

# Young Adult Book Reviews 2001

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



## Young Adult Book Reviews 2001

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual young adult summer reading booklet brought to you by the Children's Room at the Scarborough Public Library. Students from Scarborough Middle School and the staff of the Children's Room recommend their favorite books for summer reading. Thanks to the students of Randee Allen, Lisa Bennett, Dinah Mack, Kathleen Tirrell, and Shelly Tsujiura for their contributions.

Titles are presented in alphabetical order and include classics, old favorites and new titles. (Hint: don't count "A" or "The" as the first word of the title.) 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 (\*). Check your school library or other public libraries for these titles. If you can't find one of these titles, look for other works by the same author. Adult titles are grouped at the end of this booklet. Happy reading!

*The Art of Keeping Cool*  
Janet Taylor Lisle  
2000

When Robert moves from Ohio to Rhode Island, he meets many strange characters, including his unusually aggressive grandfather and his quiet artistic cousin. He also meets a German artist who lives in the woods and is rumored to play a part in the torpedoing of ships just off the coast. One night at dinner, Robert's grandfather stands and wields a carving knife like a murder weapon at the mention of Robert's father. Why does his grandfather hate Robert's dad so much? Why is this German painter still here? If you want to know the answers to these questions, I suggest you read *The Art of Keeping Cool*.

Nolan Scheemaker

*Battle Dress*  
Amy Efaw  
2000

Andi Davis sets off for West Point sure that she can conquer anything, including Beast, the super-tough summer program for all incoming cadets. Her years of living with an emotionally abusive mother and distant father have toughened her mentally, but is she ready for the physical and mental challenges she must face before the summer is over? A behind-the-scenes look at the United States Military Academy at West Point, written by a West Point graduate.

Kristin Peto  
Children's Room

*Bloomability\**  
Sharon Creech  
1998

All of Dinnie's life she has moved from place to place with her family whenever her father comes upon a new "opportunity." Then one day her aunt and uncle, whom she

barely knows, unexpectedly take her to Switzerland to attend a school where kids from around the world go for an opportunity to learn and make new friends. Dinnie misses her family very much, yet she finds out that she really doesn't need them to live her life to its fullest. She experiences new relationships, meets people who embrace just being alive, and learns that all people are equal no matter what they look like. She learns to look for all the bloomabilities possible in life. This was a wonderful book of self-discovery by Sharon Creech. It makes you open your eyes to try to see the bloomability feasible wherever you are.

Nicole Gonyea

*Brian's Winter*

Gary Paulsen

1996

Brian, a teenager stranded in the Canadian wilderness, struggles to survive his first winter. This is what Brian's story might have been if he hadn't been rescued in *Hatchet*. Brian must build a shelter and find food. He makes a bow and arrows and hunts deer, moose, and rabbits. The winter is so cold that Brian can't go outside most days and is forced to stay warm by the fire with no food. Every day that it's warm enough he goes hunting. One day Brian came upon a cow moose. He quietly snuck up on it, threw a spear at it, and then shot it with his bow and arrow. The moose collapsed on Brian, knocking him out, and then the moose died. Towards the end, Brian finds a hunter's lodge by following a dog-sled trail, and leaves on the plane that arrives with supplies for the hunter and his family. I thought this book was fairly good. I liked what he did, like hunting, and how he survived. I would definitely recommend it to younger readers. On a scale of 1-10, I would rate it an eight.

Chandler Blodgett

*Burning Up*

Caroline Cooney

1999

When Macey is asked to research an historic event in her town, she picks the fire of 1959. As she asks around about the fire, she finds that nobody wants to talk about it. "It's just an old barn that isn't there anymore," says her grandfather with a worried glance. Macey begins to wonder, why all this secrecy? So she turns to her boyfriend, Austin. Together they work to figure out why. In the end Macey must decide what's more important: the equality of blacks or the people she loves?

Alison Camire

*Chasing Redbird*

Sharon Creech

1997

Zinny Taylor is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives on a farm in Baybanks, Kentucky. Her house is total chaos. How would you feel if you lived in a house with three brothers and three sisters? A few months earlier her Aunt Jessie had died. Zinny feels as though Aunt

Jessie was the only one in the world who could completely understand her. Uncle Nate, Jessie's husband, goes crazy with grief. He spends his time in the woods, chasing his Redbird, as he called his wife. One day while following a sleepy toad by the riverbank, Zinny stumbles over a hidden stone. She notices that leaves and dry grass have covered it. Soon she finds a trail that starts right on her farm! She decides to uncover the whole thing by herself. Zinny feels that she needs her own special place where she can hear herself think. What Zinny doesn't know is the mysteries and family secrets that will uncover themselves with the trails along the way. We enjoyed this book for many reasons. First it was very vivid, imaginative, and exciting. Every thing has a special hidden message or symbol. Things are always connected in an unknown way until the trail is complete. Sharon Creech is an excellent author and has written many great books but we think *Chasing Redbird* is the best.

Katie Dedian  
Kim Janelle

*Cheerleaders, the First Evil\**  
R. L. Stine  
1992

Corky and Bobbi Corcoran, who recently moved to Fear Street, were the best cheerleaders at their previous high school and are hoping they will make it on this new squad. As soon as they make the squad, strange and mysterious things start happening. The horror begins with a bad accident on the way to their first game. Corky and Bobbi ask the bus driver if they can go down Fear Street to their house to get things they forgot. They get in an accident right in front of the Fear Street cemetery. Soon after, ear piercing screams echo through the empty school halls and then the games begin. Will the squad make it before everyone dies?

Maghan Merritt

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*  
Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger  
1997

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* was a really good book. A collection of stories written by teenagers, each story is about different things. Some are about love, death, friendship, etc. Some stories help you understand or relate to life. It's easy to understand some of the subjects because people your own age write them and you might be going through the same things. I liked *Chicken Soup* because I could really relate to some of the stories, which helped me understand more about the subject and deal with it better. I recommend this book to anyone who likes tearjerkers and stories that will touch you in many places.

