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Mercado Latino
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FRIDAYS
 Broadway Plaza
 (Broadway & Willamette)
 11am - 8:30pm

Celebrate Festa Junina - 5pm-8:30pm
 Macaco Velho - Brazilian Dance Music

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May 27-29*, June 2-5*,
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 (\$10 on Thursdays)
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BOOKS BY MOLLY TEMPLETON

Into the Dark

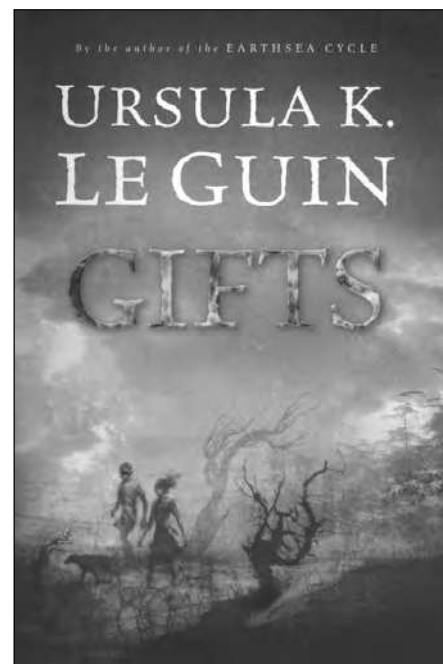
Ursula K. Le Guin's timely tale of gifts and power

Gifts, fiction by Ursula K. Le Guin. Harcourt Books, 2004. Hardcover, \$17.

When I first encountered Ursula K. Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea*, I had no idea it was written for, or at least published for, a young audience. It came from my mother's overstuffed fantasy bookshelves, and I thought it was no different from the books it sat next to. It didn't sound like a kids' book, when my mother read it to me, and it didn't look like one either (this edition's cover featured a young man with a nasty beast on his shoulders). It wasn't until I was in college that I saw the Newbery Honor medal on *The Tombs of Atuan*, the second Earthsea book, and realized the series was aimed at Newbery-age readers (14 and under).

What gives Le Guin's children's books (though it seems too narrow a term) such broad appeal is the graceful, straightforward way she writes *about*, rather than *to*, children and young adults. It's the same reason Phillip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" series is found in the fantasy section as well as the young adult room; these are books written in a frank, poetic language that speaks to all readers, transcending the age of the characters.

Gifts is Le Guin's first book for teens in 14 years. It's the story of Orrec and Gry, two young people living in the Uplands, desolate farmlands far from any cities. The people of



the Uplands live in tenuous peace, guarding their families, lands and livelihood from other clans. The lives of the Uplands residents are outlined by the gifts, strange powers that run in each hereditary line and often require little more than a look to use. The powers vary, from the gift of calling (Gry's family power and a way to train animals or call them to be hunted) to the rein (the ability to take a person's will) to the undoing, Orrec's clan's power and one of which he will not speak.

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