

Open Shelf

Summer 2006

Check out the
Teens Top Ten
2006
on the last page

city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

Letter from the editor



Here is the summer 2006 issue for you! We hope you will enjoy these great books while school is out.

Thanks to all the YAAC members for their reviews this year. Special thanks to our graduating seniors, Chris Smith, Danielle Cotie, and Deidre Oberpriller.

Be sure to also read the books from the national Teens Top Ten voting list, which is included in this issue. You will be able to vote for your favorites in the fall, so start reading now!

*Jenny Knatz and
Mary Beth Hutchinson
Open Shelf Editors
teens.info@cityofmesa.org*

*Diane Tuccillo
YAAC Advisor*

Reviews by Janine Bratlee

The Creek

Jennifer L Holm

★★★★

The Creek was an excellent book. The main characters, Penny and Teddy, are a brother and sister pair living on

Mockingbird Lane. When Caleb, a boy who terrorized the entire town before he was sent away, returns, he is accused of yet another murder. Holm writes an exciting suspense novel.

Tender

Valerie Hobbs

★★★★

Tender was an excellent book. The main character, Liv, was handed over to her grandmother "like a bundle of laundry." When Gran dies, Liv is forced to live with her father, an abalone diver. When her dad's "tender"—the person who pulls a diver up—breaks his arm, Liv must step in and take his place.

Hobbs' novel about overcoming the fears that isolate us and breaking out of the shells that keep us trapped is a hopeful look at growing up and becoming a family.

Do You Know the Monkey Man?

Dori Hillstad Butler

★★★★

Sam's sister Sarah died as a toddler when Sam goes on a wild goose chase to find her father. But when Sam does find him, things spin wildly out of control. **Do You Know the Monkey Man** is an awesome book that will keep you turning the pages until the end. I recommend this book highly.

Resistance

Janet Graber

★★★

Resistance is set in 1942 during the

height of WWII. Marianne's father has been killed, and her mother starts a group that saves captured soldiers. This is a great historical fiction novel. I highly recommend it.

Both Sides Now

Ruth Pennebaker

★★★★

This was an excellent book. It shows the value of a mother/daughter relationship. When Liza's mother gets terribly sick with breast cancer, Liza is at her wit's end. She doesn't know what to do—she can't even look at her own chest. It's a great book to help daughters with a



rating system

bad; needs work ★

so-so ★★

average ★★★

good ★★★★

excellent; perfect ★★★★★

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and see the Teens page!

sick mom cope with their situation.

Time Capsule

Lurlene McDaniel

★★★★★

This book is the most amazing of those McDaniel has written so far. There are twins—one male, one female—and when the brother gets leukemia everything goes downhill. Before he dies, he starts a foundation to give teddy bears for sick children. This is one very good book.

Reviews by Kayla Chandler

Which Witch?

Eva Ibbotson

★★★

Arriman the Awful, the Wizard of the North, is tired of his wizardry, but, being one of the most powerful wizards in the world, has a responsibility to keep out of evil and darkness. His only choice is to marry, so he devises a contest to choose a wife from the witches of Todcaster. Whichever witch performs the blackest, most evil trick will become his bride. Belladonna wants to win more than anything in the world, but she's unfortunately a white witch, despised by all the rest of the witches of Todcaster.

This book was not the best book in the world, but not the worst either. It was fairly predictable, but not to an extent as to ruin it. I did not particularly enjoy some of the evil—it got a bit too graphic at times. On the other hand, there were times when I couldn't put it down. All in all, it was an okay, light-read children's book.

Among the Enemy

Margaret Peterson Haddix

★★★★★

In a time where each family is limited to two children, where all third children are as good as dead, a group of these illegal third children must band together to fight the Population Police (enforcers of this horrible law). Throughout this compelling series, we meet dozens of third children who all fight for their lives.

This particular book is centered around Matthias. He and his two lifelong friends are taken away from their safe, cozy beds at the boarding school and dragged to the Population Police Headquarters. In their attempt to escape, they find themselves in more danger than they ever

anticipated.

This was a wonderful book about the struggle to make a difference for good in an evil world. The gripping plot and its many twists and turns make this book a great read.

Reviews by Danielle Cotie

Candyfreak

Steve Almond

★★★

Warning—if you don't like chocolate, don't read this book!

The author, Almond, is a self-admitted "candy freak"—someone who takes the world "mouth first." And, for no particular reason, he decides to go on a cross-country candy-investigating trip. He tours factories, talks to candy-company owners, and in general, eats a lot of chocolate.

