



LitChat May 31 & June 2, 2010

Topic of the Week: Belonging

Open Chat

MONDAY, May 31, 2010

LitChat Welcome to a new week in #litchat. We're discussing books with themes of BELONGING. Think misfits and outsiders. Join us for the next hour. -1:02 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman South of Broad by Pat Conroy #litchat -1:03 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Hi all, I'm here, hopefully for the whole hour. SF Mystery writer from Ottawa, Canada #litchat -1:03 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Who's with us this week? Take a moment to introduce yourself and let the chat begin. #litchat -1:04 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Can you give us a brief summary of how it fits topic? RT @SusanCushman: South of Broad by Pat Conroy #litchat -1:04 PM May 31st, 2010

RuthEDay I'm here. A bit distracted by memorial day festivities, though. Might just be lurking. #litchat -1:05 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black Bekka Black here. YA fantasy/horror writer. I vote for Plainsong. Everyone is searching for belonging there #litchat -1:06 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam Hi all, I'm William I'm a published indie author who really enjoys #litchat :-)-1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon Hi, everyone, I am new. Marsha. Might just lurk too, I am a newbie and a writer wannabee working on my first book. #litchat -1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black But I would argue that most fiction takes place after the character has left the place of belonging to venture into the wild. #litchat -1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

ZBooksTX Will be popping in and out while editing w/an author. Liz Burton from Zumaya Publications in Texas. #litchat #litchat -1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman I'm Susan fr Memphis writing novel about an orphan-graffiti artist-cult survivor, rural GA in 60s & 70s #litchat <http://tinyurl.com/372e3m5> -1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

AudryT RT @LitChat: Welcome to a new week in #litchat. We're discussing books with themes of BELONGING. Think misfits and outsiders. Join us. -1:07 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam I would agree with @bekka_black that a lot of fiction has this element in some form. So many of us can relate to it #litchat -1:09 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Currently reading James Patterson's YA series Maximum Ride. Perfect series for today's theme #litchat -1:09 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat @ZBooksTX Great to see you here again, Liz! #litchat -1:09 PM May 31st, 2010

AudryT Multi-tasking, but I'm here. Former manga/comics editor, and always a writer. :-) Nice to meet anyone new! #litchat -1:09 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Welcome @mpherndon and any other newbies. #litchat -1:10 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black Plus, it seems like no one really thinks they belong completely. I think everyone feels like an outsider sometimes #litchat -1:11 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger hey, there is a #litchat today! cool! :) #litchat -1:11 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger RT @LitChat: Welcome to a new week in #litchat. Were discussing books with themes of BELONGING. Think misfits and outsiders. #litchat -1:11 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam The Murderer's Daughters by @RandySusanMeyer deals with this because the children lose both their parents (one dies, one jailed) #litchat -1:12 PM May 31st, 2010

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mdbenoit2 @techtigger Hey, there, nice to see you again. #litchat -1:12 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon Also interesting to me is people who "look" as though they fit in or seem to fit in but to themselves feel like an outsider. #litchat -1:12 PM May 31st, 2010
Madison_Woods Interesting topic. Didn't realize it was so common a phenomenon. Applies to me, for sure. #litchat -1:12 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @techtigger Hola! :-) #litchat -1:13 PM May 31st, 2010
LitChat @bekka_black Interesting idea you pose about misfit stories beginning after leaving place of belonging. Can you give examples? #litchat -1:13 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon Think someone from a certain economic class who grows up to have money but never seems to fit in. #litchat -1:13 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @mpherndon Nice. The various layers of belonging. If they don't feel they belong even if they are welcomed...do they still belong? #litchat -1:14 PM May 31st, 2010
lanB022 Hi #litchat - give me five minutes to catch up! -1:14 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black Most Grimm's fairy tales have either quests, or lost mother/father: the family you belonged to is gone (Cinderella, Snow White) #litchat -1:15 PM May 31st, 2010
LitChat You got it! RT @lanB022: Hi #litchat - give me five minutes to catch up! #litchat -1:15 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black Or Harry Potter (no parents, new world); Percy Jackson (no father); Spiderwick Chronicles (no father) #litchat -1:16 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger a lot of stories show a person being put into a leadership role, which sets them apart from everyone, even if they belonged before #litchat -1:16 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @bekka_black Are you equating not belonging with a lack of parent(s)? #litchat -1:17 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger @mdbenoit2 *waves* Hi! good to be back :) #litchat -1:17 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon @authorWilliam I don't haha #litchat -1:17 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black @mdbenoit. Yes. I think losing a parent upsets the family and everyone wonders if they belong. Plus the outside world notices too. #litchat -1:18 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger @AuthorWilliam hey there! *waves* :) #litchat -1:18 PM May 31st, 2010
AudryT I don't think loss of parents is the reason for a character not belonging, but it can contribute to their problems. #litchat -1:19 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @bekka_black How about fractured or reconstituted families? Same? #litchat -1:19 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @mpherndon Well you belong here :-) #litchat -1:19 PM May 31st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Harry Potter is the ultimate misfit hero; rises from abused outsider to neo-messiah. #litchat -1:19 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 RT @AudryT: I dont think loss of parents is the reason for a character not belonging, but it can contribute to their problems. #litchat -1:20 PM May 31st, 2010
girlfrombim Relocation and migration can contribute to characters not belonging #litchat -1:20 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 But fits nowhere, really RT @CarolyBurnsBass: Harry Potter is the ultimate misfit hero; rises from abused outsider to neo-messiah. #litchat -1:20 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger I think it's either losing that sense of belonging to a family (losing parents) or never having belonged to one (orphan) #litchat -1:21 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 Definitely: RT @girlfrombim: Relocation and migration can contribute to characters not belonging #litchat -1:21 PM May 31st, 2010