Erin Feeney

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II\**

Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Kimberly Kirberger  
1998

This book is about life lessons on basically everything. The stories are based on eight topics: relationships, friendship, love and kindness, tough stuff, family, learning lessons, making a difference, and growing up. The stories are about pleasing people, or stories about how a girl's boyfriend recently broke up with her, and she thought it was always going to last. Stories that are so realistic, so possible, and most of all stories that might have once happened to you. This is a book where you can sit back and think about it, and collect your thoughts.

Katie Brown

*Childhood's End*

Arthur C. Clarke  
1953

This book takes place sometime in the near future. Out of nowhere, giant silver metallic disc-shaped craft appear over every major city in the world. The pilots of these ships are known only as the "Overlords." Over more than 50 years, these "Overlords" change the world beyond recognition, eliminating all war, disease, and poverty, bringing total equality to the entire world, but nothing good ever comes for free. I encourage anyone who's ever asked, "why are we here anyway?" to read this book; it will give you a whole new outlook on humanity's purpose.

Eric Verge

*Confessions of a Teenage Baboon*

Paul Zindel  
1977

It was a very good book because it shows what some teenagers do and have to go through. It is a sad book but exciting too. It has an example in it that when you do things something can always go wrong. This is a good book for pre-teens and teenagers because it shows what you will go through as you grow up. That is why I recommend this book.

Eric Frederick

*The Cuckoo's Child*

Suzanne Freeman  
1996

Mia's parents go on a trip and supposedly drown, leaving Mia alone. All of a sudden her life is turned upside down. She has to move in with her aunt, and they don't get along very well. It gets worse when Mia climbs a water tower. When she jumps down and her aunt tries to catch her, her aunt ends up breaking both of her arms. Then, her aunt meets some man and Mia doesn't like him. She goes to a Bible camp and finally makes a friend. Does she keep her friends and survive without her parents? It is up to you to find out! I liked this book. It helps you get a new outlook on life by showing you how lucky you are

to have the life you have compared to hers. This book has funny, sad, happy, and touching parts. I would recommend this book to anyone. Let it touch your heart, as you learn about Mia's struggles in life.

Brianna Colville

*Daemonslayer\**

William King

2000

*Daemonslayer* is a mystical journey through the fantasyland of Warhammer. William King does an excellent job of creating the feeling of an adventure in the Middle Ages. The book follows Felix Jaeger, a warrior supporting the mighty dwarf Gotrek Gurnisson. While visiting the Dwarf Homeland, Felix, Gotrek, and the other dwarves are attacked. Terror strikes as the Skaven, grotesque half-human/ half-rat creatures, start destroying the dwarven buildings and the castle. After the panic dies down, Felix and Gotrek travel to the Chaos Wastes for revenge. As you read farther into this book, you want to find out more. Key events, such as the secret behind Gotrek's giant ax and what is after the brave warriors, keep you waiting for more. You must read this book if you enjoy the feeling of an action-packed journey filled with mythological creatures and plenty of fighting. Enjoy!

Nate Hunter

*Dancing on the Edge*

Han Nolan

1999

Miracle has grown up hearing the story of being born from a dead woman's body. This would make any girl worry that she isn't normal. One day her father disappears. Miracle and her grandmother move, hoping they will find him sooner or later at the house he bought for his father. As she becomes older, Miracle finds out more about her family history and learns how to move on with her life.

Jackie Maples

*Daniel's Story*

Carol Matas

1993

Daniel, a twelve-year-old Jewish boy, has a normal life until Adolf Hitler comes to power in Germany and forms the Nazis. At first this seems okay. Then Hitler starts taking all of the Jews' valuables and making them wear coats with the Star of David on the backs so that everyone can identify them as Jews. The Nazis start to patrol the streets and harass the Jews for no apparent reason. Daniel must endure the concentration camps of the Holocaust, which was a horrible time for the Jews. If you would like to find out more about what happens to Daniel and his family, read this book. I recommend this book to just about anyone. This has real-life experience and is based on a true story from the

Holocaust. I rate this book a ten from a scale of one to ten. It was a great book and I could read it over and over again.

Ryan Albahary

*Dreamland*

Sarah Dessen

2000

*Dreamland* is a truly amazing book. Caitlin has followed in her sister's footsteps her whole life. She is sick of always being second. When her sister runs away to New York, Caitlin takes this as a chance to be different from her sister. In the process Caitlin makes a huge mistake. She starts to neglect her family and friends. She gets into drugs and that's when everything goes down. Her boyfriend starts to beat her and all of a sudden Caitlin finds her life spinning out of control. I enjoyed this book very much. It was one of those books that just pulls you in and you really have no choice whether to read it or not. You start to feel as if you are the characters and might even cry like I did. I finished this book fighting through tears and sniffles. I would recommend this book if you like a good book that you can really get into and even cry.

Kelly Clark

*The Egypt Game*

Zilpha Keatley Snyder

1967



*The Egypt Game* is a good book that takes place in a town in California, on a street called Orchard Avenue. *The Egypt Game* is a game about ancient Egypt. There are six members of the game: Melanie, April, Toby, Ken, Elizabeth, and Marshall. The members do all sorts of stuff like performing ceremonies. Read this book to find out more about *The Egypt Game*.

Kim Stoddard

*The Fear Place*

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

1994

*The Fear Place* is an exciting adventure book. Doug and Gordon are two young boys who go on a trip with their parents to Rocky Mountain National Park. They only have the important items to go camping. On day two of their trip, they find out that their uncle has died. Doug and Gordon's parents have to go to the funeral. They leave Doug and Gordon alone. Right after their parents leave, Doug and Gordon get into a fight. Gordon leaves and Doug is left alone. When Doug goes to get water, he meets a cougar. After the cougar starts following him peacefully, Doug becomes a friend with the cougar. After a few days, Doug starts to worry about Gordon. He knows he has to find his brother, and he knows where he is. He's at his favorite spot, but to get there you have to cross the Fear Place. Doug starts up the path to find Gordon. When he sees the Fear Place, he stops

short. Will Doug be able to face his fears for his brother? Will Doug be too afraid? Read to find out!