If you ever wondered about odd-ball chocolates, or are curious about regional candy companies, read it. But be warned—by page 20, you'll be craving sugar.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Garden

Stephen King

★★★★★

It seems many of King's books have a moral. This one is simple—don't get lost in the woods. Unfortunately, the twelve-year-old main character does indeed get lost in the woods, with only a packed lunch and a Walk-Man.

This is one of King's lighter books, meaning that although there are dismembered animals, hallucinations, and general creepiness, it has an understandable plot, likeable characters and a refreshing absence of gratuitous gore.

Read it.

The Screwtape Letters

C.S. Lewis

★★★★★

From a technical definition, **The Screwtape Letters** is a collection of instructional letters from uncle to nephew. The fact that the uncle, Screwtape, and the nephew, Wormwood, are both demons serves to make the book a great deal more entertaining.

The letters are written to instruct Wormwood in the art of temptation and damnation. Suffice to say, it's interesting and it's also based heavily on Christian theology. If that appeals to you, by all means read it. It's a fascinating spin to the human mind and supernatural conflict.

Salem's Lot

Stephen King

★★★★★

Welcome to Jerusalem's Lot, home of nothing in particular. There are only two points of interest—the abandoned mansion that looks over the town and the massive forest fire that ripped through in '51. In short, it's a sleepy little town—with more darkness and secrets than it knows what to do with.

This is one of King's earlier books, but it doesn't suffer from it. The characters are clear, believable and sympathetic. Even better, the book moves smoothly and the plot never lags. It's a lighter book than some of King's other work, but remember—don't read it after sundown and keep a cross and garlic handy.

The Wheel of Time series

Robert Jordan

★★★

I will be honest—I'm only about 3500 pages into this series so I can't give a **totally** thorough review. First, and most, the series is **long**. There currently 11 books in the series (with another in the works), and each book averages 900 pages, so if you don't fancy long books, don't bother.

For everyone who does like long books, read it. There are multiple plot lines, a glossary in the back of each book, and enough characters that the glossary is needed. Even so, the writing is interesting and action quick enough to keep your attention.

Read it, but know that you won't be finishing it anytime soon.

Reviews by Paige Davis

Sabriel

Garth Nix

★★★★★

This is the story of a girl, daughter of

the necromancer Abhorsen. This title is passed amongst the members of her family, signifying who is to take up the tools of sword and bells to fight the undead. When a messenger from Death hands Sabriel her father's tools, she can't believe her father is dead and sets off in search of him.

This book is excellent and I can't tell much more or I'll give the book away. I think it's one of the best books I've ever read. Its ending isn't neat and happy, but realistic and very good.

Down the Rabbit Hole

Peter Abrahams

★★★

Down the Rabbit Hole is the story of a girl named Ingrid who gets mixed up in a murder—all because of her shoes! In a tangled web of lies she seeks out the truth. Unfortunately, she lands the role of Alice in an upcoming play and has her hands full with memorizing lines. As the story progresses, everything becomes more and more clear, though Ingrid's life is in great danger. Though some may find the ending easy to guess, I was surprised. A decent read.

Hawksong

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

★★★★★

Hawksong is the story of the Avian princess Danica Shardae and the struggle she goes through. The war between her bird shape-shifting people and the snake shape-shifters, the Serpiente, has been going on for years beyond memory. So, when the Serpiente propose a truce, it is quite the surprise. Unfortunately, the way to peace involves the unthinkable: marriage to the prince Zane Cobriana. However, these two rulers are willing to try almost anything to stop the killing.

This book is filled with emotion and political intrigue. I absolutely loved this book and it made me happy to see it through.

Review by Geraldine Del Rosario

Witch Season, book 1: Summer

Jeff Mariotte

★★★

Witches, spells and incantations,

supernatural powers, gory details, romance, tragedy—this book has it all. Six people, one a witch and an immortal, hunt another beautiful, ageless witch. The beginning was dull, the ending lame and unexpected, but as it's only the first in a series, it's not really an end. The book is compelling, but a little on the far-fetched side. Despite the less-than-impressive ending, it's interesting enough to be worth following the series further.

Reviews by Britanni Dorsey

Prisoner of Time

Caroline B. Cooney

★★★

Poor Devonny is being forced into a marriage without love. Lord Hugh David is an Englishman who only wants her money, as he already has a mistress. She hopes that Time—the brother of the girl who helped her brother escape—will rescue her. Readers will enjoy this book.