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mpherndon @girlfrombim I agree. We moved so much when I was a child, I guess that is why I have always felt like an outsider. #litchat -1:21 PM May 31st, 2010
LitChat Some have already listed elements that contribute to a character's sense of displacement. Let's talk more about these. #litchat -1:21 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @AudryT I think a family being broken apart and really challenge a child's sense of belonging both general and acute. #litchat -1:21 PM May 31st, 2010
AudryT There's also being the outsider in one's own family. Family members don't get character or even disapprove of them. #litchat -1:22 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black @mmbbenoit2. It doesn't hav to be the same, but it can be. #litchat -1:22 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam True RT @AudryT There's also being the outsider in one's own family. Family members don't get character or even disapprove of them. #litchat -1:23 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 The black sheep RT @AudryT: also being the outsider in ones own family. Family members dont get char. or even disapprove of them. #litchat -1:23 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black To go with everyone's a misfit: In Harry Potter: Harry and Hermoine are in a strange world, Ron wants to stand out in his family #litchat -1:23 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam Family dynamics is a "high percentage choice" when working with the issue of belonging in stories. #litchat -1:23 PM May 31st, 2010
SusanCushman @LitChat abuse or abandonment, even if child is adopted into "nice home" later #litchat -1:24 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam But it's not only children who feel they don't belong. e.g., divorced of single char. among married friends #litchat -1:24 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon @mdbenoit2 True #litchat -1:25 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @mdbenoit2 But it's not only children who feel they don't belong. e.g., divorced of single char. among married friends #litchat / Agreed -1:25 PM May 31st, 2010
George9Writer Fiction about a character outside comfort zone, in a hostile world, is more interesting. His responses reveal his character. #litchat -1:26 PM May 31st, 2010
IanB022 Being thrust into a different role - a la Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe series #litchat -1:26 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger the flip side to all this is stories where people band together to get that sense of belonging, even if it's for the wrong reasons #litchat -1:26 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @George9Writer But does someone who feels he doesn't belong have a comfort zone? #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon @George9Writer not even hostile world, just maybe one he isn't agreeable to? #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 Absolutely. There are lots of layers here because so often the initial feeling of belonging is in the context of family. #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger think of lord of the flies, or oliver twist - kids banding together, or an older figure creating a group for them to belong to #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
annleary Sounds like @shrinkchat RT @LitChat: Some have ...elements that contribute to a sense of displacement. Let's talk more about these. #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Good question. RT @mdbenoit2: @George9Writer But does someone who feels he doesnt belong have a comfort zone? #litchat -1:27 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @techtigger: the flip side to all this is stories where people band together to get that sense of belonging, even if it's for the wrong reasons #litchat -1:28 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black @mdbenoit2: I think so. Harry P is comfortable on the Quidditch pitch, lots of characters have secret places they go to feel safe #litchat -1:29 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger Nice. A feeling of belonging to something unhealthy or even destructive. #litchat -1:29 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @mdbenoit2 Yes, probably. He may feel he doesn't, but chances are he has a support system ... until he doesn't. #litchat -1:29 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Gangs, too RT @techtigger: think of lord of the flies, or oliver twist - kids banding together #litchat -1:29 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon @bekka_black Absolutely, your comfort zone may not be with anyone but yourself. #litchat -1:30 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @mpherndon Sure, but in fiction there has to be some barrier between belonging/not belonging that causes conflict. #litchat -1:30 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat ☺ RT@annleary: Sounds like @shrinkchat Some have ...elements that contribute to a sense of displacement. Lets talk more about these. #litchat -1:30 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black True RT @mpherndon Sure, but in fiction there has to be some barrier between belonging/not belonging that causes conflict. #litchat -1:31 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon @George9Writer Of course, yes. #litchat -1:31 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 Good example #litchat -1:32 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Many char. will do perverse things to belong, yet it usually doesn't quite work the way they thought/hope #litchat -1:33 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @mdbenoit2: Many char. will do perverse things to belong, yet it usually doesn't quite work the way they thought/hope #litchat -1:34 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @LitChat displacement: divorce, leaving home, homelessness, imprisonment, hospitalization, travel, unfamiliar locales, languages #litchat -1:34 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Thinking mainly of gang members, for instance #litchat -1:34 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger yes, some people will do anything not to lose that sense of belonging RT @mdbenoit2: Thinking mainly of gang members, for instance #litchat -1:35 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 @George9Writer @LitChat Re. displacement: on this special day, also soldiers who come back from the front... #litchat -1:35 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 Then u can turn it on its head & tell stories about the nobility present in such belonging, i.e. good intent, bad acts #litchat -1:36 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger absolutely, trying to belong again after traumatic change RT @LitChat displacement: also soldiers who come back from the front... #litchat -1:37 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @mdbenoit2 Yes, good one. Lots of those guys get it overseas, then get it back home too - double displacement #litchat -1:37 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? #litchat -1:37 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam Or someone using that yearning to have them do bad things #litchat -1:38 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon Most people identify with it, I think... #litchat -1:38 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger Everyone can relate - we've all felt like outsiders, at some point RT @LitChat: Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? #litchat -1:38 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black Not to mention those to whom those soldiers return. Both are changed and belonging together again is difficult. #litchat -1:38 PM May 31st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Absolutely. RT @mdbenoit2: displacement: on this special day, also soldiers who come back from the front... #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger There's a book of essays called "A Piece of my Heart" about women who served in Vietnam. Shirley Lauro made it a play #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 French saying: one's pleasure it to see the other suffer RT @LitChat: Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
MoonWolf95 It's rare readers can't identify somehow with a char that feels outside, everyone's been there to a degree - they want them to win #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
IanB022 Melvyn Bragg's SOLDIER'S RETURN - wartime son not knowing father RT @mdbenoit2: also soldiers who come back from the front... #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
RuthEDay RT @LitChat: Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? Because we immediately empathize with the main char. #litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
ridingnwriting Survivors guilt after an accident or event can lead to lead to a sense of displacement.#litchat -1:39 PM May 31st, 2010
HeatherMcCorkle RT @AudryT: There's also being the outsider in one's own family. Family members don't get character or even disapprove of them. #litchat -1:40 PM May 31st, 2010
SusanCushman @LitChat novels w misfit characters are engaging because most of us feel "left out" at some level. It's universal appeal. #litchat -1:40 PM May 31st, 2010
DebraMarrs @mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam @CarolyBurnsBass So sorry to be missing #litchat but doing Memorial Day things today w/veterans -1:40 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon @ridingnwriting So true! #litchat -1:40 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @techtigger The book and the play are amazing. Had the pleasure of directing it. Powerful stuff, right on point with our topic. #litchat -1:40 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @DebraMarrs Worthwile reason to miss #litchat -1:41 PM May 31st, 2010
George9Writer @LitChat Misfits much more likely to run into conflict, and conflict is what makes fiction interesting. #litchat -1:41 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @DebraMarrs Thanks for dropping a line! Enjoy your day! #litchat -1:41 PM May 31st, 2010
SusanCushman @George9Writer excellent. gotta have conflict, and "misfits" might not have the ways & means to hide theirs #litchat -1:42 PM May 31st, 2010
techtigger @AuthorWilliam wow, I will have to check that out! thanks! #litchat -1:42 PM May 31st, 2010
bekka_black Gotta run, but thanks for the thought-provoking dialogue! #litchat -1:42 PM May 31st, 2010
mdbenoit2 @bekka_black Later! Nice to meet you. #litchat -1:43 PM May 31st, 2010
SusanCushman @DebraMarrs got your priorities right, Debra. Pray for my son, Jon, flying copters in Afghanastan right now #litchat -1:43 PM May 31st, 2010
AuthorWilliam @bekka_black Take care! Good to meet you! #litchat -1:43 PM May 31st, 2010
JM_Kelley The misfits get to voice everything we think but are too chicken to say out loud. #litchat -1:43 PM May 31st, 2010
LanceRey @LitChat something primal inside of us wants a champion to the circumstances. we hope that the individual wins over the staus quo. #litchat -1:43 PM May 31st, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass @DebraMarrs Missing you here, but happy you're working with veterans today. I think Memorial Day is tough for veterans of all ages. #litchat -1:44 PM May 31st, 2010
mpherndon @JM_Kelley I agree, I think sometimes they represent a part of who we might wish we were. #litchat -1:44 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman so, how do we help those outsider characters come to terms w life? How do we help the abused, the abandoned, heal? #litchat -1:44 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger The only play that made me seriously need a Kleenex just from reading it. And I ain't ashamed to admit that, lol #litchat -1:44 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman RT @JM_Kelley: The misfits get to voice everything we think but are too chicken to say out loud. #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