Unsigned

*Gathering Blue*

Lois Lowry

2000

Kira, born with a physical disability, lives in a time and place that does not accept those who are weak. Her mother has protected her since birth, but the protection is lost when Kira's mother dies. When the villagers want to kill Kira, the Council steps in and spares her life so that they may use her special weaving talent. They want her to repair the robe of the Singer, a person who once a year tells the history of their civilization. As she is allowed more privileges within the community, she learns things about the way they live in their protected environment. This knowledge will change her world and how she looks at life forever.

Andy Tremberth

*The Ghost in the Big Brass Bed\**

Bruce Coville

1991

This is a story about two eleven-year-old girls, Nine and Chris, who love to hunt ghosts and solve mysteries. This adventure starts when Nine goes to the antique store to "help out" and has to go with Norma, the owner, to pick up a chest. An elderly lady named Phoebe owns the house, which looks like one you would see in a horror movie. They are looking for a painting called "The Lost Masterpiece" by Phoebe's father. Nine and Chris volunteer to solve the mystery. They meet ghosts along the way. So join them on an adventure that will leave you on the edge of your seat. This book is great for adventure readers. Make sure you read *The Ghost in the Big Brass Bed*.

Annmarie Blodgett

*The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*

Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

1999

Investigating a jewel theft advances a merchant boy's dream of becoming a brave and noble samurai. Set in the colorful Tokugawa period in Japan (the 1700s), this is a fast paced thriller, filled with intriguing characters. Descriptions of traffic on the Tokaido Road, the busiest highway in Japan, and scenes from kabuki theater enrich the plot.

Marilyn Taylor

Children's Room



*The Girl Death Left Behind\**

Lurlene McDaniel

1999

Beth and her family go on a picnic every year; it's almost like a ritual for them. Because Beth was feeling awful that morning, her parents leave her at home and the rest of the family goes on the picnic. Beth falls asleep waiting for her family to come home. Awakened by a loud bang, Beth goes downstairs and discovers the police knocking on the door. They inform her that her family has been in a car accident, and give Beth a ride to the hospital. The hospital won't tell Beth anything until another family member is present. Beth is forced to wait for her aunt before she learns that her whole family is dead. Beth moves to Florida to live with her aunt, uncle, and cousin. Beth and Terri (her cousin) are very different and can't stand each other, although they start to get along after awhile. The first day Beth is there, Terri drags her to a beach party where she meets Jared. Jared and Beth have a lot in common, but Beth wants to be left alone. Now that I've told you a little about the beginning of the book, I suggest you read it. I enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone who likes sad stories. I like this book because it was very well written and it felt like it was happening to me, or that I knew the people in the book.

Bri Jordan

*Go Ask Alice\**

Anonymous

1971

*Go Ask Alice* is about a girl who had a great life, grades, friends, and the best family you could ask for. She had a brother named Tim, a sister named Alexandra, a mom named Lisa, and a dad named Tom. Her life was good until she went to a party and was asked to smoke pot. Like a lot of people who don't do well under peer pressure, she tried it. After that day, everything went downhill. Her grades fell, and she started skipping school. She spent her days off from school hunting for more drugs. She was stealing from her mom, dad, and even her grandmother. Does she quit the drugs? Read this awesome book to find out!

Nicole Zambs

*The Great Airport Mystery\**

Franklin W. Dixon

1930

This book is filled with action and adventure, from being accused of a crime to almost getting hit by a drunken airplane pilot on the mail route. This old-fashioned book will make you want to read all night. I recommend this book to people who love mystery and action.

Sean Flanagan

*Habibi: a novel*  
Naomi Shihab Nye  
1997

Liyana got on an airplane in America and stepped off in the land her father called Palestine. The customs guards called it Israel. She just thought of it as a different universe: a place where her superstitious grandmother spoke Arabic and her friends lived in a refugee camp. It was also a frightening place with Israeli soldiers and complex hatreds. And how would she explain her Jewish boyfriend? Richly descriptive, hopeful, with sweetly humorous family scenes, Liyana and her brother Rafik shine in this story of transplanted Americans.

Marilyn Taylor  
Children's Room

*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*  
J. K. Rowling  
1999

Harry Potter is home for the summer and is ready to return to Hogwarts. The Dursleys lock Harry in Dudley's room and he can't get out. Ron, Harry's friend, comes to get him in a flying car and they go to Ron's house. The real trouble begins when Harry and Ron miss the train to Hogwarts, but that's just the beginning. It gets worse when someone, or something, starts turning school students to stone. Is it Malfoy, Harry's enemy? Or is it someone much more sinister? You have to read this book to find out!

Alyse Violette  
Heather McCoy

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*  
J. K. Rowling  
1999

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* is an awesome book. It is about a boy named Harry Potter who goes to a special school to learn how to be a wizard. He is having a great year until an escapee from a high security prison starts to break into the school. The man's name is Sirius Black and he is looking for something very special. Harry and his friends find out what Black is up to and straighten everything out. This book is so good that you can't put it down.

Ben Reichl

*Holes*  
Louis Sachar  
1998

Stanley Yelnats has been accused of stealing a basketball hero's shoes, which were going to be used to raise money for a homeless shelter. His punishment is to either go to jail or go to a camp for juveniles who break the law. Stanley chooses Camp Green Lake. Not only is the camp not green but there is no lake, only a desert. The warden forces the boys

to dig holes that are five feet wide and five feet deep. What is the warden looking for in this dried up lake? What will happen to Stanley if the warden finds it, or doesn't find it? On a scale of 1-10, we would rate this book an 11. You won't be able to put it down, because there's always something you want to know.

