

Young Adult  
Book  
Reviews  
2008



Perfect for Summer Reading!

Titles selected by the Students of  
Scarborough Middle School. Reviews compiled  
and edited by the Children's Room Staff of the  
Scarborough Public Library.

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## Young Adult Book Reviews 2008

Welcome to the 15th annual young adult summer reading booklet, brought to you by the Children's Room at the Scarborough Public Library. Students from Scarborough Middle School recommend their favorite books for summer reading.

Thanks for their contributions go to the students of Randee Allen, Holly Chandler, Kirsten Gowdy, Mary Ann Page, and Mark Tardif.

Titles are presented in alphabetical order by author's last name and include classics, old favorites, and new titles. If a book was reviewed by more than one student, a single edited review appears followed by the students' names. Titles not available at SPL are marked with an asterisk (\*). All of these titles can be requested through the Minerva catalog. Adult titles are grouped at the end of this booklet. Happy reading!

### **Anderson, Laurie Halse**

*Fever, 1793*

**2000**

Fever, 1793 is a great book to read. It's about this horrible disease called yellow fever, which makes your eyes turn yellow and causes you to kind of go crazy. The main character is Matilda. Matilda hates chores and she's always trying to get out of them. To her mother, she's almost a complete failure. This book will always keep you on the edge of your seat, and when you think you know what's coming, the total opposite happens. When you start reading this book, everything around you just disappears and you'll never want to stop reading it. If you read this book, I know that you'll love it and you'll probably want to recommend it to others.

Lindsay Hague

### **Anderson, Laurie Halse**

*Speak*

**1999**

In the book Speak, Melinda Sordino is a freshman at Merryweather High School and everybody hates her. Just that past summer, she attended an end-of-the-summer party where she called the authorities and, consequently, many of the kids were arrested. Now she decides that it would be better if she did not speak at all, closing off all communication. What her peers do not know is what truly happened that summer night. This is a story of a girl trying to come to a realization of her dark past, and finding out whether or not she is able to speak the truth.

Grace Hachey

**Avi**

*Crispin: the Cross of Lead*

**2002**

Crispin must find his own way after his mother dies. He never knew his father, and all he has is a name and the lead cross around his neck. The cross has writing on it, but Crispin can't read. Overhearing something he wasn't supposed to, Crispin discovers that the steward of his village is coming to kill Crispin for some unknown reason and the townsfolk have been given permission to shoot him on sight.

He figures he has to flee his home village. On his secret journey away from his village, he meets up with a touring jester named Bear, and then the story really speeds up and gets exciting. If Crispin can get to Great Wexly and stay there for a year and a day, he will earn his freedom. Who will Crispin meet along the way? Why is the steward after Crispin? Will Crispin gain his freedom? You must read the book to find out. In the end the book leaves you shocked, and somewhat relieved, but it is a great read for someone who likes the kind of suspense that keeps you on the edge of your seat.

Mikey Caryl  
Scott Kostovick

**Avi**  
***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***  
**1990**

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle is an amazing book. I guarantee you will like it. Thirteen year-old Charlotte Doyle is on a journey from England to Rhode Island. The story takes place during the late 1800s in the Atlantic Ocean on an old ship called the *Seahawk*. The *Seahawk's* captain is none other than the fearsome Captain Jiggery. Charlotte isolates herself from the crew of the *Seahawk*, and gravitates toward the only gentleman on the ship, the captain. But, after learning the truth, she suddenly despises Jiggery and is terribly afraid. What has caused Charlotte to have such a change of heart? Read The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle and find out the truth about the captain and about the ship.

Monica Davis

**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker**  
***Halfway to the Sky***  
**2002**

Halfway to the Sky is a really great book about a girl named Dani whose brother has died after a serious illness. Her life gets tougher following her big brother's death. With her parents being divorced, it's even harder. She decides to run away to the Appalachian Mountain Trail which starts in Georgia. Dani is packed with plenty of food and survival tools. But the going gets tough, and it rains and gets really cold. As each night passes, she thinks more and more about how her mom and dad are dealing with this. Although Dani gets lonely, she doesn't turn back. How and where will she end up? Don't miss your chance to find out!

Natalie Foster

**Brian, Kate**  
***Legacy\****  
**2008**

Legacy is the sixth book in the excitement filled *Private* series. The story continues as Reed Brennan, a junior at Easton Academy is elected President of Billings House. Reed soon discovers that Easton Academy is the only school not invited to the ultra-exclusive Legacy party. Now, the pressure is on Reed as the whole student body at Easton Academy depends on her to get them into Legacy. Will Reed be able to find a way to get her school back on the Legacy invite list? Read the book Legacy to find out.

Michelle Gallagher

**Brian, Kate**  
*Private\**  
2006

Private is about a fifteen year old girl named Reed Brennan, who gets a scholarship to Easton Academy. She is super excited to get away from her suburban lifestyle and psycho, pill-popping mother. When she arrives, she realizes that she doesn't fit in anywhere (according to social status). She sees that everyone else is a lot more gorgeous and a lot richer than she ever was. Since Reed is new to the school she doesn't know who the populars are or who the jocks are. But once a group of girls walk by she can definitely see they rule the school. They call their group the Billings Girls because they live in the Billings House. They are the most beautiful, confident girls at the school. Reed decides she doesn't want to end up being the loser of the school so she decides to step out of her comfort zone and do whatever it takes to get in their "inner circle. Will Reed get into the Billings inner circle or will she end up an outcast like she was at her old school? Read the book to find out.

Alison Davis

**Brewer, Heather**  
*Eighth Grade Bites*  
2007

If you really don't fit in at school, you can relate to Vladimir Tod. He doesn't fit in well because of his secret. Vlad is actually a teenage vampire. He tries to keep his secret safe until one day when his class gets a new substitute teacher, Mr. Otis, who starts to watch him very closely. Vlad soon realizes that his teacher knows his secret and that Mr. Otis is a vampire too! Mr. Otis is on a wild adventure to stop a murderous vampire that is after Vlad. Why is he after Vlad? What will happen to Vlad? All of this will be found out in the amazing book, Eighth Grade Bites, the first book in *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod*.

Meghan Callahan

**Bujor, Flavia**  
*The Prophecy of the Stones\**  
2008

The Prophecy of the Stones, a magical and medieval story that will win you over, is a thrilling book that always keeps you on your feet and wondering what is going to happen next. Three completely different girls, Amber, Opal, and Jade are thrown together on their fourteenth birthdays after being forced out of their homes to fulfill an ancient prophecy and save the magical land of Fairytale from twelve Counselors of Evil. With only their magical stones to protect them, the girls face merciless enemies, love and friendship as they embark on a ruthless journey to save the enchanted land of Fairytale and all the magical creatures living there. Read The Prophecy of the Stones to find out more.

Jennifer Clemenz  
Laura Hirshberg

**Cabot, Meg**  
***How to Be Popular***  
**2006**

Steph Landry made a simple mistake back in elementary school. That incident has haunted her for many years and was the beginning of the famous insult of “way to pull a Steph Landry”. Steph has accepted the fact that she’s the most unpopular girl in school. She did, until she found The Book. While cleaning out her future grandmother’s attic, she found the book *How to Be Popular*, and took it. This will be Steph’s tool to becoming popular and gaining respect from her school again. Will The Book bring her success? Read [How to Be Popular](#) by Meg Cabot to find out!