I, Coriander

Sally Gardner

★★★★★

This book takes place in England after the fall of Oliver Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy. Like many classic Cinderella stories, Coriander's mother dies and is replaced by the evil stepmother. Maud Legs is a horrible woman who smells funny, has bad teeth, and eats a ton. She hates Coriander, and when Coriander's father is forced to flee from some accusations, she begins to plot against the girl in earnest. Coriander has to escape Maud, find her father, and save herself. This is a wonderful book about hope, love, loss, and the journey ahead, for everyone.

Brooklyn Rose

Ann Rinaldi

★★★★★

At fifteen, Rose must marry the wealthy Rene to prevent the foreclosure of her home. Upon arriving at her new house in Brooklyn, New York, her betrothed finds conditions not to his satisfaction. The next day, Rose finds the housekeeper dead and is terrified. This is a great book, worth so much more than five tiny stars can represent. Rinaldi is a great writer and this is just another one of her great books.

Prom

Laurie Halse Anderson

★★★★★

A sweet 18-year-old named Ashley is in love with a disreputable fellow by the name of T.J. He buys her beer, cigarettes, and other bad stuff. He convinces her to get an apartment with him, leave home, and basically leave all that she has ever known. All of Ashley's friends are so excited about prom, but when it turns out the teacher in charge of preparations is an embezzler, it's up to Ashley to take over and save the dance. The plot of the book centers on how to fix the prom, while Ashley in the meanwhile gets a glimpse of what her future will hold. This book is wonderful, exhilarating, and is everything I think a prom should turn out to be.

Reviews by Micki Gentile

Blood and Chocolate

Annette Curtis Klause

★★★★★

Vivian Gandillon is a werewolf. At sixteen, she is beautiful and can have any "meat boy" or wolf she wants. All the young wolves are on her tail, but Vivian falls in love with a normal human. Aiden is every girl's perfect dream: sweet, cute, and adoring. However, he doesn't know that Vivian is a werewolf, and though she wants to, she cannot tell him because it could harm the pack. Vivian can't decide whether she wants blood—the thrill of the hunt, the exhilaration of being a wolf—or the smooth chocolate that leaves you thirsty and craving for more. I really thought it was a very good book!

The Haunting of Swain's Fancy

Brenda Seabrooke

★★★★★

Taylor is visiting her father and his new wife and family in West Virginia. When Taylor arrives, strange things are happening: ghosts are coming in and out of rooms. Taylor, her step siblings and their friend don't know why the ghosts are haunting the house until Taylor finds a book on haunted houses. She learns that the house was built in 1725 by Abel Swain,

and the ghosts are from the Civil War. The four have to find out what happened in 1862 before the July Daze. I thought it was good.

Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare

Darren Shan

★★★★★

It's supposed to be true. It's about what happened to Darren when he was a kid, when he and his three friends visited a freak circus in town. When his friend can only get two tickets, it seems like fate when Darren wins the coin toss for the other ticket. In one act, Darren saw a cool spider and knew he had to have one. A few days later, he sneaks back and steals her. The problem is, two bites from her can kill you.

I really liked it. It was a very good book!

Witch Season, book 1: Summer

Jeff Mariotte

★★★★★

The book is about this girl, Kerry, who is a college student. She lives in California during summer break and works at a resort with five others, whom she also rooms with. One night, when they come home they find this guy, Daniel Blessing, all beat up. Kerry nurses him back to health, and it turns out that Daniel is a witch hunting another witch, Season Howe. Kerry and her friends decide to help Daniel find Season.

I liked this book because it was very exciting.

Review by Anna Gurevitz

The Divide

Elizabeth Kay

★★★★★

Felix has always had a very serious heart problem. His parents always keep a very close eye on him. When they go on a family vacation to the Continental Divide in the U.S., he runs in front of them and stands on both sides of the Divide. Suddenly, he faints and wakes up in a totally different dimension! He finds a new friend and they go to find Felix a cure for

his heart and a way back to his own dimension.

I loved this book! It has adventure, comedy, and surprise. I highly recommend it to anyone who likes fantasies, humor, mystery, or adventure books. It'll probably be among the best books you'll ever read.

Reviews by Mary Beth Hutchinson

Popular Culture and Philosophy series

William Irwin (Editor)

★★★★★

I have proudly accepted my nerdhood. And so I carry these books as my shining scarlet letter. With subjects such as Star Wars, the Lord of the Rings, the Matrix, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and the Simpsons, these blendings of modern pop culture and centuries-old philosophy will firmly brand any bearer as a nerd. But, carry them with pride! The essays are fascinating, probing, and often hilarious. A great read for anyone.