Matt Scott  
Christian Laurence  
Courtney Small

*I Know What You Did Last Summer\**  
Lois Duncan  
1973

When someone starts sending mysterious letter to Julie and her friends, they panic. They don't know what to do. Break the pact and reveal their horrible secret or ignore the letters and keep quiet? It doesn't end there because the next thing you know the letters get more serious. When someone gets hurt, Julie wants to break the pact. Then the secret person is revealed and you'll never guess who it is. Make sure you read this book of suspense and surprises.

Craig Joncas  
Kimberly Fenton  
Drew Blanchard



*The Incredible Journey*  
Sheila Burnford  
1960

When the Hunters are offered the opportunity to live in England for nine months, Mr. Longridge, a close family friends, offers to watch their pets: Tao the Siamese cat, Bodger, the bull terrier, and Luath the retriever. The animals slip away when Mr. Longridge heads to his camp and leaves the animals waiting for Mrs. Oakes who will look after them. Thinking that the animals have actually gone with Mr. Longridge, Mrs. Oakes doesn't worry when she can't find them at the house. Led by Luath, the animals set off for home. Follow them as they begin an incredible journey. Will the animals make it through the wilderness all by themselves? Read and find out what happens to the animals. If you like animal and adventure stories this will be a great book for you.

Kayla Davis  
Steven Groves

*Is Kissing a Girl who Smokes Like Licking an Ashtray?*

Randy Powell

1992

Biff is a senior in high school, and is trying to build up the courage to ask out a girl named Tommie, who he's had a crush on for the last twenty-three months. Then he meets Heidi who has a wise attitude and smokes cigarettes. Biff is torn between the two of

them. There is something about Heidi that he loves, but he doesn't seem to think he knows the truth about her. Who will he go for?

Chelsea Levesque

*The Island*

Gary Paulsen

1988

Wil Neuton has moved from Madison to a very dull town called Pinewood. His life changes one day in Pinewood, when he finds an island in the middle of a lake. After going there for two days straight, he tells his parents about it and asks if he can stay there for a couple of nights. He stays longer than planned and won't go back home. People begin to think he is crazy when he says there's something out there that he needs to learn. If he leaves, he is afraid he will lose what he was trying to learn the whole time. But really, what is he trying to learn?

Kevin Ledue

*Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Scott O'Dell

1960

When a ship comes to move her tribe from their island, Karana finds that her brother has accidentally been left behind. Karana leaves the ship and returns to the island, waiting for the ship to come back. How will she survive? I recommend this book to everyone because it is descriptive and full of interesting things.

Allison Reid

*Killing Mr. Griffin*

Lois Duncan

1978

In this small town, five teenagers get together to play a small prank on their English teacher, Mr. Griffin. They planned to kidnap Mr. Griffin and scare him, but their plan doesn't go exactly as they expected. Did they just scare him, or did something more happen? Read this mystery that will make you quiver in fear.

Eric Feigenheimer

Caitlyn Farias

*The Last Mission*  
Harry Mazer  
1977

The war is raging in Europe and sixteen-year-old Jack Raab wants to get in on the action. He leaves home without his parents' knowledge. He lies about his age and joins the Air Force. The Air Force requires flight crews to fly 25 bombing missions over Europe. On their 25<sup>th</sup> mission, Jack's plane is shot down and he is the only survivor. When he finally hits ground, the Nazis capture him. There are only two problems: he is an American and a Jew, the Nazis two worst enemies. Will Jack survive? We really enjoyed the book. It was never boring and at the end of each chapter you wanted to keep reading. You grew with the characters through triumph and failure. This book made you feel like you were right there in Jack's plane fighting the war. We highly recommend this book for adventure/historical fiction readers and anyone who likes an action-packed war story.

Zach Paris  
Greg Benoit

*Lily's Crossing*  
Patricia Reilly Giff  
1997

*Lily's Crossing* is an excellent book to read because it contains mystery. Lily's father goes to fight in World War II, so Gram and Lily are all by themselves in Rockaway. Lily meets a boy named Albert, a Hungarian refugee, who she comes to trust. Lily's best friend Margaret moves away, leaving Lily with only Albert and Gram to confide in. All Gram wants to do is listen to the radio for news about the war. Albert and Lily find secrets to share, keeping the reader's interest. After I finished this book, I wished that Patricia Reilly Giff would write a sequel.

Samantha Pelletier

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*  
C. S. Lewis  
1950

While playing hide-and-go seek, four kids find a secret passageway through a wardrobe. They wind up in Narnia and are amazed by all of the creatures and people around them. The four kids, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy, make many friends and make an enemy of the terrible White Witch. They meet a lion named Aslan who is the king and they fight against the White Witch to claim Narnia. I would recommend this book because it always has something going on, it's very interesting, and it takes place in two different worlds. It's a great book if you have a good imagination, and it's very easy to get into. I hope you read this book, and I know you will like it as much as I did.

Sam Atwood

*Lisa, Bright and Dark*  
John Neufeld  
1969

*Lisa, Bright and Dark* is a book about a girl named Lisa who goes crazy. She has her good days and her bad days. On her good days, she acts her perfectly normal, happy self. On her bad days, she doesn't act her normal self, she dresses Dark, and she doesn't talk to anyone. Her friends finally figured out that there was something wrong, so they try to help her.

Stephanie Berry  
*The Masked Monkey\**  
Franklin W. Dixon  
1972

This is one of the best mysteries I have ever read. Of course, it is from the famous Hardy Boys series. A missing person case leads them to Brazil, where they are soon betrayed by a friend and forced to take a swim in the Amazon due to a mysterious monkey! All of this ties into a country club and an unsolved murder case. So, if you enjoy a good mystery with a lot of adventure, this is a great book for you.

Rocco Risbara

*Moby Dick*  
Herman Melville  
1851

Set in the 1800s, this book is about two men heading out on an adventurous sea voyage. What they don't know is that the captain is seeking revenge on the "white whale." This massive creature of the deep is the most feared animal of Davy Jones' locker. With one bite you could be missing a leg, an arm, or even a life, but crazy Captain Ahab is lucky, or is he? I like this book because of its surprise ending. I highly recommend this book for people who like sea adventures.