Natalie Brusie

**Chima, Cinda Williams**  
***The Wizard Heir***  
**2007**

Seph is a teenage boy with amazing wizard powers. There is one problem - he does not know how to use them or control them yet. After he is at a party and accidentally burns down the house when he loses control of his powers, his lawyer/guardian sends him to a boarding school. While there Seph goes swimming and turns the whole Maine coast into a hot tub. He then meets with the Dean and finds out that the Dean is a wizard. Steph is asked to join with the Dean and help fight evil, but Seph smells something fishy so he declines. Now Seph is faced with trying to survive the evil Dean. Seph's aunt comes and rescues him, and now he is struggling to stay alive with the Dean chasing him. He teams up with two warriors and some wizards and together they have to make things right again. Read [The Wizard Heir](#) to find out what happens in this thrill ride of an action story.

Nathan Quirion

**Choldenko, Gennifer**  
***Al Capone Does My Shirts***  
**2004**

[Al Capone Does My Shirts](#) is a great book that received the Newbery Honor Award. It is about a boy named Moose Flanagan who is trying to give his autistic sister a good education. Moose’s dad is desperate for a job, so he takes a job as a prison guard on Alcatraz Island. When Moose first gets to the island, he really doesn’t want to live there. He doesn’t like the house or the people, and he misses everybody. He meets a few friends like Theresa and Jimmy. But he also meets a few enemies, like Piper. In the end Moose finds a proper place for his sister with a little help from Al Capone (a deadly prisoner).

Benito Onorato

**Colfer, Eoin**  
***Artemis Fowl***  
**2001**

[Artemis Fowl](#) is all about a scheme that Artemis Fowl, a 12 year old boy, has come up with to get one metric ton of gold! No, not by robbing a bank or selling a priceless painting, but by stealing it from people. The people are not human; instead they are fairies, pixies, gnomes, goblins, trolls, and dwarves. These creatures live in the center of the earth where the inner core is. Artemis plans to capture a fairy and

hold it for ransom, but the Lower Elements Police (L.E.P.) might try to beat him at his own game. Is Artemis in over his head? Will he be killed by the deadly bio bomb? To find out, read the book.

Spencer Williams

**Colfer, Eoin**  
***Artemis Fowl: the Opal Deception***  
**2005**

I thought that Artemis Fowl: the Opal Deception was a suspenseful, page turning story, as Artemis must avoid danger and help save the fairy world again. After Opal Kobois's plan to destroy the fairies and take over the world is foiled, she is determined to take revenge on anyone who was responsible. These people include Holly Short, Julius Root, Foaly, and Artemis Fowl, who has recently had his mind swept clean of all his fairy memories. With his memories gone, Artemis has returned to his old way of crime, attempting to steal a painting famous in the world of thievery. Who will survive the wrath of Opal ... and who won't? That's for you find out.

Kevin McDonough

**Colfer, Eoin**  
***Half-Moon Investigations***  
**2006**

I recommend my favorite book, Half-Moon Investigations. It is great for any mystery lover and is also good for those who are reading mysteries for the first time. It is about a middle-school student who takes online classes to become a real, certified detective. He solves mysteries such as missing lunch money and stolen pencils. When his coveted badge goes missing, he is forced to team up with the most wanted thief in the school to bust the culprits before they do further damage.

Mitch Eaton

**Croggon, Alison**  
***The Naming***  
**2005**

Maerad, a slave, lives in a settlement where she was taken as a young child when her family was killed in the war. She grew up not knowing that she had a very powerful gift. It marks her as a member of the School of Pellinor. If you want to hear how this story ends, you can find this book at your local library! It is an excellent read. I would recommend this book to someone who loves to read fantasy books. And if you like to read books with a gripping and exciting plot, this is the book for you!

Nick Gaillard

**Dessen, Sarah**  
***Just Listen***  
**2006**

After Annabel Green is almost raped by her best friend's boyfriend, her life goes straight downhill. She is abandoned by all her friends, her sister has an eating disorder, and she decides that she hates being a model. This story portrays her life as her sister gets well, she falls in love, quits modeling, and gets her

life back to normal. Throughout the book Annabel learns how communication is key with her family, and that even when things seem pretty bad, life will always get better with a little effort. Just Listen is a novel that deals with love, emotion, heartbreak, friendship, and more. I recommend it because of how it deals with problems that teens are faced with in everyday life. Sarah Dessen did an amazing job portraying Annabel's character, and I think everyone should read this book!

Annie Laughton

**Delaney, Joseph**  
*Revenge of the Witch*  
**2005**

As a Spook, Old Gregory has been protecting the village from all sorts of wicked beasts for years. It is time to pass on his skills. Twenty-nine apprentices have failed and suffered some terrible fates. Only one person is left who is eligible to learn Old Gregory's skills, Thomas Ward. At the same time, Mother Malkin, an evil witch, is released from her imprisonment. Thomas, the final hope, the seventh son of a seventh son, is the last apprentice. Can he protect the village from the revenge of the Witch?

Mike Dedian

**Donnelly, Jennifer**  
*A Northern Light*  
**2003**

A Northern Light is a captivating historical fiction book that transports you back in time to Upstate New York in the early 1900s. It is the story of a young girl named Mattie Gokey who wants to go to college but must first gather up the money and persuade her small hometown that girls have rights as well. To raise the tuition money she takes a job at a tourist resort on a lake where she meets a young woman named Grace Brown. Grace asks Mattie to burn some of her old letters, but shortly thereafter, Grace's dead body is pulled out of the lake, she was murdered. Within the letters Mattie discovers more about Grace and herself. Will she find out who killed Grace? Will she go to college and follow her dreams? Read the book to find out. A Northern Light is a fantastic book that I would recommend to anyone, it will not disappoint you.

Rebecca Mitchell

**Dowell, Frances O'Roark**  
*Dovey Coe*  
**2000**

One book that I recommend is Dovey Coe, because it has a lot of feeling in it. If you're a sensitive person like me, you will love this book. It is in the early 1900s and the Coe family isn't the rich ones in the bunch. Dovey Coe is a 12 year old girl who loves adventure. She loves a lot of other things, but one that is definitely not on her list is Parnell. She hates him so much, and he has never been nice to her. Her older brother, Amos is 13, and he also loves adventure. His two dogs, Tom and Huck, help him out, along with Dovey, because he was born deaf. Most people think that Amos is stupid. Because of his deafness, he also can't speak. There is one more Coe child, her name is Caroline. Caroline is drop-dead gorgeous and boys love her. One certain boy, Parnell Caraway, the rich, snooty boy who gets what he wants, only wants Caroline. She wants to go to college to become a teacher. Parnell doesn't like that though. Will Parnell

stop Caroline from going to school? Will Dovey get Parnell off Caroline's case? Read this loving, funny, sad, exciting book to find out.

Shannon Hicks

**Duncan, Lois**

***Don't Look Behind You\****

**1989**

April Corrigan is seventeen years old and her life changes amazingly when she finds out that her father had been working undercover for the FBI. Now April's father's testimony against the drug dealer has put their whole family in danger, and the whole family is relocated under the Federal Witness Security Program. April was one of the best tennis players at her school but she has to stop, and she's not allowed to talk to any of her friends, including her boyfriend. Both April and her mom have their names changed. I thought this was a good book for anyone who likes thrills and surprises.

Matthew Brown

**Duncan, Lois**

***I Know What You Did Last Summer***

**1973**

This exhilarating book is about a group of kids who thought the worst night of their lives was in the past, until notes are sent to them in the mail and they have to break the pact they made to never talk about that night. They all know who sent the letter and they all know that person wants revenge on them. The only way out is to stick together and watch each other's backs. If you want to know what happens to these poor kids, read now!!

Nick Mercer

**Feinstein, John**

***Cover-Up***

**2007**

If you are looking for a mystery that involves sports, then Cover-Up is an excellent choice for you. It is an exciting and suspenseful story that is a real page turner. Cover-Up is about two kid reporters who are covering the greatest event in football history, the Super Bowl. They quickly find out that one of the teams playing is cheating. Cover-Up is a great book, and if you want to find out what is going to happen, you will have to read it!