Ethan Frome

Edith Wharton

★★★

I will confess upfront that I read this book for an English class. For that, it may have been irrevocably tainted beyond objective reviewing. However, I believe I can at least try. Ethan Frome lives a life of complete isolation. His miniscule farming community is severed from civilization by a blanket of snow each year. His wife is a frigid shrew. His community finds him very strong. In walks Mattie Silver—beautiful, lively, and for reasons passing understanding, attracted to Ethan. Edith Wharton tries to build this as an epic to isolation, but she fails. Her writing shines in passages, but she can't redeem her thin, implausible plot.

31 Songs

Nick Hornby

★★★★★

Wile most of us just wish we had a soundtrack to our lives, Nick Hornby has

actually compiled his in **31 Songs**. These are the songs he can't help but hit repeat on over and over again, those songs which mean something to him even outside the lyrics themselves. Insightful and witty, Nick Hornby is the patron saint of music lovers. For those who fall into that group, consider this book a religious obligation.

Reviews by Jenny Knatz

The Sevenwaters Trilogy

Juliet Marillier

★★★★★

Steeped in ancient Celtic and Irish lore, this trilogy has been one of my favorite reads for a couple years now and is something I actually don't mind re-reading. Each book tells of a descendent of Sevenwaters, an ancient Irish stronghold entrenched in a forest which has protected the inhabitants for generations. The first book, **Daughter of the Forest**, tells of the healer Sorcha and her six brothers and how their fates are twisted by the sorceress, Lady Oonagh. The following two books describe the lives of her daughter and granddaughter in as vivid, fascinating detail as the first. Each book cleverly intertwines, but is rich in its own plot and character development. This is one series I would earnestly recommend to almost any of my peers, though perhaps more so to female acquaintances than male as all of the protagonists are female.

King of Attolia

Megan Whalen Turner

★★★★★

Espionage, fights, political intrigue, and a curious relationship between two monarchs: all are a part of **The King of Attolia**. Told from the eyes of the hapless Costis, a soldier who is unwittingly caught in the complex castle politics, the plot is fascinating, the characters engaging, and the humor on-par. As the Queen and her advisors attempt to make King Eugenides accept the responsibility of his new title, the king finds ways to guide the throne and the country while seeming a guileless foreign bumpkin. Although the third in a series, the book stands very well on its own. With a more sinuous path than

a labyrinth, this is one great book that will keep you guessing till the end.

Review by Luke Lambert

Doctor Faustus

Christopher Marlowe

★★★★

If you ever wondered who began the great tradition of selling your soul to the devil for ridiculous things (i.e., donuts), look no further than **Doctor Faustus**. Although slightly repetitive, this book is the foundation for “sell your soul” stories and the perfect example of late medieval/early Renaissance thought.

Reviews by Patricia Langevin

Sojourn series

Ron Marz, et al

★★★★★

Three centuries ago, an evil lord was on the brink of conquering the five lands. A warrior-archer named Ayden appeared from nowhere and slew the evil lord Mordath, afterwards breaking the killing arrow into five pieces and scattering them throughout the lands. Now, Mordath has been revived and has conquered the five lands. A woman named Arwyn, whose family Mordath has killed, decides to go on a quest for the five pieces of the arrow and destroy Mordath for what he's done to her. This series, or what I've read of it so far, ROCKS. The artwork (seeing as this IS a graphic novel) is amazing. If you haven't read it, then do so. And if you have, well, it's worth reading again.

Born Free

Jay Adamson

★★★★★

I can't even remember where I first heard of this book, but when I saw it I thought, “Why not?” What I got was this amazing, real life story of an orphan lioness cub named Elsa and how she was raised by a game warden and his

wife, then re-released into the wild. Set in the wilds of Africa, this story might be a few decades old, but still holds the timeless theme of being of two worlds and finding a place.

Equal Rites

Terry Pratchett

★★★★★

This author has somehow managed to cover the three basic E's of life: comedE, philosophE, and fantasE. Terry Pratchett is also one of those authors who is almost impossible to summarize, so give me credit for trying.