Tony

*My Side of the Mountain*  
Jean Craighead George  
1959

It all started when Sam got sick and tired of living with his family. He decides to run away and live in the Catskill Mountains. In order to survive, Sam needs to learn new skills and lessons. What will happen next? If you like adventure and survival stories, you'll love this book.

Lizzie Farley

*Mystery at the Ski Jump*  
Carolyn Keene  
1968

Nancy Drew goes on a trip following people who are selling stolen furs and fake stocks. In the end, does Nancy solve the mystery...?

Kathy Simone

*Number the Stars*

Lois Lowry

1989

Annemarie lives in Denmark during World War II. Ellen is her best friend, and Ellen and her family are Jewish. Since the Nazis are trying to kill all the Jews, Annemarie's family protects Ellen's family. What happens to Ellen? What will happen to Annemarie's family if they are caught helping Jews? We recommend this exciting book, because you never know what will happen next.

Micah Abrams

Melissa Anson

*Old Yeller*

Fred Gipson

1956

Old Yeller was a very interesting and exciting story. It was filled with sadness and adventure. It was about a boy and his brother. Their father left to get money for trading in cattle. The two boys find a dog and name it Old Yeller because it barks so much. The boys and Old Yeller go on action packed adventures, like hunting for animals that would usually be dinner that night. To find out more about this book, read it. I guarantee that you will like the book. My opinion is that it was very exciting and a page-turner. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes dogs and adventures.

Rachel Mumm

*The Outsiders*

S. E. Hinton

1967

This action and emotional story is about gangs that don't get along. Greaser gang members are poor; they get their name by greasing their hair. Socs were rich and thought they were the best. Johnny and Ponyboy, members of the Greasers, are attacked by a group of Socs. To protect Ponyboy, Johnny stabs a Soc. What happens to Johnny and Ponyboy? What will they do? Will the Socs get revenge on the Greasers? You will have to find out what else happens by reading this book that you won't be able to put down. I loved this book because it was somewhat true, based on what some towns were like and what the author experienced as a sixteen-year-old. I recommend this book to people who enjoy action and drama stories.

Chris Tyson

*Pearls of Lutra*  
Brian Jacques  
1997

I would recommend *Pearls of Lutra* because it is exciting, thrilling, and at the same time, sort of peaceful. This book is about an otter that lost her holt (or pack) in a fight against corsairs and searats. The weasel and his army that did this are the mighty emperor Ublaz, his tropical monitors, and his trident rats. The Pearls of Lutra were in the otter's holt but they were stolen by the searats, and again they were stolen by a traitor searat who went to Redwall and hid them there. In return for the pearls, the searats and monitors held the abbot of Redwall and a little volemaid captive. The champion of Redwall, Martin the Warrior, teams up with the otter and goes to Ublaz's island to get back the abbot, and while doing so they kill the treacherous Ublaz.

David Brezack

*Pride of Puerto Rico*  
Paul Walker  
1988

When Roberto was small, he dreamed of playing professional baseball in America. But there was so many obstacles to overcome. This book explains about Roberto Clemente's rise to stardom, exploring not only his feats as a baseball player but also as a generous and kind human being. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys baseball.

Ben W.

*The Princess Diaries*  
Meg Cabot  
2000



Mia Thermopolis was just a regular girl living in New York until she discovers that her father is the ruler of a small country in Europe. Nobody knew except her grandmother who now comes to New York to "help" Mia learn to act more like a princess. Mia is getting lots of attention just because she's a princess. Even the boy she has a crush on asks her to a big dance. It turns out that he just wanted the fame. How will Mia deal with all this fame? I immensely enjoyed this book. If you read it, I think you will too.

Deirdre Silcott

*Redwall*  
Brian Jacques  
1986

When an evil rat named Cluney the Scourge threatens Redwall, Matthias, a young mouse, goes on a heroic adventure filled with new friends, new alliances, and many perils. When he searches for the sword of Martin the Warrior in Redwall, he finds that the sparrows



stole it and then a snake stole it from them. Matthias must get it from the snake. To find out what happens to Matthias, read the book.

Brett Hutchins

*The Shadow Killers*

Franklin W. Dixon

1988

The book *The Shadow Killers* is filled with action and suspense. A group of ninjas attack the Hardy Boys and rob the armories in any town that a karate match is in. Can the Hardy Boys stop the ninjas? I think this was a very good book and would recommend it to people who like mysteries and to people who like books with a lot of action in them.

Tyler Tait

*The Sign of the Beaver*

Elizabeth George Spear

1983

This is an adventurous book containing captivating parts that make it a wonderful book to read. It is about a boy named Matt and an Indian named Attean who share both pleasant and unpleasant moments together. Matt teaches Attean how to write and read English. In return, Attean gives Matt food and teaches him survival skills in the forest. With his father gone, Matt must survive on his own. Will he survive before his dad gets back? Read the book and find out.

Mike Posey

*Snow Bound*

Harry Mazer

1973

Cindy Reichert and Tony Laporte are facing a serious challenge: survival. They are trapped in a car during a severe snowstorm. As days pass, the thought of survival recedes and the harsh weather of upstate New York robs them of all their energy. Living through such an experience could be valuable and educational, but will they have the chance to learn and reflect? Can they make it?

Helen E. Mattsson

*Soldier's Heart*

Gary Paulsen

1998

Charley wants to go to war, but his mother won't let him. He tells his mother that he could make \$11 a month if he goes to war. The money he would earn would help his family buy food and care for themselves. When he gets to the war, he likes it until the rebels shoot a cannon ball through a horse's body and knocks off a guy's head. His captain is there for one thing and one thing only, to demolish the Rebels. Read the book

to find out what happens to Charley. I really like this book. I recommend this book to people who know about wars or someone who wants to learn about war. This was a good book, so read it!