Matt Morrell

**Flanagan, John**

***The Icebound Land***

**2007**

The Icebound Land, the third book in the *Ranger's Apprentice* series, is an awesome action-packed book. Will and Evanlyn are on an icebound island called Skandia. They are surviving as slaves in the Skandian castle. Will becomes addicted to a Skandian drug called warmweed, which causes him to become a different person. Evanlyn and Will escape with the help of a Skandian leader. As they struggle for

survival in the Skandian wilderness, Will becomes less addicted to the warmweed and begins to be like his old self. Do they survive? Will they find safety or will they perish in the cold Skandian wilderness? You'll have to find out for yourself!

Korey Ryan

**Friend, Natasha**

*Perfect*

**2004**

Ever since Isabelle's father died, nothing has been the same. In order to deal with the anguish and pain she feels, Isabelle resorts to throwing up as her solution. When her mother discovers her secret, she puts Isabelle into a therapy group for girls with disorders similar to her own. Tragically, Isabelle is sucked into a whirlwind of problems when the ever-popular Ashley Barnum walks through the door of the "Eating Disorder and Body Image Therapy Group" and into Isabelle's life. When they start to hang out, Isabelle is ecstatic...but not for long. You will have to read Perfect to discover if Isabelle can put her popularity aside and stop being Ashley's friend in order to recover from the bulimia that is tearing away at her life. I would recommend this book to a mature reader who will be able to handle reading about the problems Isabelle faces.

Maggie Smith

**Funke, Cornelia**

*Dragon Rider*

**2004**

A brave young silver dragon and his good friend Ben are on a journey to a place where all the magical silver dragons can be free, away from everyone trying to capture them. This includes a dragon that is very mean and is preventing them from going on this journey. Ben and the silver dragon have a map that tells them where to go to find the place where silver dragons can be free. But the mean dragon sends his slaves (Ravens) to capture the map to find out where all the silver dragons are. Ben and the silver dragon are now stuck trying to find a magical place, but they have no idea where to even start. Will Ben and the silver dragon succeed in their mission to defeat the mean dragon and find their magical place where silver dragons can hide from the mean one? Or will the mean one find the silver dragons' hideout and kill them all? You have to read the book to find out.

Emma Greenwich

**George, Jean Craighead**

*My Side of the Mountain*

**1959**

My Side of the Mountain is a really great book. Tired of crowded city life, Sam Gribbley decides to run away from home and live in the Catskill Mountains. With only a pocketknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and a flint and steel set, Sam hopes to be successful with his new life in the wild. Sam eventually finds his family's abandoned farm and decides to live in a tree near it. Alone in the mountains, Sam gains courage, learns about the dangers the wilderness has to offer, and realizes the true meaning of companionship when he finds and tames a wild falcon which he names Frightful. A kid with the dream of being a reporter finds Sam. Will he report Sam and ruin his dream of living in the wild? To find out what happens next,

read the Newbery Award winning book, My Side of the Mountain. This wonderful wilderness book is a MUST READ for all nature lovers!

Kane Corbeau  
Sean Fontaine

**Giff, Patricia Reilly**  
*Lily's Crossing*  
1997

Lily's Crossing is a great book that I would recommend to sixth or seventh graders. It is about a girl named Lily who lives with her dad and her grandmother. Every summer they all go up to Grandma's house in Rockaway. The book takes place during World War II, so it is very dangerous to go out on the streets. Lily's friend Margaret who lives next door to her grandma's house is moving away because of the war, and Lily's dad is going across the seas to help with the war. Lily feels very sad because she has nothing to do all summer long. Will Lily meet a new friend or have the summer of her life? You will have to read and find out.

Maggie Carbin

**Giff, Patricia Reilly**  
*Pictures of Hollis Woods*  
2002

In this interesting story, Hollis Woods, who was abandoned at birth, remembers her past life through the pictures she has drawn. Readers get to watch as the past comes forward, slowly but surely beginning to tie into her present life. Hollis is not used to staying with families for very long (she has hopped from foster family to foster family, causing problems in each home and running away from all of them), but when she gets placed with the Regan family, she thinks that she's done running. Steven, Izzy, and the Old Man make her feel welcome. Because of the accident, Hollis feels that she is ruining the family. She thinks that she can never go back and so she runs away. Hollis is found and placed with an older woman named Josie, a former art teacher. With drawing being Hollis' only way to escape life around her, the two grow on each other quickly. Hollis likes living with Josie and Henry the cat, and enjoys the company of Beatrice, Josie's artist cousin. Beatrice goes on vacation, and Hollis misses school almost every day. How could her life get any better? That is, until the Social Worker starts getting suspicious. Soon after, Hollis is again told she has to leave. Josie is not remembering things like she used to and is said to be not responsible enough to take care of Hollis. Hollis decides that this time when she runs, Josie is coming with her. The two drive to the one place that Hollis knows - the Regan's. Josie and Hollis spend time there while the Regan's are away at their summer house, but Hollis is surprised when she gets more than she bargained for.

Cadie Fowler  
Josh Powers

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**  
*Double Identity*  
2005

Double Identity is an outstanding book. One day Bethany is driving in the car with her parents, but neither one will tell her where they are going. Meanwhile, her mother is sobbing and her father will not

speak. Finally they arrive at a small house, and she is told she will stay with someone her parents call Aunt Myrlie. Her overprotective parents quickly drive off and she is left with a stranger. What is going on? Will Bethany ever see her parents again? To find out, read this suspenseful and thrilling book.

Mo Hannon

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**

***Turnabout***

**2000**

Turnabout is a great science fiction selection. It is about two old ladies who are in a nursing home. They are best friends and are given the opportunity of a lifetime to live forever. The scientists said they had tried it before on people and it worked. The truth is they hadn't. The way it works is that you decrease in age until you reach around 1 years old. The catch is that if you take the second dose you die. What will happen to them? Will they die? Read Turnabout to find out!

Kate Daniels

**Harrison, Lisi**

***It's Not Easy Being Mean***

**2007**

It's Not Easy Being Mean, the seventh book in the *Clique* series, is fantastic. Massie, Claire, Alicia, Dylan and Kristen, members of the Pretty Committee, are on an adventure to find the "Secret Room" of O.C.D. (Octavian Country Day school). The DSL daters have given them hints where the key is, and who has it, but it is up to the Pretty Committee to use their smarts in popularity and fashion to find the secret room, and absolute popularity. The Pretty Committee needs to be in command or else they can kiss their popularity goodbye. This is a great read. It was a page turner and I couldn't put it down. Don't miss out, pick up a copy today!

Ainsley Jamieson

**Harrison, Lisi**

***The Pretty Committee Strikes Back***

**2008**

When Massie and her infamous Pretty Committee go on a class trip to Lake Placid, things could go crazy; especially since they are going with the boys from Briarwood Academy. In this book Massie has to fix her reputation of being on top, after she ruins it by a simple lie to make her look good. It's up to Massie to kiss "Derrington" to prove to the girls that she has kissed a boy, and win his heart at the same time. Will Massie be able to win his heart? Will Massie ruin her reputation? To find out what happens, read The Pretty Committee Strikes Back.

Rachel Kane

**Hautman, Pete**  
***RASH***  
**2006**

Society has become paranoid in the year 2074. They are obsessed with safety and protecting their citizens, even banning any violent sports including football, ownership of dangerous tools and large dogs. Behavior is monitored and breaking the rules results in severe punishment, such as hard labor. Teenager Bo Marsten is sent to a camp in Canada after losing his temper. Although he enjoys his time with new friends and playing football, he quickly learns living in a place where there is no protection or sensible rules may be worse than living in a paranoid society.