LanceRey @LitChat they inspire us to accept the misfits we know and the misfits we are... #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass YES! RT @LanceRey: something primal inside of us wants a champion to the circumstances. we hope the individual wins over staus quo. #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman @bekka_black thank YOU. Have a great day. see you again here? #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

ridingnwriting @George9Writer Misfits also seem to have a tendency for misinterpreting a situation and acting in exactly the wrong manner #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger I was at a gym on an exercise bike when I finished it so, you know. I had to keep it cool & handled. hehe #litchat -1:45 PM May 31st, 2010

JM_Kelley @mpherndon Definitely. Life on the fringes means a life at least partially free of the social confines of those who 'fit in'. #litchat -1:46 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @SusanCushman Yes, and misfits also conflict with conformists, which can include individuals, institutions, whole world. #litchat -1:46 PM May 31st, 2010

MoonWolf95 @SusanCushman You give them back power over their life, usually? Face tormenter, escape, lead rebellion, find love ... #litchat -1:47 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black @SusanCushman Thanks! I hope so. It's MWF at 10, right? #litchat -1:47 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger @AuthorWilliam *lol* :) #litchat -1:47 PM May 31st, 2010

patrickrigney @LitChat The flaws are typically going to result in an active character, one with purpose. Misfits are simply more interesting. #litchat -1:48 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon @JM_Kelley I agree, who doesn't want to live in that world! #litchat -1:48 PM May 31st, 2010

bookladysblog Because we all secretly feel like misfits. RT @LitChat: Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? #litchat -1:48 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger :) #litchat -1:48 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger Yes, can be cathartic for reader to see them succeed RT @LanceRey: something inside of us wants a champion to the circumstances. #litchat -1:48 PM May 31st, 2010

MoonWolf95 @George9Writer That can flip around pretty funnily - Non-Conformist's Union Local 404 springs to mind :) #litchat -1:49 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer RT @patrickrigney The flaws typically result in an active character, one with purpose. Misfits are simply more interesting. #litchat -1:50 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 It can be a form of surrogate living (recognition) and hope RT @LitChat: Why are novels with misfit characters so engaging? #litchat -1:51 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman @bekka_black No, I think it's MWF at 3 pm Central, right? #litchat -1:51 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @MoonWolf95 Yeah, if you don't pay your dues to the Outsiders Union, when they kick you out, are you then a conformist? #litchat -1:52 PM May 31st, 2010

HoodedMan RT @JM_Kelley @mpherndon Life on the fringes means a life at least partially free of the social confines of those who 'fit in'. #litchat -1:52 PM May 31st, 2010

bekka_black @SusanCushman Ah, that's 10 am Hawaii. Thanks! #litchat -1:53 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat @SusanCushman @bekka_black #litchat is always M-W-F, 4pmET. We have guest authors for each Friday chat. #litchat -1:53 PM May 31st, 2010

SusanCushman who wants to help NAME my "misfit" character an orphan-hippie-love-child-graffiti artist in 60s Georgia? <http://tinyurl.com/372e3m5> #litchat -1:54 PM May 31st, 2010

MoonWolf95 @George9Writer Yep - or, in a society of anarchists, is a conformist an outsider, and how do they handle such a warped conflict #litchat -1:55 PM May 31st, 2010

brownies1 ME! RT @SusanCushman: who wants to help NAME my "misfit" character an orphan-hippie-love-child-graffiti artist in 60s Georgia? #litchat -1:58 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer @MoonWolf95 I think conformists would be welcome in an anarchy, as long as they didn't try to take over, or legislate. #litchat -1:59 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 Well, gotta scoot. Nice chatting with y'all! #litchat -1:59 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Great convo today about why misfit characters are so successful in fiction. On Wednesday we'll discuss specific titles. 4-5 pmET #litchat -1:59 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @bookladysblog Agreed. Misfits strength in stories so often has to do with how well we can relate them and their "misfitness" #litchat -2:00 PM May 31st, 2010

mpherndon @LitChat Thanks, it was fun! I will be back. #litchat -2:00 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 Take care, good to meet you! #litchat :-)-2:00 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger RT @LitChat: Great convo today about why misfit characters are so successful in fiction. Wed well discuss specific titles. 4-5 pmET #litchat -2:00 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger @LitChat thanks again for a great chat! #litchat -2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @LitChat As always, great #litchat. Thanks! :-)-2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam Same here. See you in Twitterland! #litchat -2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

sparling RT @bookladysblog Because we all secretly feel like misfits. RT @LitChat: #litchat // What do you mean, "secretly?" -2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

JM_Kelley @LitChat I'll try to remember what day it is so I don't miss next #litchat -2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mpherndon Have a great week, hope to see you Wednesday #litchat :-)-2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

techtigger Bye! See you wed. :) @AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 #litchat -2:01 PM May 31st, 2010

MoonWolf95 @George9Writer Interesting ... I'd think it'd be the opposite. Have to think on that one now :) #litchat -2:02 PM May 31st, 2010

AuthorWilliam @techtigger See you Wednesday! #litchat -2:03 PM May 31st, 2010

mdbenoit2 @techtigger Hopefully I'll be there. See you! #litchat -2:03 PM May 31st, 2010

George9Writer Thanks, all, for another great #litchat! -2:03 PM May 31st, 2010

brownies1 Matilda-Lee @SusanCushman who wants to help NAME my "misfit" character an orphan-hippie-love-child-graffiti artist in 60s Georgia? #litchat -2:04 PM May 31st, 2010

LitChat Additional thanks to all of you regular #litchattics for --as always-- excellent conversation. #litchat. See you on Wednesday. -2:06 PM May 31st, 2010

