Bafflingly effective, this new collection of poetry from the winner of the 2004 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize seems too brief and blithe to pack so much wallop. Intense and relaxed, buoyant and rueful, the singular music of Kay Ryan's poetry appeals to a wide audience. Her poems, products of an immaculately off-kilter mind, have appeared everywhere from the Sunday funnies to New York subways to the pages of The New Yorker to plaques at the zoo.

Poet, novelist, critic, and biographer Parini (Benjamin's Crossing; Why Poetry Matters) here offers a chronologically organized array of meaty, semischolarly, but not stuffy essays about 13 American books that, in his mind, have done the most to change America, from Of Plymouth Plantation to Uncle Tom's Cabin to The Feminine Mystique.

Celebrating the diversity of today's thriving poetry culture, this vibrant collection features 150 unique selections from today's best poets.

Niagara River: Poems. by Kay Ryan

Promised Land. by Jay Parini

Wendell Berry and the Cultivation of Life: A Reader's Guide. by J. Matthew Bonzo & Michael R. Stevens

Desperate Crossing: The untold story of the Mayflower. By the Lone Wolf Documentary Group for the History Channel.
DVD 974.402 D468
From their self-imposed exile in Holland to their perilous crossing of the Atlantic, to their first year in the new world, Desperate Crossing is the definitive story of how the Pilgrims came to live and prosper in an unfamiliar land.

Ellis Island. By Greystone Communications for the History Channel.
DVD 325.73 E47
Immigrants of every ethnic background recall their extraordinary adventures, historians explore the sometimes insensitive national policies, and the Ellis Island Oral History Project reveals what the immigrant experience was really like.

Underground Railroad: A new documentary that reveals the history, heroes and villains of the Abolitionist Movement. By Triage Inc. for the History Channel.
DVD 973.7 U55
Traces the journey to freedom taken by countless slaves, showing how they were guided, protected and pursued along the way. The extraordinary story is told through historical documents, visits to important sites, interviews with descendents of noted abolitionists and commentary from experts.

Library hours during the December Break:

December  14: CLOSED
December  15: 8am - 8pm
December  16: 8am - 5pm
December  17: 8am - 5pm
December  18: 8am - 8pm
December  19: 8am - 5pm
December  20 and 21: CLOSED
December  22 and 23: 8am - 5pm
December  24 - 28: CLOSED
December 29 - 31: 8am - 5pm
January 1: CLOSED
January 2: 8am - 5pm
January 3 and 4: CLOSED
January 5: - CLASSES START
Regular hours resume