Joseph Corbeau

**Hennesy, Carolyn**  
***Pandora Gets Jealous\****  
**2008**

Pandora Gets Jealous is a modern retelling of the Greek myth, "Pandora's Box." It portrays Pandora as a thirteen year old who takes the box filled with evil that her father must protect to school for a project and the evils accidentally get released into the world. Pandora must collect all the evils and return them to the box in six months, or ruin the world for all time. This book is quite funny and hard to put down, but it also touches upon the real and more serious theme of how the support of friends, family, (and ancient Greek gods, in this case) can get you through almost anything. A sequel is also being written (Pandora Gets Vain), so if you enjoy this book, look for that one as well. Also, this book is probably more geared for girls, so keep that in mind.

Emily Carter

**Higson, Charlie**  
***Silverfin\****  
**2006**

Silverfin is a good mystery for the whole family which tells the adventures of a young James Bond. Bond and a boy named Red Kelly go to find Red's cousin who has disappeared around Loch Silverfin, where silverfin eels are a rare food. The loch is heavily guarded and owned by an evil American family, the Hellebores. Bond and his curiosity could one day kill him. The Hellebores want to see Bond dead, and they will stop at nothing to kill him and continue their evil and mysterious experiments.

Dave Sterling

**Horowitz, Anthony**  
***Ark Angel***  
**2006**

You have to read Ark Angel. It is an exceptional novel that is very well written from beginning to end. It is a mix of tragedy and friendship and has everything from murder to love. This is one of the books in the Alex Rider series. If you haven't heard of this series, it is about a boy named Alex who works for MI6. He is an undercover agent sent on different missions in each book. In Ark Angel, Alex is sent to save the Pentagon in Washington, DC from an eco-terrorist group. This book is jam-packed with action, right when you least expect it. Alex's life flashes by him in various parts of the book. He comes close to death

several times in Ark Angel. This intense book grabs your attention and doesn't let go. This book is easy to read from beginning to end. You have to read Ark Angel!

Ben Greenberg

**Horowitz, Anthony**

*Eagle Strike*

**2003**

In the life of Alex Rider, nothing is unusual; even being shot at by evil masterminds or saving millions of lives. Eagle Strike is no different. Eagle Strike includes another evil villain with another horrible scheme. Damian Cray, multi-billionaire, is an international hero. He has set up dozens of charitable organizations, fought for a number of good causes for many years, and everyone thinks he is probably one of the greatest people in the world. Everyone, that is, except Alex Rider, a spy who works with MI6 in England - a secret organization of spies. When Alex stayed with his girlfriend in her house, Yassen Gregorovich, one of Alex's worst enemies, blew up the house. When Alex investigates, he is led straight to Damian Cray. Cray is hatching a plan that would kill millions of people all over the world, and it is up to Alex to stop him. Can one person in the world make a difference, or will Cray continue to destroy the world? I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure and suspense. This is a great book, which will keep you on the edge of your seat right until the end.

Alex Henny

**Hunter, Erin**

*Into the Wild*

**2003**

Rusty, a normal house cat has had dreams of the forest. One night he explores the forest. He gets into a fight with one of the legendary wild cats that live there and soon meets a few others. Bluestar, leader of Thunderclan, asks him to join their clan and become a warrior, since Thunderclan is having a lot of trouble. Rusty accepts the next day and he leaves his old life behind as he joins the clan. Months later, Rusty has earned his warrior name, Fireheart, and he has uncovered a dark, life-threatening secret: Tigerclaw, a huge ambitious warrior of Thunderclan has murdered, lied, and betrayed to try to become the most powerful cat in the forest. Only Fireheart and his two friends know the secret. They tell Bluestar of Tigerclaw's dangerous treachery, but she refuses to believe them. As Fireheart and Tigerclaw become bitter enemies, and more cats are hurt and killed, Fireheart knows the clan is not safe. A short time before Fireheart joined Thunderclan, the medicine cat was given a prophecy by their warrior ancestors. It said, "Fire alone can save our clan." Fireheart eventually discovers the prophecy, but can't figure out what it means. Can Fireheart and his friends stop Tigerclaw from getting any more murderous, and can he find out the meaning of the mysterious prophecy? Read Into the Wild and the following books to find out.

Tyler Adams

**Jinks, Catherine**

*Evil Genius*

**2005**

Evil Genius is an incredible read for all ages. Cadel Piggot, a gifted seven year old with an IQ of 180, has never known who his father was. As Cadel grows older, he learns about his father's past as the evil Dr. Phineas Drakkon (which means Dark Lord) and his assistant, Thaddeus, who is currently Cadel's

therapist. As he meets more with Thaddeus, Cadel learns about a school that Dr. Drakkon created called The Axis Institute for World Domination. The Axis Institute offers classes in embezzlement and assassination, among others. Although the school was intended for Cadel, his father also had it built to cover up his master plan for world domination, and Cadel is a key part of the plan! Cadel is being molded into an evil genius by his father's agents. Will Cadel go through with his father's plans or will he learn there is more to life than evil? To find out read this incredible story of action and suspense.

Ian Allen  
Zach Cole

**Kain, P. G.**  
***Dumped by Popular Demand\****  
**2007**

It all started when Dorie Dilt's mom said the words, "... We'll have to move in a couple of weeks." By looking at Dorie's expression, everyone thought that she was mad and did not want to move, because she liked living where they were. Much to her parents' surprise, Dorie was full of excitement; it was her time to start all over in a place where no one had ever heard of the name Dorie Dilts. When she got to her new hometown, she decided that she wanted to be popular. She wanted everyone to like her and know her. So on the first day of school, the first thing she did was to find out who was in the popular crowd. When she found them it all went downhill from there. She had nothing in common with any of them. The only thing that all the girls of the "Holly Trinity" (what Dorie called them) had in common was that they were all dumped by Grant. So Dorie's goal was to get Grant to date her, and then dump her. Luckily, Grant picked her as a lab partner. They went to each others houses, and after a while everyone thought they were dating. To find out more about Grant and Dorie, read [Dumped by Popular Demand](#).

Tori Milligan

**Korman, Gordon**  
***No More Dead Dogs***  
**2000**

Have you ever hated it when the dog always dies at the end of a book? Wallace Wallace sure does. Wallace is instantly famous around the town when he catches the winning touchdown for a very important football game. He is assigned a book report on *Old Shep, My Pal*. When he turns in his report, his teacher notifies him that he did a lousy job on it. *Old Shep, My Pal* is the teacher's favorite book, and the report says that it was the worst book Wallace had every read and that if the dog didn't die it would have been better. The rest of the classmates loved the book and thought it was really emotional. As punishment for writing a lousy book report, Wallace has to do an "honest" book report and direct a play about it, preventing him from football practice. Wallace passes back other reports, all saying the same thing. You see, Wallace Wallace has never told into a lie. The play turns into something totally different from what his teacher envisioned. Lots of strange dialogue and even roller blades are put into it. Wallace begins to like directing it - he starts to change the story. But someone is sabotaging the play - flour is dumped onto the stage, marbles are spilled everywhere, and many other shenanigans. There are many suspects - Wallace's friends, his "girl-friend", a stranger, or even Wallace Wallace himself.

Jameson Vogel

**LaRochelle, David**  
*Absolutely, Positively Not*  
2005

Absolutely, Positively Not is about a boy named Steven, who is a lot of things, including a very careful observer. But one thing he knows he is *not*, is gay. Even if he notices his male teacher's soft, silky hair, blue eyes, and his huge muscles when he folds up his sleeves. Steven does not want anyone, not even his best friend Rachel, to find out that this ever crossed his mind. So he will do anything to keep his secret from getting out.

