage Australian authors and illustrators to produce quality literature. Through these efforts, they are nurturing a literate, educated and creative society. Please borrow some of this year's entries that have just arrived in our school Library.



Do You Remember?



You can get the Library on your desktop, laptop, tablet or phone!!

You can search our library database for resources anywhere in the school or at home. While you are signed into the Det Portal – add My School Library to Essentials. You can also download the App on your tablet or Smartphone.

Our Future Library

Future plans for the reinvention and redesign of our school library are progressing well. The future space will benefit the whole school in many ways. It will create greater equity of access, be more flexible and responsive, and implement newer technologies for benefits of students, staff and the community

What's been happening ...

The MPS Leadership Conference

The MPS (Macleay Public Schools) Leadership Conference was held in our Library recently. Students from the different public schools, both Primary and High School attended. Through a variety of games and exercises they explored the skills necessary for leadership. As in past years, it was extremely successful and they all loved the day, enjoyed the games, the school captain's speech and building their confidence in leadership roles.

"I was able to learn what a great leader was about. It is not just about being popular or to stand out; it is just to help others."

"The 'Stranded on a desert island' game was very useful. Loved that game – fun and thought provoking."

"Everyone can help make the school a better place – not just leaders."

The Science and Engineering Challenge



The Library and other areas around the school were home to groups of students taking part in the Science and Engineering Challenge which is organized by the University of Newcastle and Rotary Club of Kempsey. Over 600 primary and high school students visited Kempsey High School during the Challenge to engage in activities involving critical thinking, design and building. Among a range of highly engaging hands-on activities, students had to build a hovercraft, wire a virtual city for power, design a suspension buggy, and construct a catapult. The annual event aims to lift students' interest in studying Science, Mathematics and Technology.

New Resources New Magazines!!!

... For all KLA's
Mindfood! Artlink!

Donna Hay, Fresh and Light! PLUS ... a variety your favourites ... Hyper, Dirt Bike History Today, Earth Garden, Mad, Delicious, Frankie ...
Come and take a look!

Japanese Display