MoonWolf95 @LitChat Was great conversation, looking forwards to more! #litchat -2:07 PM May 31st, 2010

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

LitChat Welcome to #litchat. We're continuing our convo about BELONGING. Please introduce your self and let's begin! -1:02 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
IanB022 @LitChat Good evening #litchat -1:03 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
alisonwells RT @LitChat: Welcome to #litchat. We're continuing our convo about BELONGING. Please introduce your self and let's begin! -1:03 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer George, author of Jimmy, being pubbed next year - aloha! #litchat -1:04 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @robynmcintyre here. How about Grapes of Wrath where a whole population becomes outsiders? #litchat -1:04 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie Hello everyone! #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TheNewAuthor Hello everyone #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat What's the weather like in your twitterverse? Today I'm in North Carolina where the sky is rumbling and flashing and pouring rain. #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Charlene Ann Baumbich here. Author. Semi-lurking today, working under Friday magazine deadline. #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat That cell phone alarm worked! Yay! RT @katmagendie: Hello everyone! #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden Jevon, book editor, just being a fly on the wall and if I can help, I'm here. #litchat -1:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @LitChat I have the North Carolina weather, too - the mountains are misty and rainy #litchat -1:06 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan Hello All! Long time no #litchat! How about YA novel Looking for Alaska by Jon Green? Misfits united in boarding school #litchat -1:06 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @LitChat A perfect day in the redwoods and at the beach in sunny Santa Cruz, CA. #litchat -1:06 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat @robynmcintyre GRAPES OF WRATH is an excellent example. Shall we talk a bit about this familiar title? #litchat -1:06 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat One of my favorite places. RT @robynmcintyre: @LitChat A perfect day in the redwoods and at the beach in sunny Santa Cruz, CA. #litchat -1:07 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 Hi all, I'm here. SF Mystery writer from Ottawa, Canada #litchat -1:07 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TheNewAuthor @LitChat It is sunny and in the 80's here in West Virginia #litchat -1:07 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @TheNewAuthor Oh West Virginia - my homestate *smiling* #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @LitChat hello! Great topic. I've never felt belonging in literature like I did in Ginsberg's Howl #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie I guess I should introduce myself: Kathryn (or Kat) Magendie, southern/women's fiction author. :) #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @womenonwriting WOW! Blog: Poetry and Writing Contest Deadlines: Get writing and get entering: http://ow.ly/1Tf9k #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @LitChat Weather started out sunny, now it looks like thunderstorms with humidex of 29C #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Winona MN = 68, cloudy, rain coming, I think. Feels humid, but good, though. #litchat -1:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
IanB022 @LitChat Warm, cloudy, just going dark #litchat -1:09 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

Topic of the Week:

Belonging - p 8

May 31 & June 2, 2010

www.litchat.net

LitChat Welcome. RT @jevonbolden: Jevon, book editor, just being a fly on the wall and if I can help, Im here. #litchat -1:09 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @LitChat The entire Joad family, with Tom as the viewpoint, represents the population of dispossessed "Okies" (outsiders). #litchat -1:09 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
readingape "Howl" is when being an outsider went mainstream, good call #litchat -1:09 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam Lovin' that RT @robynmcintyre A perfect day in the redwoods and at the beach in sunny Santa Cruz, CA. #litchat -1:10 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden @LitChat Thanks so much! BTW, it's sunny here in Florida. Rain expected at some point, though. #litchat -1:10 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam Hi all! William, published indie author. THE DARK PROVINCE: SON OF DUPRIN. Checking in to #litchat :-) -1:11 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan Does "The Outsiders" belong here? I always think it's funny when people see themselves as not belonging, but have 10 friends. #litchat -1:11 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
dianeestrella RT @katmagendie: I guess I should introduce myself: Kathryn (or Kat) Magendie, southern/women's fiction author. :) #litchat -1:11 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam Hey, William. *waves* #litchat -1:12 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan Overcast in LA, perfect #litchat weather. -1:12 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CH_Publishing @LitChat Orlando, FL here. Loretta, author, teacher, CEO #litchat -1:12 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat In GRAPES OF WRATH, how do the characters--the Joads--deal with their alienation? #litchat -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar @AuthorWilliam Hey, William! Good to see you! #litchat -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Kate_Malinoski Hello...journalism student here to check out the chat. #litchat -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
nineveh_havant #litchat - whose idea was it to award the Lost Booker to Troubles when its out of print? -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam Represent! :-) #LA RT @KaylaCagan Overcast in LA, perfect #litchat weather. -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 Hi there! How are you? #litchat -1:13 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @readingape yeah, Howl gave outsiders a place where we belong - we're all in Rockland :)! #litchat -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @TwinkleChar Hi Charlene! Always great to see you at #litchat :-) -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
nineveh_havant #litchat - great book, but speaking as a bookshop owner - expletive deleted !!!!! -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat @dianeestrella You bring up a good point about THE OUTSIDERS having gang of friends. When do outsiders become insiders? #litchat -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer @agnieszkasshoes Oi Dan! Just had two stories accepted by Metazen #litchat - you literary rebel you! -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @LitChat It's been so long since I read Grapes of Wrath (High School) not sure if I remember it well enough #litchat -1:14 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat Welcome. We love and support students. RT @Kate_Malinoski: Hello...journalism student here to check out the chat. #litchat -1:15 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @LitChat maybe when they consider themselves outsiders - outsiders don't always have an awareness of their outsideness #litchat -1:15 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan Don't the family characters in GOW cling to each other? Isn't the bigger problem simple survival? And continuing their family line? #litchat -1:15 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar @LitChat Re outsider becomes insider when someone relates to them, including the reader. #litchat -1:15 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
nineveh_havant Just out of interest - do you guys in North America know about J G Farrell? #litchat -1:15 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @Kate_Malinoski Welcome! #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @LitChat W/ strength & w/o losing their dignity, which spks to the dehumanization of thse who try to dominate, enslave, destroy thm. #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @TwinkleChar: @LitChat Re outsider becomes insider when someone relates to them, including the reader. #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @TwinkleChar Brilliant! #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @TwinkleChar Or when insider sees something the outsider can bring him/her #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LaughAtlantis @LitChat I think it's when they stand outside the norms of society. Even with friends, the group doesn't belong. #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
readingape GOW is a survival tale, most "outsider" stories tend to be more about a given society or community. The Joads are economic refugees #litchat -1:16 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
myotherhand hello #litchat friends -1:17 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @katmagendie And that's usually what turns an outsider-based novel from a tragedy to a comedy. Confederacy of Dunces? #litchat -1:17 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @katmagendie Great point! #litchat -1:17 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @myotherhand welcome! :-) #litchat -1:17 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mpherndon Hi, late to the party! #litchat -1:17 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Well, that pretty much made my day! Thanks. :)/RT @KaylaCagan: @TwinkleChar Brilliant! #litchat -1:18 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie Once they are "wanted" they are no longer on outside? Even if they reject #litchat -1:18 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
myotherhand @AuthorWilliam hey, happy to "see" you again.. i missed #litchat soooo much -1:18 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @KaylaCagan And that's usually what turns an outsider-based novel from a tragedy to a comedy. Confederacy of Dunces? #litchat >yes! #litchat -1:18 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
IanB022 Nick Hornby's ABOUT A BOY good example there RT @TwinkleChar: outsider becomes insider when someone relates to them. #litchat -1:19 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
myotherhand @mpherndon you're not the only one who's late;)) #litchat -1:19 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer @katmagendie Good point, Kat - brings character's self-awareness into question #litchat -1:19 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @LitChat it's important for outsiders not to become "insiders" in the sense of being assimilated #litchat -1:20 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @IanB022 Or are we making ourselves the outsiders when we identify with them, their condition, their cause? #litchat -1:20 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mpherndon @myotherhand indeed! #litchat -1:20 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @George9Writer Yes, with self-awareness comes the next step: choice... #litchat -1:20 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @LitChat that's why Howl is so important - it creates a space to belong without having 2 define oneself in relation 2 "the other" #litchat -1:21 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