Celenia Benner

**Lawrence, Iain**  
*The Wreckers*  
1998

Jonathan, a young boy, is eager to explore the wide open ocean, after he decides it would be better to be a seafarer than a landlubber. After a few mysterious stops, Jonathan's ship is lured onto rocks near the shore. He wakes up to find large men salvaging the ship and killing anyone left alive. For an action packed thrill ride with non stop suspense and adventure, and a chance to find out what happens next, pick up The Wreckers at your local library.

Gage Toohey

**Lee, Harper**  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
1960

Written from the perspective of a little girl, To Kill a Mockingbird unleashes her childhood story. Jean Louise Finch's life takes place during the Great Depression. Scout, as she is called, her older brother Jem, and her friend Dill find adventures exploring their small town of Maycomb, Alabama. They attempt to make Arthur "Boo" Radley come out of the house that he has been in for years by using various schemes and tricks and getting into as much trouble as they can. As the book progresses and Scout advances in school, times for the family become tougher. Atticus, their father and a lawyer, is defending an African American man accused of raping a 19 year old Caucasian girl named Mayella Ewell. Now, with death threats and scary nights, the Finch family is questioning what is right. Will there always be this struggle between whites and blacks? Will Boo Radley ever come out of his house? What will happen to the Finch family? How will they get past this and be able to move on with the lives they once had?

Mariah Volk

**Lupica, Mike**  
*Summer Ball*  
2007

Summer Ball is an exciting story about a young basketball player named Danny Walker. Danny has always been small for his age, but nothing compares to when he goes to a basketball camp in Cedarville, Maine. Danny's hopes die at the camp when his coach does not treat him fairly and everyone is beating him because of their height advantage. Danny does not want to stay at the camp, but he knows his father will be disappointed in him if he leaves. This sequel to the book Travel Team is a superb story of a

teenager's highs and lows of summer camp. To find out what happens to Danny, read Summer Ball by Mike Lupica.

Ben Sirois

**MacHale, D. J.**  
***Pendragon series***  
**2004**

Bobby Pendragon is living a normal life. He goes to school in Connecticut, he is the star player on his basketball team and he has many friends. When he is fourteen Bobby's Uncle Press shows up at Bobby's house and brings him to an abandoned subway station in a dark side of the Bronx. In the station there is a secret door. This door contains a flume. The flumes are gateways through space and time that bring travelers to multiple territories. The travelers are a group of beings that protect the territories from Saint Dane. Saint Dane is an evil Demon shape shifter that is trying to tip the balance of Halla (everything, everywhere). If he succeeds life as everyone knows it will be over. Will Bobby be able to stop Saint Dane or will he be crushed? The only way to find out is to read the book.

Trey Chamberlain

**Martin, Ann M.**  
***A Dog's Life\****  
**2005**

A Dog's Life is a book about a stray dog named Squirrel. Squirrel has had a difficult life, from losing her mom to a hunter to losing her brother to an ungrateful human. Ann M. Martin captures the detailed ups and downs of a stray's life including life and death. Throughout this book Squirrel travels the country in search of her brother who was taken by a human. Squirrel goes through many homes and roams many dark streets. She has lost all of her family and friends. She has met the worst people you could imagine. Will anyone have a heart for this lost, lonely stray?

Ali Deignan

**Mass, Wendy**  
***A Mango-Shaped Space\****  
**2003**

A Mango-Shaped Space is a great book. Thirteen-year-old Mia struggles with a condition called Synesthesia, which causes her to have colors associated with her numbers, letters, and sounds. When she reveals this to her family, she is forced to face reality that she is different. Throughout the book, Mia struggles with her condition. She learns how to cope not only with the condition, but also with the death of her cat, and realizes both are for the best. Mia finds security in a new friend; a boy with the same disease. Everybody at school finds out that she has the disability and she feels like a freak. Mia must fight through her problems to go beyond her differences and succeed in school. She ends up loving her condition and not wanting to live without it. A Mango-Shaped Space will keep you reading and you won't want to stop!

Adrienne Damicis  
Katie Shottes

**McCormick, Patricia**  
***Sold***  
**2006**

Sold follows the life of Lakshmi, a girl who lives in Nepal with her mother, stepfather, and baby brother. Her stepfather is irresponsible and he gambles away all of the family's money. Since they have no money, her stepfather sells her into prostitution. Lakshmi is forced to live an adult's life when she is only a child. Lakshmi faces the horrors of the outside world; she wants to escape prostitution but she can't pay off her debt. Finally Lakshmi finds a string of hope that she may be able to hold onto. The book Sold really makes you appreciate what you have and teaches you to take nothing for granted.

Tess Cekeda

**Meyer, Stephanie**  
***Twilight***  
**2005**

For all those who enjoy fantasy, romance, and horror, Twilight would be well worth your time. The action! The drama! The ... vampires? Yes, Twilight is full of those bloodsucking creatures that we are so fond of reading about. Without them the story would be completely uninteresting. They manage to land poor Bella Swan in a deadly game of hide and go seek. It all starts out with a teenage girl, Bella Swan, who goes to live with her father. You see, her parents are divorced and her mother has gone with her boyfriend to Florida. Her first day of school is completely depressing due to the hideous weather in Forks, Washington (a small town on the Olympic Peninsula), but it sets an eerie mood. Poor Bella, she hates the rain and clouds, and is disappointed to see that it's not at all like her home back in Phoenix, in more than one way, as it turns out. Bella falls in love with one of the most popular guys in her new school, the famous, supermodel-like, pale, and handsome Edward Cullen. Suddenly, she comes within an inch of death when a car spirals out of control, ready to strike her, but she is miraculously rescued by Edward ... who is a vampire?! So is the rest of his gorgeous family, who all happen to be vegetarian vampires, vampires who only suck the blood of animals. But unfortunately for Bella, they're the *only* ones who don't kill humans. There sure are a lot of vampires out there, and Bella's blood happens to be the most delicious-tasting blood that any human has. To top it off, she's a danger-magnet, and bloodthirsty vampires from around the world seem to somehow find her. Fortunately for her, Edward and his family are willing to risk their lives to help Bella keep hers. From then on, Bella's life spirals into a mystical, romantic, and scary world filled with vampires and werewolves, traitors and heroes. Can Bella and Edward survive their love for each other? What happens to nearly kill her? Sorry, the classic suspense questions we won't answer. All you have to do is read Twilight by Stephanie Meyer and the annoying little questions will go away. Many have fallen head over heels for this book and you will most likely join them. Stephanie Meyer has created an intricate plot, and the character of Bella Swan is perhaps one of the most memorable in all of young adult literature. The voice of the author is funny and engaging, and each book in this darkly romantic series will have you eager for the next.

Merrill Porterfield  
Susan Rundell  
Emily Tolman

**Minter, J.**  
*Inside Girl\**  
2007

Flan Flood, "Schoolgirl by day. Socialite by night," has a life any girl would want... any girl except her. She has always had her pick of designer clothes, celebrity friends, and the coolest parties because of her family being legendary in New York. But Flan gets sick of all of her friends just trying to get closer to her older brother, Patch. All she wants to do is start over and be a normal person. When she starts a new high school, she finds the perfect opportunity to change things. New people who may not recognize her, this is perfect! Flan then gets new friends to hang out with. Little does she remember, her famous friends still know where she lives and who she is. Suddenly, there are three well known people crashing in her house causing trouble. A starlet is hiding from the paparazzi in Flan's bedroom, the hottest club promoter is staying in her living room, and another socialite is living in Flan's guest room. How will Flan Flood be "normal" if her new friends find out the truth about her?

