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Novelist Kazuo Ishiguro coming to Tulsa to receive Helmerich Award

■ Author Kazuo Ishiguro to get Helmerich award

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Posted: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 6:20 am, Sun Nov 10, 2013.

By JAMES D. WATTS JR. World Scene Writer |

Booker Prize-winning novelist Kazuo Ishiguro will be in Tulsa on Dec. 6-7, to receive the 2013 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award from the Tulsa Library Trust.

Ishiguro will receive the prize a \$40,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book at a black-tie dinner Dec. 6 at Southern Hills Country Club. He will also give a free public presentation and sign books Dec. 7 at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

In preparation for his visit, the Tulsa City-County Library will host a series of events to give new insights into Ishiguro's wide-

ranging body of work, which includes such novels as the prize-winning "The Remains of the Day," the experimental "The Unconsoled," and the dystopian "Never Let Me Go."

This last novel about a group of young people living in an unusual English boarding school who slowly discover the secret about their purpose in life will be the subject of the library's latest Novel Talk program. "Surviving Utopia: Fear, Hope and Place in Dystopic Science Fiction" will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Hardesty Regional Library's

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The program will be divided into three parts — much as Ishiguro's own novel is also in three distinct sections.

- "District 12 & the Donors of Hailsham: Comparing 'Never Let Me Go' and 'The Hunger Games' " is a brief examination by library associate Laura Raphael about the striking similarities and differences between these contemporary novels.
- "Wars & the World: Classic Science Fiction Dystopias" by Joshua Grasso, associate professor of English at East Central University, will show how science fiction is a perfect medium to express everyday concerns, whether it be classic tales such as H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds," or modern novels such as Ishiguro's.
- "Sci-Fi for the Sci Shy" will be a discussion between Grasso and Raphael that brings together classic and contemporary science fiction ideas and expressions.

Other events planned in conjunction with Ishiguro's visit are:

- "Books Sandwiched In Presents: A Kazuo Ishiguro Sampler," 12:10 p.m. Nov. 18, Oklahoma Methodist Manor, Fleming Center, 4134 E. 31st St. William C. Kellough, district judge, will discuss Ishiguro's works. Sponsored by the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries.
- "Books People Are Talking About," 12:15 p.m. Nov. 20, Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St. Participants will discuss Ishiguro's works. Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Friends of the Helmerich Library.
- Film showing, "The Remains of the Day," 7 p.m. Nov. 21, University of Tulsa, Tyrrell Hall, 800 S. Tucker Ave.

For more information about Ishiguro's visit to Tulsa or the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, call 918-549-7323 or go to helmerichaward.org

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