Zack Crouanas

*A Song for Jeffrey\**

Constance M. Foland

1999

In the book *A Song for Jeffrey*, there is a little girl named Dodie. She starts out by being a shy and lonely girl and by the end of the book she finds out what it feels like to have a great, loving friend. She becomes much braver and happier. Dodie has a best friend named Jeffrey who has a disease called Muscular Dystrophy. She is nice to him at first, but by the end of the book something bad happens to Jeffrey. I recommend this fiction book to any teenage girl who likes sad and heart-warming books. It is a great book to read if you need to make new friends.

Amanda Tyson

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Robert Louis Stevenson

1886

This story is jam-packed with horror and mystery. Stevenson does a great job of incorporating mood and feeling into such a surreal story. It takes place in London, somewhere around the mid-1800s. Mr. Hyde, a shadowy figure in the community, is seen trampling a little girl and beating an old man to death for no reason. Mr. Utterson, a well-known British lawyer, is determined to find and capture Mr. Hyde. A lot of evidence leads Utterson to believe that these crimes are somehow linked to Dr. Jekyll, a well-known and kind-hearted scientist. But is this true? Read this gloomy mystery to find out what Utterson really does discover about *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Ben Tsujiura

*Streams to the River, River to the Sea*

Scott O'Dell

1986

Captured by her tribe's enemy and forced to marry a much older French trapper, Sacagawea, a young Native American woman, becomes a part of one of the greatest adventure stories, the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I recommend this book to anybody who likes adventure books and love stories.

Todd Brackett

*The Subtle Knife*  
Philip Pullman  
1997

Ready for a book full of audacious enterprises and cunning characters? Well, this is the perfect book! Will is a young boy who is convinced the police are after him for murder. Lyra is a young girl who has found her way into a world other than her own. They both come to the same place and find each other in almost the same predicament. They learn to trust each other and learn about both their pasts. Once Lyra's most valuable and only possession is stolen, she and Will are determined to get it back. The moment they figure out who has taken this tool of Lyra's, they transport themselves to the house of the thief to retrieve it. They are told that he will give the object back so long as they can bring an object to him. That object just so happens to be the basis of this book... the Subtle Knife! Even though both Will and Lyra have to go through a reckless fight, they are able to retrieve the knife. But once they learn what the knife can do and that Will must keep it with him always, they know two reasons they cannot trade it in for Lyra's possession. To find out how they retrieve the possession without losing the knife, you will have to look for the mysterious book ... *The Subtle Knife*.

Unsigned

*A Summer to Die*  
Lois Lowry  
1977

Meg's family moves to the country so her father can work on a novel he is writing. Meg and her older sister Molly don't always get along. After living in the country awhile, Molly comes down with the flu and has chronic nosebleeds. Over time her nosebleeds become worse and more frequent. They learn that she has come down with a disease that will change her and her family's lives forever. We would recommend this book to someone who likes a realistic and moving book; this is a great book that we hope you would like to read too.

Samantha Getchius  
Annya Lounsbury

*Tex*  
S. E. Hinton  
1979

Tex loves horses and has one of his own. He lives with his father and his brother out in the country. His mother died of pneumonia when Tex was little so he doesn't remember her that well. His father rides horses and goes on trips to rodeos so he isn't home for months at a time. During one of the times that their father is gone, the boys run out of money. While Tex was at school, his brother sold his horse so that they could have money to eat. Tex got very upset and ran away. From there, his life starts to be more and more exciting and depressing. In this book, Tex learns to overcome some of life's

greatest obstacles and learns some more obstacles on the way. If you like books with horses and excitement, then make sure you read this book.

Lindsey Viola  
Jordan Chase  
Bobby Wohltjen

*Tiger Eyes*  
Judy Blume  
1981

Davey is just a regular girl living with her family in New Jersey. That all changes when her Dad gets shot one August night in a robbery at his 7-Eleven store. She, her mother, and her brother move to New Mexico to live with her aunt and uncle, until her mother returns to health. Over the course of the next year, Davey discovers a lot about life. She meets interesting people who help her through the tough times. This book is full of adventure, loss, and happiness. It will make you laugh and make you sad.

Jake Lowry  
Jessica Botlon  
Kelsey O'Brien

*Touching Spirit Bear*  
Ben Mikaelson  
2001

Mikaelson weaves a powerful tale of anger, hatred, and forgiveness. Cole Matthews, a violent, vengeful boy, deliberately spreads his festering anger everywhere, until his most extreme act sends him to the Circle of Justice. This Native American tradition promises to help Cole, his victim Peter, and the community find forgiveness and healing. Cole sneers, but plays along until he, too, receives his own justice on a remote Alaskan island inhabited by a legendary Spirit Bear. Follow Cole through his own journey from hatred and pain to an ultimate forgiveness.

Maureen Driscoll  
Children's Room

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*  
Avi  
1990

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle is sailing to her family's home in America. Despite the fact that she is the only girl on board, she is determined to stay respectable, although it's harder than she thought. The rumors she has heard about the captain don't hold up to his pleasant manner and good charm. But as time passes, a plot is discovered, and things spiral out of control until her only choice is to become a member of the crew or give up everything she believes in. What will she do?

Julie Iris

*Truth or Dare*

R. L. Stine

1995

One of the best books I've read this year was *Truth or Dare*. It is part of the Fear Street Series, which I really like. This story is about a group of teens who head to the mountains for a weekend of skiing. One girl's parents are loaning the group their mountain retreat. After complaining of a lack of snow, they are surprised to get snowed in. Boredom leads them to play Truth or Dare. Then someone is murdered. They know one of the group did it, and they can't get away because they are snowed in. The main character begins to suspect someone, but she might be wrong.