Samantha Ramsey

**Paolini, Christopher**  
*Eldest*  
2005

Eldest is by far the best book I have read in the last year. It is the second book in the *Inheritance* trilogy that Paolini is currently writing. (The first book in the trilogy is Eragon and is a must read as well.) If a fantasy world with mythical creatures and extraordinary adventures interest you, then you have to pick up a copy as soon as possible. Eldest and Eragon are the types of books that pull you in after the first chapter, and don't let you go until there is no more to read. Just think about it. If you start to read the series now, you will finish the second book not too long before the third book, Brisinger, comes out on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. I will be eagerly awaiting that day and if you read Eragon and Eldest I'm sure you will to.

J. D. Herman

**Paolini, Christopher**  
*Eragon*  
2003

To anyone who enjoys reading adventure, excitement, and a detailed story, we recommend Eragon, which is full of magic and adventure. When Eragon finds a blue stone in the woods, he takes it home, hoping that it will buy his family food for the winter. He is very mistaken; within a month, the stone, which is really an egg, hatches to reveal a baby dragon. Everyone thinks all dragons are dead except for the dark and twisted dragon of the evil King Galbatorix. Eragon names the dragon Saphira and raises her in secret, until she causes a tragedy and changes Eragon's life, mostly for the better, but they encounter many hardships. Eragon becomes a legendary Rider, as do all that have dragon eggs hatched for them. Will Eragon ever defeat Galbatorix, the king who is trying to capture Eragon and Saphira? Will Eragon get revenge for his grief? Read Eragon to find out! We loved this book and we think you will, too. Even if you don't like long books, this is a good choice because every page is an event that will satisfy your curiosity.

Hannah Grover  
Max Ornstein

**Paulsen, Gary**  
***Hatchet***  
**1987**

Hatchet is a thrilling and action packed book about a 14 year old boy named Brian Robeson. His parents have recently gotten divorced and he is going to see his dad in Canada. He is traveling alone in a bush plane with one pilot. Trouble begins when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. Right before the pilot had the heart attack, he taught Brian how to fly the plane. Luckily, Brian manages to crash the plane in a lake and survives. The only things he has are the clothes on his back and the hatchet that his mom gave him before he left. If he wants to live, he is obligated to catch and kill his own food, build himself a shelter, and adjust to the environment he has been imprisoned by. Throughout the book, Brian has to deal with hunger, animal attacks, and even a tornado. Brian has to stay strong and not get too down on himself. Will Brian survive? You will have to read the book to find out.

Andrew Farrington  
Joe Lancaster  
Sarah Martens

Matt Murphy  
Ryan Pollota

**Pierce, Tamora**  
***Alanna: the First Adventure***  
**1983**

Alanna: the First Adventure is about a 10 year old girl, Alanna, who has magic and wants to be a knight. At that time, girls weren't allowed to be knights, so Alanna dresses up and pretends to be a boy. She goes to the castle where she trains to be a knight. But an unusual sickness breaks out and the prince, Alanna's friend, catches it. Alanna finds out that the sickness is caused by magic and is determined to find out who did it, but will she find out before the prince dies?

Julia Labanowski

**Renisson, Louise**  
***Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging***  
**2000**

Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging. You might be thinking, snogging, what is that? It is simply a Scottish term for kissing. And Angus is Georgia's cat, but he is not just your ordinary cat, he is extremely fat. Angus intimidates dogs and eats leads (that's leash in American). Angus is a killing machine especially feared by the neighborhood rodents. Georgia is just a teenage girl getting through life. This was a book of hilarious moments. This book has some weird terms, but has a joke on every single page that will keep you reading until the very end! So pick it up, it will have you laughing to the last page! You'll probably have your friends reading it too!

Kayla Chamberlain

**Riordan, Rick**  
***The Lightning Thief***  
**2005**

The Lightning Thief is the first of the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* stories. Based on Greek mythology but set in today's world, this book is about a boy who finds out that his father was the great sea

god, Poseidon, and is taken away to a camp for Half-Bloods, children who have one parent a mortal and one a god. Zeus, Poseidon's brother, has had his master lightning bolt stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Percy sets out to find the true thief and retrieve the lightning bolt. Will he survive the journey?

Patrick Snowden

**Rose, Malcolm**  
*Final Lap\**  
2008

The scaffolding collapse that killed two men, the disappearance of the chief engineer, the poisoning of the swimming pool - these things are more than just accidents. Somebody is trying to sabotage the construction for the youth games in Hounslow. The authorities send out their best forensic investigator, Luke Harding. The 16 year old is now off in an intense and action filled mystery. To find out who is sabotaging the games, read Final Lap.

Wout Moulin

**Rowling, J. K.**  
*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*  
2007

In the final installment of the Harry Potter series, J. K. Rowling presents a masterpiece. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is a winner! This story follows the three main characters, Harry, Ron, and Hermione, as they skip their final year at the wizarding school of Hogwarts. The trio venture through dangerous lands on their way to destroying horcruxes belonging to the notorious dark wizard, Lord Voldemort. In order to finish Voldemort off for good, they must demolish all seven horcruxes, which are pieces of Voldemort's soul. But along the way, Harry becomes obsessed with finding the Deathly Hallows which promises the holder immortality. Ron and Hermione don't believe him because it is only a child's story. So are they finally going to be able to finish Voldemort off? Read the book to find out. Don't miss out on this epic tale.

Andrew Chase  
Christian Shannon  
Sophia Warren

**Rowling, J. K.**  
*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*  
2005

In the sixth book of the *Harry Potter* series, Harry goes to a potions class and discovers a book that has a lot of helpful tips for making potions and has some scribbled down spells. Harry succeeds at potions this year because of the Half-Blood Prince and his notes. After some time, Snape finally finds out that Harry is using the old potions book and reveals that he is actually the Half-Blood Prince. Someone dies in this book that has been in every other book so read and find out who it is!

Christian Langlois

**Shusterman, Neil**  
*Full Tilt\**  
**2003**

Blake and his younger brother, Quinn, have almost nothing in common. Blake is calm and responsible, while Quinn is adventurous and loves to get into trouble. However, one night when Quinn's thrill seeking spirit goes too far, Blake finds himself chasing Quinn at a phantom carnival where the only way out is to survive seven deadly rides by dawn. The trick that traps all the customers at the carnival is that each ride relates to a personal fear of the rider. The only way to save Quinn from death is for Blake to face the one fear from his past that troubles him the most. Will Quinn and Blake ride all seven rides before dawn, or will their souls be trapped in the carnival forever? Read Full Tilt by Neal Shusterman to find out.

Sarah Hoops

**Spinelli, Jerry**  
*Maniac Magee*  
**1990**

Maniac Magee was orphaned when his parents were killed in a horrible crash. Maniac ended up living in the streets. He struggles to survive as a homeless person. Throughout the story Maniac goes through many challenges and makes new friends and even some enemies that become allies later on. In the end, all Maniac's problems are over with and everything goes well.

Isaac Ng

**Spinelli, Jerry**  
*Stargirl*  
**2000**

Leo Borlock is as boring as an eleventh grader can get. He plays no sports, isn't in any after school clubs and has average grades. There are only two things that make him different from everyone else; he collects porcupine neckties and has fallen head-over-heels for Stargirl. To him she is magical and mysterious, which is something he has always wanted in a girl. There is only one problem about her; she is unlike everyone else at Mica High. Stargirl marches to her own beat, doing things like dressing in crazy outfits, bringing flowers to put on her desk, singing at lunch and much more. Stargirl changes an entire school by being who she really is and not afraid to stand out as an individual, in a school where it seems like every one just followed the crowd. To find out how Stargirl changes one school completely around by not being afraid to stand out and be different, read Stargirl.