readingape Probably only can be considered integrated when the outsider feels like they are. Not really about the external, but the internal #litchat -1:21 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan There are some great outsider characters who become assimilated, but choose to still see themselves as outsiders. Compelling? #litchat -1:21 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 Are we still talking about belonging? #litchat -1:22 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

TwinkleChar Maybe the better questions is, who is really "inside"? The "popular kids"? Don't believe I've ever honestly felt like an insider. #litchat -1:22 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

marirandomities Hello @litchat! Today I'll just lurk, as I'm supposed to be #writing. :) (ps, it's me Mari, w/ new pic and twitter name ;) #litchat -1:22 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

IanB022 @robymcintyre In the case of AAB it's about two outsiders finding the way in #litchat -1:22 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robymcintyre RT @readingape: Probably only can be considered integrated when the outsider feels like they are. Not really about the external, but the internal #litchat -1:22 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

readingape Well, but everyone is "destroyed" in Howl, at least according to the narrator #litchat -1:23 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass * RT @TwinkleChar: @LitChat Re outsider becomes insider when someone relates to them, including the reader. #litchat -1:23 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie Outside/Inside: layers within a circle within a circle within a circle-always be someone on the outside/inside of those circles. #litchat -1:23 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LitChat @marirandomities I thought this was you! #litchat -1:24 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @mdbenoit2 Are we still talking about belonging? I like the theme of "belonging" - to friends, to family, to a neighborhood, group #litchat -1:24 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan Some environments are built like in an Anne Tyler novel, everybody/thing is "an outsider". So who is the outsider to the outsiders? #litchat -1:24 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

TwinkleChar @marirandomities If I hold out glass, will you pour? If so, then I know who this is. :) #litchat -1:24 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robymcintyre In sm novels, protags long to belong but learn their outsider status is insignificant. In others (GoW), situation mks thm aware. #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @TwinkleChar yeah, inside/outside is kinda the wrong argument because it's about you & others not you in yourself #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass @katmagendie:Yes! Outsiders often feel a sense of alienation, even within an outsider group. #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mpherndon @KaylaCagan That is what I was just wondering. What if the whole group is outsiders. #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @KaylaCagan -right; there will always be the "unbelonging" the outsider to someone's insider #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

marirandomities @LitChat Oh, good! I wouldn't want to lose contact with my lovely twitter friends just because a minor detail as appearances. ;) #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LisaRomeo Anyone discussed this re: nonfiction? Seems to me every CNF writer almost has to think of his/herself as outside of something. #litchat -1:25 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @CarolyBurnsBass @katmagendie Agreed! #litchat -1:26 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @katmagendie There are people who don't feel the need to belong. Or is it they haven't found what they want to belong to? #litchat -1:26 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

Topic of the Week:
Belonging - p 11

marirandomities Oh, yes! *pouring a special prosecco for you* ;D RT @TwinkleChar: @marirandomities If I hold out glass, will you pour? #litchat -1:26 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

George9Writer Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" has a an outsider/rebel, suffering results of coming up against the status quo. #litchat -1:26 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @CarolyBurnsBass Definitely - many grps require you conform to their idea of being nonconformists (French Revo/Terror). #litchat -1:26 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @readingape sure, but that's not to say they don't burn together. Again, Howl makes it OK not to aspire to a normal happy ending #litchat -1:27 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @KaylaCagan Anne Tyler is great at taking people and making them all outsiders baffling each other #litchat -1:27 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @mdbenoit2 Yes-I think, tho, that everyone has to "belong" somewhere, or to someone, or to some ideal, something to identify with? #litchat -1:27 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LitChat Can anyone name a novel with a character feeling alienated within an outsider group? #litchat -1:27 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

IanB022 Nice example - society wins in the end RT @George9Writer: Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @katmagendie @mpherndon I think "outside of the outsiders" characters are always voices of authority; walls to bounce up against. #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @George9Writer Yes - and once again showing that outsiders cn hv dignity while insiders are inhumane. #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

TheNewAuthor I think there is a difference between loners and outsiders. Outsiders at some point want to be included. #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

readingape I think being a misfit implies that your difference makes your existence more difficult. But not all difference produces difficulty #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @mdbenoit2 Agreed! #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @TheNewAuthor Good Point Brian! #litchat -1:28 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mpherndon @TheNewAuthor True #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan RT @TheNewAuthor: I think there is a difference between loners and outsiders. Outsiders at some point want to be included. #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @TheNewAuthor GREAT POINT! #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @katmagendie But 1 may repudiate the group they belong to and thus becoming an outsider, e.g. small town girl going back after yrs #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