Katelyn Taber

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*

Jules Verne

1870

A compelling tale that includes adventure, action, a crazy captain, and a squid. The book mainly takes place on the ship, the *Nautilus*. A very interesting man named Captain Nemo and his crew of foreign men pilot the *Nautilus*. Professor Aronnax, Ned Land, and Aronnax's butler, Conseil, are all trapped on Nemo's ride under the world's oceans. They encounter many different things throughout their voyage. The one critical question is, will Captain Nemo let them go home?

Ben Luja

*The Twits*

Roald Dahl

1980

The Twits are a couple who don't get along at all, and they always play disgusting jokes on each other. They are a really grubby couple. They think they're so smart playing tricks on each other and all the animals. What they don't know is that the animals are planning something for them. I think this is one of the best books in the whole entire world. It is a great book for young children, teens, and even adults. I recommend this book to everybody and especially to people who like humorous books. This is an awesome book!

Caylee Patenuade

*Voyage on the Great Titanic: the diary of Margaret Ann Brady*

Ellen Emerson White

1998

Thirteen-year-old Margaret Ann Brady is an orphan. Her brother left her at an orphanage as he was leaving for America. One day, Margaret Ann was told that she was leaving the orphanage to be a companion for Mrs. Carstairs on her journey to America. They would be traveling in first class style on the great Titanic. Margaret Ann meets Robert, a cabin boy and they fall in love. One night, Robert comes and knocks on the door and tells her to dress in warm clothes and put a life vest on. She keeps telling herself it's just a drill, but is it? To find out if Margaret makes it off the Titanic before it sinks, read this book. I

recommend this book if you like adventures and if you like to hear about other people's lives.

Michelle Caiazzi

*Walk Two Moons*

Sharon Creech

1994

This is an inspiring and tragic novel about two young girls who share the same story. Salamanca's mother left one April morning and never came back. Now Sal is determined to find her mother in time for her birthday. She and her Gram and Gramps take an adventurous journey into the desert lands of the US to Lewiston, Idaho. On the way Sal tells the story of Phoebe whose mother left mysteriously also. Near the end, Gram was bitten by a snake. Time is running out for Gram. Her voice is getting raspy and her breathing very short. Sal has to find her mother. Will she? This novel will make you cry or laugh all at the same time. I recommend this to all readers.

Laura Wood

*The Wave*

Todd Strasser

1981

It all starts as an experiment in Ben Ross's history class. After watching a video on Nazi Germany, Mr. Ross thought, "Why not experiment?" so he started the Wave. It professes strength through discipline, and strength through community. It got so big, the entire school became like a fascist Nazi regime. Laura and her friends try to stop it. Are they successful? ... This book really grabs you. It may be short, but it is very well written.

Andy McLaughlin

*Where the Red Fern Grows*

Wilson Rawls

1961

The story is about a boy named Billy and his dogs, Little Ann and Old Dan. They were hunting dogs that he bought with his own money. He saved for two years doing odd jobs for fishermen and selling things that he grew or made. When he bought the dogs, they were puppies. Billy trained them and they became the best hunting dogs in the county. His hunting dogs are his best friends, and he takes the best care of them. Billy and the dogs enter a dangerous hunting competition. Will they survive? This book is a page-turner, yet a tearjerker at the same time. We would recommend this book to people who like hunting, tragedies, adventures, or dog stories. It was a very interesting book and there was never a dull moment. We hope that you will read it.

Helena Diodata

Brandon Kraus

Alex Coupe

*While the Clock Ticked\**  
Franklin W. Dixon  
1932

A thief is on the loose and has been stealing jewels and a jade chess set. The Hardy Boys have a great adventure while solving the mystery. It was an awesome book! I'd recommend it to people who like the out-of-doors and anyone who enjoys mysteries. It is fun to read, and scary!

Ryan Jones

*Whirligig*  
Paul Fleischman  
1998

Brent goes to a party held by the coolest people at school. The party is going well until someone comes in with beer, and Brent tries some. After the most popular guy embarrasses him, Brent leaves the party. Upset and suicidal, Brent tries to end his life by driving straight into the highway divider. He survives but an innocent girl is not so fortunate. Rather than go to prison, Brent is offered the opportunity to create something beautiful to bring joy into people's lives. Brent travels across the country trying to atone for his actions. Read this book to find out how a tragedy can lead to something beneficial.

Mike Sterling

*A Wind in the Door*  
Madeleine L'Engle  
1973

Dragons in the garden? How could little Charles Wallace be seeing this? Meg Murray thinks her brother is delusional. He has been sick for the past week and is getting worse. But Charles is not imagining anything; the dragon is actually an alien cherubim. He came to take Meg into Charles' cells to fight the echthroi, which are making Charles sick. If she loses, Charles will die. Will she win? You'll have to read the book to find out.

Shane Christy

*Winter Camp\**  
Kirkpatrick Hill  
1993

During winter, Toughboy and Sister are on their way to visit their friend Natalie at her camp. They pull a sled loaded with all of their supplies. They must catch their own food. Toughboy and sister were a little hungry, so Sister hunted for some food. She found an animal dead on the side of the road, ripped out the guts, and told Toughboy to eat it before it got cold. Toughboy didn't want to eat it, because it looked disgusting, but he ate it anyway. What happens to Toughboy and Sister? Will they make it to Natalie's camp? I really like this book because it is like a mystery. This book is the best and I think it would

be a great book for you to read. You will really like this book.

Mark Cresci

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

Elizabeth George Speare

1958

Kit Tyler lived with her grandfather in Barbados. After his death, she moved to Wethersfield, Connecticut, to live with her aunt and uncle. Wethersfield is very different from the relaxed atmosphere of Barbados. Lonely, Kit becomes friendly with an old woman living on the outside of town. Unfortunately, people think Hannah is a witch. Will people think Kit is also a witch? Read this exciting historical fiction book to find out how her life changes in Wethersfield. I really liked this book although it was confusing at times. I would recommend this book to history lovers.