Noni Alexander  
Bruna Felix

**Stevenson, Robert Louis**  
*Treasure Island*  
**1883**

Treasure Island is a great and fun adventure for people of all interests and ages. The action begins when a young teenager named Jim Hawkins is captured by pirates, who then find an island off the coast of Deadman's Bay. The Captain, his crew, and Jim Hawkins search the island for the treasure of Captain Flint. What they find is much greater than they could have ever imagined. Now they must protect and

hide the treasure using any means, because hundreds of other crews are after the same treasure. They are faced with unbelievable odds and the fury of the raging ocean. This book is full of suspense, action, cleverness, and danger and it will have you reading at the edge of your seat until you finish. You will be left wanting more!

Michael Gusev  
Kyle Turin

**Tolkien, J. R. R.**  
***The Fellowship of the Ring***  
**1993**

The ring of power was passed down to Frodo through his wise friend Gandalf. Taking the ring and heading for the city of the elves, it was decided that Frodo and a person from every race would go into the mountains, fighting off the evil Bolrog and running away from the goblins. After heading into the rivers on boats, they were pursued by orcs, sent by the white hand of Sauramon. The orcs killed Boromir and captured two Hobbits named Pippin and Merry. Frodo in the midst of it all escaped up river on a boat with Sam.

Steven Strait

**Van Draanen, Wendelin**  
***Flipped***  
**2001**

The first time Bryce saw Julianna, he knew he was in trouble! The first time Julianna saw Bryce, she knew she was in love. Bryce spends his energy avoiding Julianna as much as he can. As soon as he moved in, she was right there watching his every move, shadowing his every footstep. Julianna is crazy about Bryce; she falls deeper and deeper into his dazzling blue eyes. She chases after him every moment she gets. Then 8<sup>th</sup> grade comes, and their views begin to change. Bryce begins to notice Julianna for who she is rather than the annoying little follower she used to be. Julianna is tired of wasting her energy on Bryce; she is done chasing after "the guy that is walking around with her first kiss." This witty novel is creatively written with Bryce and Julianna switching off telling their side of the story every chapter. I would recommend this book to people who enjoy reading romance stories with a twist. It was a good novel that shows the ups and downs of relationships. I went head over heels for this book, will you flip too?

Laura Przybylowicz

**Westerfeld, Scott**  
***Extras***  
**2007**

Aya Fuse is a fifteen year old living in a world where her entire life is based around popularity. Out of a million people with popularity ranks from 1 to 1,000,000, Aya is stuck with a rank in the hundred thousands. But when she stumbles upon a clique of girls who work hard not to be famous, Aya can't help wanting to kick the story, so that the whole city will know about the clique's crazy games, and Aya could finally be famous. But one night, the girls' games lead them to inhuman freaks, and a mass driver hidden in a mountain that could destroy the whole city! When the clique discovers Aya's motive, they want her to kick the story, but they decide to leave first. When Aya kicks the story, she becomes instantly famous,

and the freaks come for her because they have been found out, even though Aya's hovercam, Moggle, didn't catch the footage. Then, Aya discovers that the mass driver actually isn't a weapon! Aya and her friends are thrown into a plot involving freaks, dangerous weapons, and the most famous person in the world, who had also saved it more than once. Will Aya be able to fix her mistake without being bashed for life? You'll find out when you read Extras.

Hannah Galloway

**Zusack, Markus**  
***I am the Messenger***  
**2002**

I am the Messenger is a suspense novel that takes place in New York City. Suspense fills this book right from the opening scene where all the characters are caught in a bank robbery. The book begins fast and gets faster as you continue to read on. Ed Kennedy, the main character, begins to discover the cards, aces, in mysterious ways. He has been chosen to complete certain tasks, but he is just a normal cab driver. He doubts himself because of the enormous feats that he must accomplish. However, Ed Kennedy finds something special in himself that no one saw coming.

Andrew Jones

## Adult Titles

**Asimov, Isaac**

***I, Robot***

**1950**

Many say they have seen the movie - but like many other, the movie can't compare to the complex plot that twists unexpectedly in I, Robot. Robots are bound by the 3 Laws of Robotics - one: Robots cannot harm a human being or bring a human being to harm through inaction; two: A robot must comply with a humans commands, as long as it doesn't neglect the first law in doing so; and, three: A robot must protect its own existence as long as it doesn't break the first or second law. We all dream of a day when robots do the hard work, but how will we compensate them in return? Small stories told by a robopsychologist, Dr. Calvin, intertwine to form a bigger picture. There is the story of Robbie, who is a robot that has a deep, loving compassion for the little girl he takes care of. Another story is of a robot who believes he is a prophet of the Maker, which is actually just another machine. He cannot believe that robots are inferior to humans. Dr. Calvin finds a robot that can read minds, but then is driven insane by impossible dilemmas that happen with the conflicting laws. Then, the most distressing problem of all is when Dr. Calvin is called to a problem on a nearby asteroid, where they must find which robot, out of 63 robots, is lying. Humans created what they thought were miracle workers - machines that could respond and interact with humans. But ingenious thinking comes at a price. The larger question is how large will that price be? Have we finally created a beast that cannot be slain? Read this intense sci-fi novel by the renowned Isaac Asimov and find out!

Kate Odden

**Brown, Dan**

***The Da Vinci Code***

**2003**

Robert Langdon, a veteran symbologist and Harvard professor, is paired up with a young cryptologist named Sophie Neveu, to figure out what Jacques Sauniere's coded words mean. These words send them on a millennium-old treasure hunt for the Holy Grail, an item of such great power it would crumble the foundations of the Catholic Church if its secrets were revealed. In this epic journey where the Church and the police are out to stop them and a hidden force wants the Grail for its own, anything can happen. Robert and Sophie, an unlikely combination with everything to lose, try to make sure the Grail and its secrets do not fall into the wrong hands in this novel with plot twists as stunning as its realism.

Michael Tudor

**Carattera, Lorenzo**

***Street Boys\****

**2002**

Street Boys is a masterpiece waiting to be exploited. In this book the Germans are coming back to destroy what is left of the city of Naples. They think it will be an easy mission until there is resistance from some Neapolitan teenagers who were orphaned by the fascists and nightly bomb raids. Torn apart by loss, these boys and girls stand against the Germans in one final fight of defiance and show that even children can stand against an army. This book is one of a kind and will keep you reading as if you were super glued to the book. So, if you're looking for a book that will have you attached to the characters and love and cry

with them through their losses and struggles to keep the city that they will always call home, then Street Boys is a book for you.

Garret Hazelwood

**Crichton, Michael**  
*State of Fear*  
**2004**

State of Fear is a fantastic book. Its scientific theme of global warming makes it a very realistic book with many modern-day ties. This, on top of an absolutely stellar storyline, makes this book one of my favorites so far. I was not able to put the book down. In the storyline, a lawyer gets tied up in the connections between environmental funding groups and eco-terrorists, leading him and his acquaintances to capture by a tribe of cannibals! Find out how this incredible book resolves! I recommend this book to anyone who loves an adventure with real life ties, but can also handle a book with a much higher maturity level.

Alex Goodwin

**Flynn, Vince**  
*Term Limits\**  
**1997**

Term Limits is a page turning thriller written by Vince Flynn. The book starts off with the assassination of alcoholic, loud-mouthed, corrupt Senator Fitzgerald who, while drunk in a bar, gives out information that leads to the deaths of six Navy SEALs. Shortly after his death, two more killings follow of innocent politicians. These three killings trigger a series of demands made by the assassins that could close the doors of the CIA within twenty-four hours. The big problem is that the assassins only killed Fitzgerald. The only one who has a clue as to who might have killed the innocent senators is Michael O'Rourke, a former Marine and a new Congressman. Will he find out who the killer is or will the U. S. government topple with the release of the assassin's information?