jevonbolden All of us like to feel somewhat like an outsider. We actually hope to be a little different and identifiable. #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 That makes me think about a generation of people who found their sense of belonging in the feeling of being left out #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @LitChat I think this happens a lot in YA and MG novels. Starting a new school, moving to a new neighborhood, becoming a teen. #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @George9Writer's suggestion of Cuckoo's Nest has outsider coming to identify with one group (inmates) over another (authority) #litchat -1:29 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @LitChat Less Than Zero - MC gets totally disaffected with the outsider posturing #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre RT @AuthorWilliam: @mdbenoit2 That makes me think about a generation of people who found their sense of belonging in the feeling of being left out #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie To have a sense of belonging to something larger than ourselves; not just "friendships" or "cliques" but our heritage even #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Are loners always so because of choice, or because they feel left out? #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @LitChat Anne Tyler's Accidental Tourist. The dog trainer is definitely outside but the family is a circle of outsiders. #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden Being different, or being an outsider, is what causes us to identify with a character. It's also what sells us on many books. #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @LitChat However, Maxine Hong Kingston's Warrior Women does this beautifully, as does Lisa See's Snow Flower...#litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
PenguinPbks RT @LitChat: In GRAPES OF WRATH, how do the characters--the Joads--deal with their alienation? #litchat -1:30 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LisaRomeo Wonder if memoir is (at its best) about narrator looking at him/herself as left out/diff from & trying to reconcile that. #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @TwinkleChar Can it be both? Interesting question, because it really is about the character's psyche and POV, right? #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @mdbenoit2 yes :) #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
IanB022 Can be due to external events too RT @TwinkleChar: Are loners always so because of choice, or because they feel left out? #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass A heartbreaking, ironic, ending--even when the protag grated on me. RT @George9Writer: Keseys "One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest" #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @KaylaCagan: @LitChat However, Maxine Hong Kingston's Warrior Women does this beautifully, as does Lisa See's Snow Flower...#litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam Yes, they felt vindicated by their solitude #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre RT @LisaRomeo: Wonder if memoir is (at its best) about narrator looking at him/herself as left out/diff from & trying to reconcile that. #litchat -1:31 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan @jevonbolden Agreed! #litchat -1:32 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan RT @jevonbolden: Being different, or being an outsider, is what causes us to identify with a character. It's also what sells us on many books. #litchat -1:32 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Main char in fall release is loner b/c she fears intimacy. Thinks she likes being "loner" till she figures out she's afraid. #litchat -1:32 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam "outsider" is constantly changing because once enough people r on the "outside" it flips & outsiders can become an exclusive group #litchat -1:32 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer @robynmcintyre Yes, also thinking of RP McMurphy's back-story: locked up by society for breaking its rules, social rebellion. #litchat -1:32 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden Many times we like 2 C the outsider work their way 2 the inside. It gives us hope that maybe we can work our way 2 inside. #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @TwinkleChar Yes, fear is many times the "cause" of being alone, or "not belonging" or being on the outside looking in (and more) #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Must read this-my dauty has recommended. RT @KaylaCagan: However, Maxine Hong Kingstons Warrior Women does this beautifully... #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre I thnk whn sm ppl have a sense of being alone, it never goes away, even w/in a group, or there wldn't be loner heros. #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @LisaRomeo Love that you mention nonfiction. It is the fashion in nonfiction/memoir right now. Becoming outsider to explore topic. #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LanceRey @LitChat GEEK LOVE #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @mdbenoit2 And others joined them and a new exclusivity is formed. When readers read these characters they become part of the group #litchat -1:33 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

marirandomities RT @TheNewAuthor: I think there is a difference between loners and outsiders. Outsiders at some point want to be included. #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

bypetal Being an outsider gives a unique perspective of being able to see something without being influenced (by people/society/trad'n) #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam RT @jevonbolden: Being different, or being an outsider, is what causes us to identify with a character. It's also what sells us on many books. #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @robynmcintyre Yes! #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @robynmcintyre But does a feeling of not belonging equate to feeling alone? #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @AuthorWilliam Agreed! #litchat -1:34 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

IanB022 Bragg's SOLDIER'S RETURN father returns from WW2 to small town and son he doesn't know - has become outsider in own community #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

KaylaCagan @lancerey @litchat I was thinking of GEEK LOVE the entire time! Also, Elizabeth McCracken's The Giant's House #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass Especially so in YA. RT@jevonbolden: we like 2 C the outsider work their way 2 inside. It gives us hope maybe we can work 2 inside. #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @AuthorWilliam Yes, but I think - if it's a small grp, members never lose their sense of outsidership and fragility. #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

jevonbolden @AuthorWilliam Good points! #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 Yes! RT @marirandomities: RT @TheNewAuthor: I think there is a difference between loners and outsiders. #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @jevonbolden Agreed. Or create a new "inside" with others on the outside. #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @mdbenoit2 @robynmcintyre But does a feeling of not belonging equate to feeling alone?>>>I think there is a difference! #litchat -1:35 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

mdbenoit2 @CarolyBurnsBass Re. YA fiction: James Patterson's Maximum Ride series is a perfect example of kids as outsiders. #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

CarolyBurnsBass And his own family? RT @IanB022: SOLDIERS RETURN father returns from WW2 & son he doesn't know-has become outsider in own community #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @marirandomities @thenewauthor Loners can want to belong w/o feeling they can or should. #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam @robynmcintyre Ah yes, but doesn't this happen over and over. Like when music genres hit mainstream sometimes the artists feel loss #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

readingape Writing about outsiders/misfits is almost a cliché in literature now. Hard to make fresh. #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @IanB022 Yes, this sense of community "outside of" interests me; community, kin or heritage, #litchat -1:36 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