Kristen Duquette

*A Wizard of Earthsea*

Ursula K. LeGuin

1968

If you liked the Harry Potter series, you'll love this great fantasy book. It is about a boy who goes to a witch and asks if he can learn magic. She teaches him with the agreement that he doesn't tell where he learned it. He goes on a boat to meet other superior wizards and he has to beat an evil being near the end of the book. This is a really great book to read; you will not be able to put it down.

Matt Keene



## Adult Books

*The Andromeda Strain*

Michael Crichton

1969

I recommend this book to anyone who likes sci-fi mixed with viruses and medicine. It is about a killer virus that came from space and these people have to find a cure or else it will spread and kill the human race in a couple of hours. This is the best book I have ever read.

Peter Juarez

*The Ape Who Guards the Balance\**

Elizabeth Peters

1998

In the exciting environment of Egypt, Amelia Peabody does it again. She and Nefret have involved themselves in a mystery involving a grammar school for girls, a house of ill repute, and an enemy so cunning they can't catch them. When a new tomb is discovered and a papyrus is found, things go completely haywire, with kidnapping, murders, and a mysterious machine with jaws like a crocodile. Someone tries to kill two of Amelia's party. Who is the criminal mastermind behind all of this mess? Will Amelia and her friends survive this treacherous pitfall of cults and robberies, or will this be their last adventure?

Leah Wallof

*A Child Called "It"*

Dave Pelzer

1993

*A Child Called "It"* is a true story about a poor kid being abused. Dave Pelzer has two brothers, a mom, and a dad. Dave, for no reason, gets beaten by his mom. Dave's mom takes all of her frustrations out on Dave, from being embarrassed by his friends' behavior to Dave's dad working more. His dad doesn't hit and punch, but he ignores the beatings. He sometimes tries to help Dave, but he is too scared of his wife. Even at the most difficult times, Dave does not let his mom take over his life. He is determined to survive his terrible beatings. However, it does affect his schoolwork. Teachers recognize the scars on Dave as physical abuse. This saves Dave's life. This is when the tables turn in his favor. What will happen to Dave now that others know about the abuse? For more, read this book and then read the sequel *The Lost Boy*. This is a great book that is hard to put down. It could make you cry, smile, or laugh, but most of all, it's a great story of how little a boy had, and how he eventually made it to the end. (If you watch Survivor, you'll get this) ... He was the ultimate Survivor.

Becky Sither

Eric Payne

Matt Baum

*Cold River*  
William Judson  
1974

*Cold River* is a very exciting adventure book. This book is about a dream trip gone bad. This trip was supposed to be a wonderful learning experience with lots of wild animals and strange things such as the Aurora Borealis. This trip was nothing of the sort; it was a terrifying disaster. With the worst winter in twenty years, fifteen-year-old Lizzy and twelve-year-old Tim battle for their lives in the dead of winter in Cold River.

Sean Burke

*Cujo*  
Stephen King  
1981

Have you ever had a nightmare that keeps happening over and over? You wish it were a recurring nightmare when you have these dreams, but it isn't, it's much worse. This is the kind of dream that the horror inside comes closer and closer until you think you're going mad. This is what *Cujo* is all about. Stephen King gets to his readers with his style of writing once again. A typical St. Bernard was a happy pup, but one day he scurried off and met up with a rabid animal. Now a boy and his mother are trapped in a car while the mad dog watches their every move. The twisted part is that the boy had foreseen this in his dreams, but now it is reality! Read this great book to see if they escape and who *Cujo* kills...

Jimmy Mastrian

*Eleven Seconds*  
Travis Roy and E. M. Swift  
1998

*Eleven Seconds* is an autobiography about Travis Roy who was paralyzed in his first college hockey game. His accident happened in his freshman year of college at Boston University. Travis tells you about his accident and how he now must use a wheel chair because of hockey. His accident happened when he tried to put his first hit on somebody. He also talks a lot about his family, and how they stuck by his side as he was in the hospital. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read long books and to people who would like to learn more about Travis's life and family.

Travis Labonte

*She Said Yes: the unlikely martyrdom of Cassie Bernall*  
Misty Bernall  
1999

Cassie Bernall was a 17-year-old at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. On April 20, 1999, her life was taken. She was at the library doing research for her English assignment, when two schoolmates came into the library yelling "Die, die, die." They got to Cassie, put a gun to her head, and asked her if she believed in God. When she said,

“Yes,” they shot her. *She Said Yes* doesn’t only talk about Columbine, it talks about her whole life. Personally this book was the best book I read. I enjoyed it because it told a true story about a girl, who stood up for what she believed in. Cassie’s parents loved her and did everything they could to get her away from her old friends when she was in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. It also talks about peer pressure in the 90s. I could read this book a million times and never get sick of it. You may think this book is only for young adults, but you are wrong. My mother read this book along with lots of her friends, and they also loved it. I hope you will read *She Said Yes* and get what I got out of this book.

Brandi Albahary

*The Silence of the Lambs*

Thomas Harris

1989

*The Silence of the Lambs* is a psychological suspense thriller. Clarice Starling, a student at the FBI Academy, is sent on a slightly unordinary mission where she gets more than she bargained for. A mad doctor, a crazed senator, and a killer on the loose make this book an excellent read.

Curtis Drummond

*Tuesdays with Morrie*

Mitch Albom

1997

Morrie was Mitch’s favorite teacher. They become good friends but finally had to say good-bye at graduation. About 10 years later, Mitch is an aspiring sports writer and Morrie has developed Lou Gehrig’s disease. Mitch is watching TV one night when he sees Morrie on it. Mitch knows that he has to see him before Morrie dies. So Mitch flies to Morrie’s house and meets him for the first time in 10 years. He decides to meet with Morrie every Tuesday. I really like this book, mainly because it is a true story and Mitch is still alive to this day. This book is also good because it shows that even though some students dislike their teachers, some students become really good friends with them. This book has been in the New York Times top 10 for over 100 weeks. I recommend this book to anyone.

Josh Flynn

This booklet is also available on the web at

<http://www.library.scarborough.me.us/Children/pdf/ya2001.pdf>