Jacob Smith

**Grogan, John**  
*Marley & Me*  
**2005**

Marley & Me is a wonderful read that is sure to bring tears to your eyes. It takes you on the adventures of a misbehaving dog and its terrified owners. If you want to laugh, cry, and feel many other emotions, this is the book for you. Marley is a terrible acting dog who takes his owners on a roller coaster of a time up until his last few days. This is a book that you won't want to set down. If you want a great read or just hear more about Marley and his owners read Marley & Me.

Olivia Joy

**Gruwell, Erin and her students**  
*The Freedom Writers Diary*  
1999

The Freedom Writers Diary is compiled from the real journal entries of students living where gang violence is at large. This book is jam-packed with tragedy and the horrible truth of what can happen to teenagers living in these areas. The teacher in this book, Erin Gruwell, is a real person who taught some fourteen-year-old kids who were more interested in hurting each other than learning. Mrs. Gruwell showed these students that she cared about them and wanted them to succeed by trying to bring them together as a class. I would recommend this book to a person of any age because it shows that no matter what has happened to you, you can still turn your life around.

Caitlin Stahl-Hodgkins

**King, Stephen**  
*Misery*  
1985

From beginning to end this book is pure artistic genius. The story tells of Paul Sheldon, a best selling author most renowned for his Misery Chastain series. When driving to New York from Colorado, Paul gets into a snowstorm and crashes. Paul is rescued by a former nurse named Annie Wilkes who cares for him in her own home and tells him she's his biggest fan. After buying his newest novel *Misery's Child*, Annie finds out that Misery dies at the end. Enraged by this, Annie reveals that no one knows he's there but her. Annie is a psychopath; she even tortures Paul by cutting off his feet. This is a splendid novel and the ending isn't quite what you'd expect.

Colby Yerxa

**Ludlum, Robert**  
*The Bourne Supremacy*  
1986

The Bourne Supremacy is a very interesting thriller of action and suspense. Jason Bourne is a man with incredible physical skills who used to be involved with the government. When his wife is abducted as part of a very elaborate plan to catch the fake "Jason Bourne," the innermost qualities that make him a totally different man resurface as he plots to retrieve his wife from her captors. Once Jason finally figures out what is really going on with his family, the book takes a whole new turn into a world of fast-paced action and unthinkable changes. Will Jason Bourne save his wife from her captors and catch the fake "Jason Bourne"? You'll have to read The Bourne Supremacy to find out. I would recommend reading The Bourne Identity, the first book in the series before reading The Bourne Supremacy.

Austin Downing

**Luttrell, Marcus**  
*Lone Survivor*  
2007

Lone Survivor is a true story told by Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell. He tells about what happened in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan in 2005 to the four men in Operation Redwing and the other lost men of SEAL Team 10, who were killed trying to rescue the men of Operation Redwing. This is an epic

story about these four men and Marcus's battle to survive after his three teammates were killed. He tells of his ordeal running from the Taliban and al-Qaeda and the heroism of the men who died fighting in the Afghan Mountains and the strangers who helped save Marcus's life.

Harry Motter

**Martel, Yann**  
*Life of Pi*  
2001

Life of Pi is an incomparable, unforgettable, and beautifully written book portraying the horrifying life of a boy in his youth. Pi lives a childhood in the wildness of a zoo, protected by his father and the walls locking the animals in their place. All is fun and games until his father shows him the 450 pound Bengal tiger. Life spirals out of control even more for Pi, and his father decides that the hardships in India are too much, so they move. When the boat they are traveling in sinks, Pi is left on a 24 foot life boat with a zebra, a hyena, an orangutan, and the 450 pound Bengal tiger. This shocking, heart stopping story of unusual fear and friendship will keep you reading. This book is full of suspense, and will always keep you on the edge of your seat, and the haunting story will stay in your mind forever.

Andrea Tolman

**Patterson, James**  
*London Bridges*  
2004

London Bridges is part of the Alex Cross series. Alex Cross is in San Francisco when he receives a call from the Wolf. The Wolf is in the Russian Mob and is looking for revenge. Not only is the Wolf involved but so is Geoffrey Shaftner, a man Alex Cross has faced in the past. Alex Cross has faced murders, assassinations, bombings, and ambushes. Will Cross be able to stop these mad men before the deadline?

Tyler Tracy

**Patterson, James**  
*The Angel Experiment*  
2005

The Angel Experiment is the first book in the *Maximum Ride* series. The story is about six human-avian hybrids that are 98% Human, and 2% Bird. Max, Fang, Iggy, Nudge, The Gasman and Angel are trying to escape from the past they had. Max is a fourteen year old girl who doesn't live a very normal life. Max and her siblings were taken from their parents when they were very young and brought to a place called the "School" where evil scientists did weird experiments on them and mixed their DNA with bird DNA. One of the scientists took them from the School and gave them a hiding place and taught them how to live on their own. Then he mysteriously disappeared and now Max and her siblings have to fight the evil scientists and save the world. The scientists also created these Erasers that are made to hunt down the six flying children who don't have parents and are homeless. In you want to find out more about the story, you should read it.

Brittany Bona  
Meg Kirsch

**Patterson, James**  
***The Final Warning***  
**2008**

This is the fourth book in the *Maximum Ride* series. Max and her flock go to Antarctica to do research on global warming, a.k.a. saving the world. While all of this is going on, there is a mysterious person known only as the Uber Director who is trying to catch the flock and sell them to the highest bidder. I highly recommend this book because it is a thrilling page turner with action at every turn.

Sean Fitzgerald

**Raymond, Allen**  
***How to Rig an Election\****  
**2008**

How to Rig an Election is an extraordinarily well-written memoir by a Republican operative. It tells the tale of Allen Raymond starting with his experience in finishing school and his rise up the ranks by working behind the scenes for the Republican Party and leading up to a dramatic trial, while taking many twists and turns along the way. This is a fantastic book that really enlightens the reader on just how shady politics can be. It does contain some profanity that would probably set an age limit at around 13 or 14. I would recommend this book to anyone who even has a fleeting interest in politics, because although there isn't much action, you will certainly enjoy this story.

Patrick Rogers

**Sebold, Alice**  
***The Lovely Bones***  
**2002**

The Lovely Bones takes place in the late 1970s and is about a teenage girl who is raped and killed in an underground fort by her mysterious neighbor and her struggles to help uncover her mysterious death and the person who is responsible for it. This young girl watches overhead in heaven and sees her family go through life-changing struggles and their ups and downs after her death. Not only does she watch her family but she watches her killer. She watches him undergo all of the specific things to hide any trace of her body. This book takes you through a struggling family and a sick man's actions, as they both go through the recovery. Over all I feel that this book is a great book for advanced readers and really shows you all the struggles a family or friends go through after a loved one has died. It also makes you appreciate the relationships you and your family and friends have. You never know how much you loved someone until they're gone.

Haley Knaus

**Snow, Carol**  
***Getting Warmer\****  
**2007**

Natalie Quackenbush, an out-of-date, out-of-style, and out-of-her mind high school teacher, lives in the hottest place in the United States - Scottsdale, Arizona. Natalie seems like the typical, "I don't get paid enough for this" teacher, and she is, except that she and her friends don't really like being normal. To liven up their deadbeat lives, they have to get "creative," except most people would call it lying. When

Natalie meets the perfect man, how will she have to explain to him that she doesn't really work at a prison? And her mother doesn't howl at the moon? Now while she's trying to balance her crazed school life with her friends, family, and new-found boyfriend, how will she come clean and still keep everything intact?

Hailee Flaherty

This booklet is also available on the web at

<http://www.scarboroughcrossroads.org/library/children/pdf/reviews/ya2008.pdf>