AuthorWilliam I second this RT @mdbenoit2 Yes! RT @marirandomities: RT @TheNewAuthor: I think there is a difference between loners and outsiders. #litchat -1:37 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @AuthorWilliam or not even a new inside so mcuh as a home to belong that always ahs its doors open #litchat -1:37 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 RT @readingape: Writing about outsiders/misfits is almost a cliché in literature now. Hard to make fresh. #litchat -1:37 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @AuthorWilliam Like when music genres hit mainstream sometimes the artists feel loss >>>>yes! #litchat -1:37 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LisaRomeo @KaylaCagan Yes, the fish out of water conceit. But even in less contrived memoir I think narr must view self as somewhat separate. #litchat -1:37 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
lanB022 Yes, has more connection with the army he's left - great book very 'close' feel RT @CarolyBurnsBass: And his own family? #litchat -1:38 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @AuthorWilliam Everyone hates losing control over "their" revolution, don't they? It's hard when the crowd takes over your parade. #litchat -1:38 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden Outsider-insider is a vicious cycle in human nature. We luv 2 C it created and recreated over and over again. We can't get enuf! #litchat -1:38 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TheNewAuthor In order to be an outsider one would need to attempt to be included in something and rejected first right? #litchat -1:38 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @robynmcintyre: @AuthorWilliam Everyone hates losing control over "their" revolution, don't they? It's hard when the crowd takes over your parade. #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @mdbenoit2 unless the outside/misfit isn't the drive of novel or the character but more a part of them, like their hair or big nose #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar RT @robynmcintyre Everyone hates losing control over "their" revolution, dont they? Its hard when the crowd takes over your parade. #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @readingape Murakami somehow makes his outsiders always startlingly fresh & original #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @mdbenoit2 I think the thing is to keeping outsider fresh is to focus on the character and not the cause, yes? #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat Can you give examples of recent titles having accomplished a fresh twist on the alienation theme? #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @robynmcintyre Indeed they do. That's a great way to put it. #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden @robynmcintyre That's so true. Then we get mad and have to try to find a new "outside." That's a key to keeping it fresh. #litchat -1:39 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 In a story, who do you relate to more? The outsider who becomes the insider, or the outsider who never quite clicks? #litchat -1:40 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer @readingape (re outsider cliché) Those rebel-writers among us would do well do examine the publishing politics behind that view. #litchat -1:40 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @jevonbolden Thank you! #litchat -1:40 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @katmagendie Re: noses and hair: Are you saying clowns are the ultimate outsider? LOL #litchat -1:40 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 RT @robynmcintyre: @mdbenoit2 I think the thing is to keeping outsider fresh is to focus on the character and not the cause, yes? #litchat -1:40 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @Azrael52 As long as the author convinces me, I will relate to either :) #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @TheNewAuthor or position oneself in (external) relation to a particular group, whereas loners don't position themselves, just ARE #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @robynmcintyre Laughing! I hate clowns! lawd! #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
KaylaCagan Hey Guys! Have to drop out for a bit! Will try to rejoin before #litchat ends today! Great topic! #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mpherndon @katmagendie ME TOO! #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam @agnieszkasshoes Ideally yes, it depends on the characters looking for it. Some may be after a hideout more than a home #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @TheNewAuthor hence loners are rife in existentialist novels& movies #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @Azrael52 I identify w/ the outsider who achieves a goal regardless of wht outsider friends or insiders think. #litchat -1:41 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 @katmagendie Oooh, took the easy (and truthful) way out did you? #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @KaylaCagan see you soon! #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @LitChat Mary Doria Russell's The Sparrow, where they land on another planet and another society. None of their mores hold #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
readingape One of the fascinations w/outsideers is that it makes someone seem special + we all want to be unique even though we know we arent #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
BryanThomasS @Azrael52 I relate more to the outsider who never quite clicks because that's my life. #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @Azrael52 Laughing! #litchat -1:42 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 Another fresh alienation book is Saramago's Blindness where everyone has gone blind except one woman. #litchat -1:43 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jessicatudor @LitChat @diareeves's BLEEDING VIOLET blends themes of alienation and family. One of my fav reads so far this year. #litchat -1:43 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @Azrael52 always the outsider who never clicks - a stronger character. OK to bend society to self, but not self to society #litchat -1:43 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @robynmcintyre: @mdbenoit2 I think the thing is to keeping outsider fresh is to focus on the character and not the cause, yes? #litchat -1:43 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @readingape Exactly - even in our uniqueness we find a common with another, so the unique nature is muddied #litchat -1:43 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @Azrael52 I particularly like the protags in Left Hand of Darkness for that reason. #litchat -1:44 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 And another is Stockett's The Help, where all three women are alienated and outsiders #litchat -1:44 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @mdbenoit2 And she pretends to be blind - how many times does the "outsider" pretend to be what isn't! #litchat -1:44 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @mdbenoit2 Saramago's Blindness sounds fascinating. #litchat -1:45 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @katmagendie Exactly! #litchat -1:45 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
readingape @katmagendie it's strange right? Seems like we're more afraid of being normal than of being a misfit these days #litchat -1:45 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 Story wise, we're taught to change the character by the end of the story. Sometimes by becoming an insider (cont.) #litchat -1:45 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

ppnc09 @kbconway1 what about Wuthering Heights? Drama at its best! #litchat -1:45 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LisaRomeo Some ex memoir shows how seeming insider feels/acts/thinks of self as if an outsider. Or else, who'd card about narrator? #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LanceRey @LitChat CLOWN GIRL by Monica Drake #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @robynmcintyre Blindness is hard work, but every line is worth it. The book is one 400 page paragraph. (Saramago's style) #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre Another reason I lk Left Hand of Darkness, because Genry Ai is human and CAN'T pretend to be one of the insiders. #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 (Cont.) it's the character's character that we're changing. Got to do it organically. #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass A most enduring outsider character is Heathcliff (not the cat). His character defines his alienation more than his situation. #litchat -1:46 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @Azrael52 I don't think we're taught to change the character - or maybe that OR to chng the perception of the character. #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @readingape So true! Being a nonconformist seems to be the "Fad" - the "Cool" thing to be, at least in some "areas" #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 @ppnc09 WH is too melodramatic for my taste. Doesn't work for me. #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @katmagendie the universal & specific is a very peculiar, almost elliptical relation #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
IanB022 Out is the new in! RT @readingape: @katmagendie Seems like we're more afraid of being normal than of being a misfit these days #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden @readingape Yes, we fight to be separate and identifiable. It seems necessary to survival. #litchat -1:47 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
CarolyBurnsBass Waving at Lance and following with a resounding YES. RT @LanceRey: @LitChat CLOWN GIRL by Monica Drake #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @agnieszkasshoes Yes! #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @katmagendie - it's the utterly unique that most unifies; the attempted bridge-building that often alienates #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 @agnieszkasshoes Thanks for the follow. Interesting #litchat going on. -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
marirandomities loners are complicated, heh RT @robynmcintyre: @thenewauthor Loners can want to belong w/o feeling they can or should. #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LisaRomeo @readingape Yes. Who cares to read about normal? Misfits are key, even if they are only odd in onesmall but intriguing way. #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer RT @Azrael52: Story wise, we're taught to change the character by the end of the story. Sometimes by becoming an insider #litchat -1:48 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @Kristen_Howe good, thank you. Enjoying a lively #litchat how's it going? -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robynmcintyre @CarolyBurnsBass re: Heathcliff - Yes and he REMAINS an outsider at the end of the novel, though both he and Jane are transformed #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
AuthorWilliam RT @readingape: @katmagendie it's strange right? Seems like we're more afraid of being normal than of being a misfit these days #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

ganymeder Hi there! Just popping in for a few minutes. The outsider character...Othello strikes me as a good example. #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

marirandomities @robynmcintyre Well, people are complicated, so.. :) #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @agnieszkasshoes and this facinates me (your bridge building comment) #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

readingape @jevonbolden Not sure it's about survival, but in the US probably related to the celebration of individuality. #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

Azrael52 @George9Writer Thanks for the follow. #litchat -1:49 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @George9Writer or by the character accepting instead of being accepted, maybe? #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @katmagendie I think that's what Murakami is doing with his "well" passages in Wind-up Bird #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

TheNewAuthor Characters, like us, want to be included without giving up what makes us an individual. #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

techtigger hi all! just stopping by for a few minutes, busy day at work today #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @ganymeder Othello struck me as wanting to belong w/o feeling he really could. Maybe why Desdemona's "betrayal" hit him so hard. #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LitChat Your book, POP SALVATION, features this theme, no? Can you tell us about it? RT @LanceRey: @LitChat CLOWN GIRL by Monica Drake #litchat -1:50 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @marirandomities @robynmcintyre Well, people are complicated, so.. :)>>>laughing! #litchat -1:51 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

agnieszkasshoes @katmagendie I wrote an article about it on Year Zero (the truth about confessional art) #litchat -1:51 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @agnieszkasshoes oh, don't know that work #litchat -1:51 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @techtigger hello! #litchat -1:51 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

TheNewAuthor @marirandomities I think loners have a stronger sense of who they are and what they want - being an outsider doesn't bother them. #litchat -1:52 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre "Rugged Individ" is a U.S. sacred cow. Kids get trophies 4 just showing up - you're part of a crowd, but unique, too. Does it wrk? #litchat -1:52 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @agnieszkasshoes is it online so I can read it? #litchat -1:52 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

JLichtenberg #LitChat Fresh twist on alienation - Jim Butcher's DRESDEN FILES series and Robert J. Sawyer's WWW trilogy -1:52 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

JSLion Hello #litchat! What is the topic today? -1:52 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robynmcintyre @TheNewAuthor I think it might bother them, but trying to make thmselves ovr would bother them more. #litchat -1:53 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

IanB022 @robynmcintyre Soldiers (like Othello) are often seen as outsiders - Kipling's Tommy Atkins in poetry even #litchat -1:53 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

katmagendie @JSLion Belonging and "outsiders" vs "insiders" :) #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

LanceRey @LitChat in PS the alienation is on multiple levels of physical (younger than peers) & social (southern accent in the midatlantic) #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

marirandomities Can I agree w/ you both? heh RT @robynmcintyre: @TheNewAuthor I think it might bother them, but (...) #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

robyncintyre @lanB022 Agreed, and Othello had the extra handicap of being a Moor. #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat We're concluding chat on novels with themes of alienation. RT @JSLion: Hello #litchat! What is the topic today? #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer @katmagendie Those being but examples of possible character change (which can also include corruption, epiphany, selfless acts...) #litchat -1:54 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
marirandomities @TheNewAuthor @robyncintyre I think it'd depend on the loner-person. We are too unique to generalize in these things. #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @lanB022 @robyncintyre interwsting that soldiers would feel "outside" when they are, or have to be, part of such a whole... #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @katmagendie http://yearzerowriters.wordpress.com/2010/03/06/confessional-art/ #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LanceRey @LitChat sometimes the only way to find yourself is by learning to exist and thrive without the shelter of status quo. #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 @robyncintyre Ah, and of course you caught my typo. #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @George9Writer Yes --your Johnny #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
robyncintyre @lanB022 Plus, I think soldiers who have seen combat will tend to feel lk outsiders even w/ othr soldiers not their unit. #litchat -1:55 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden @readingape In terms of social media, publishing industry, the arts, being good at being an outsider helps tremendously. #litchat -1:56 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
LitChat We're concluding chat on novels with themes of alienation. RT @JSLion: Hello #litchat! What is the topic today? -1:56 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
lanB022 @katmagendie Soldiers serve a role which society doesn't always like. Kipling sums it up perfectly http://bit.ly/bE6SDa #litchat -1:56 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
mdbenoit2 Anyone read Marge Piercy's GONE TO SOLDIERS? WACs in WWII who are also lesbians. Very powerful, with a strong sense of alienation #litchat -1:56 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
agnieszkasshoes @Azrael52 yeah, a really busy one tonight - hard to keep up #litchat -1:57 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie @lanB022 Yes! #litchat -1:57 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
ABluePearl R@LitChat: Can anyone name a novel with a character feeling alienated within an outsider group? #litchat #JaneEyre #BluestEye #Beloved -1:57 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
wwwgalelaurecom RT @LitChat: We're concluding chat on novels with themes of alienation. RT @JSLion: Hello #litchat! What is the topic today? -1:57 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
nineveh_havant The most convincing Ahab I've read recently is in Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith ... but which character? so many to chose from. #Litchat -1:59 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
jevonbolden Got to run. Nice chatting with you all! #litchat -1:59 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer Author George LaCas Interviewed in the virtual world http://seamus39.wordpress.com/ #litchat -2:00 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
TwinkleChar Thanks everyone, especially @litchat. Good "think" stuff today. Back to article. #litchat -2:00 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
katmagendie What a facinating topic today - so glad I joined it - my cell alarm reminder was a good idea! #litchat -2:00 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
Azrael52 Celebrities teach us not to be "normal," @AuthorWilliam. Also, thanks for the follow. #litchat -2:00 PM Jun 2nd, 2010
George9Writer Thanks for another great #litchat! But I'm still a rebel! -2:00 PM Jun 2nd, 2010

<p>robymcintyre @LitChat Excellent discussion. Really good thoughts to entertain. #litchat. Thanks, everyone! - 2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>mdbenoit2 Gotta go, too. It was busy and fun. Thanks @litchat! #litchat -2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>agnieszkasshoes fantastic #litchat I better go before I end up in twitterjail :) -2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>katmagendie @George9Writer But a loveable one, George! *laugh* #litchat -2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>AuthorWilliam @jevonbolden Take care! #litchat -2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>katmagendie Later Y'all! #litchat -2:01 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>AuthorWilliam @Azrael52 Happy to connect #litchat -2:02 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>AuthorWilliam RT @George9Writer Thanks for another great #litchat! But I'm still a rebel! <<<LOL -2:02 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>George9Writer @agnieszkasshoes Sir, you'll have to come with me, for we are the Twitter Thought Police! #litchat -2:03 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>AuthorWilliam Thanks everyone for a great #litchat. Hope to see you all on Friday! -2:03 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>LitChat Great chat today--so many things to think about and books to add to shelf. This is what I love about #litchat -2:04 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>Azrael52 Loved it. Hate I arrived so late. #litchat -2:04 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>LitChat Welcomes to first timers: @ABluePearl @jevonbolden @Azrael52 @readingape @ppnc09 @BryanThomasS @bypetal @PenguinPbks - more - #litchat -2:05 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>LitChat More first timer welcomes: @KateMalinoski @ninevah_havant @CH_Publishing @dianeestrella (sorry if I missed anyone). #litchat -2:06 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>LitChat And big thanks to all of the #litchattics. You guys really know your stuff. #litchat -2:07 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>mwiings #litchat Oh no. Looks like it was a good one. i'll be checking out transcript. -2:08 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>
<p>LitChat Adding #litchat tag. RT @LitChat: RT @marginalseat: @LitChat In The Secret History, Richard feels alienated within the alienated group. -2:10 PM Jun 2nd, 2010</p>