Drum Bullet is a wizard about to die. So he journeys to the village of Bad Ass (named for a disobedient donkey) to give his powers to a child just being born. In that village, the smith is the eighth son of his family, and his wife is about to have their eighth child—making this newborn the eighth son of an eighth son. That, plus Drum Bullet's powers, would make the kid perfect wizard material. But just after the child is born, the powers have been transferred. The wizard is dead, and the smith learns that the new wizard in the family... is a girl.

When Esk's wizard powers start to leak out and mix with the witch magic the local witch, Granny Weatherwax, has been trying to teach her, they decide to head to Ahnk-Morpork and get Esk enrolled in the Unseen Academy for Wizards. The only problem is, the wizards refuse to even THINK of teaching a GIRL. But such things have never stopped Granny. By the time she gets done with them, the wizards of Unseen University will understand just how ill-equipped they are.

The Wee Free Men

Terry Pratchett

★★★★★

Tiffany Aching is a young farm girl who lives with her family in the respectable shepherding business, on a land known simply as the Chalk. While making cheese is well and good, Tiffany isn't meant to spend her life doing it—late Granny Aching was a witch, and the land needs a person to speak for and guard it. So, who else does the task fall to but the 9-year-old dairy maid, Tiffany.

Thus, when her baby brother, Wintworth, is snatched by the Queen of the Fairies and is taken to another world, it's up to Tiffany to save him. Armed with a variety of strange things, including an alliance with the Nac Mac Feegle, the young girl sets off to rescue her perpetually sticky baby brother.

But the Nac Mac Feegle are far from the easiest allies to have. For one thing, the Pictsis only have five specialties:

drinking, fighting, stealing, drink and fighting, drinking and fighting and stealing. But the six-inch Wee Free Men are much stronger than they seem, and Tiffany is going to have to draw on all the craftiness she never knew she had if they are going to get out alive.

Fun, funny, and alive with the usual Pratchett humor, this book is a must-read for any fan of Pratchett or comedy.

Thud!

Terry Pratchett

★★★★★

Centuries ago, a group of dwarfs and a group of trolls met in a godforsaken place called Koom Valley. It is the only battle in history where both sides ambushed each other. To this day, no one knows why the battle was fought, or even who won. But to this day, both the dwarfs and the trolls remember and use it as an extra reason to fight.

Fast-forward to modern-day Ahnk-Morpork to find His Grace Sir Samuel Vimes, Commander of the City Watch, right smack in the middle of several hundred years of political strife. And his second most important self-appointed duty is to do his darnedest to keep war from erupting. (The most important duty is, naturally, to be home at precisely six o'clock to read “Where's my Cow?” to his two year old son, Sam.)

But as people start turning up dead and several crimes seem to tie together, Sam Vimes is about to find himself neck deep in trouble, history, and the centuries old mystery behind the battle of Koom Valley.

Snakecharm

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

★★★

It has been close to a year since Zane Cobriana, cobra shapeshifter and king of the Serpiente, took Danica Sharda, Tuuli Thea of the Avians, as his mate. In that time, the two races that have warred for centuries have begun to learn to live in peace. But all that is now being threatened when Syfka, an ancient falcon from an empire older and more powerful than either people, comes to the monarchs claiming that a falcon is hiding somewhere in their lands. She refuses to say who this falcon is or why he or she is suddenly wanted by the Falcon Empire's royal family, but there are other things to worry about. Danica is soon to have a child to be heir to the throne. But, which throne? And how shall the child be raised? Things get more intense when an accident disables Danica's ability to have another child so that one could take each throne.

Good storyline and well-written, but

the whole thing ends rather suddenly. The book does take a much broader look at the world of the shapeshifters, though many other aspects hang there, unexplained. I think this is sort of a bridge from one story to something more complex that will come up in the next book. All in all, not as good as **Hawksong**, but a must-read to learn more of this fascinating world.

Review by Mandi Levendowski

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

★★★★★

Ford! This book is amazing. Set in futuristic England, the novel opens with a doctor explaining the ways in which fetuses are raised. Mothers and fathers are slanderous terms that can't be comprehended. Sex is all about pleasure, and if you think today's society is promiscuous, you ain't seen nothin' yet. When an Alpha-plus worker (a caste, one of the many things determined in the test tube processing) questions society, we get a deep look into their society. He and Lenina (his flavor of the week) go to the Reservation and observe how the Native American tribes live.

Alas! Predictable but inevitable betrayal! I highly recommend that you gobble up this Fordriffic novel before your English teacher makes you.

Reviews by Shawna Long

Hawksong

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

★★★★★

Hawksong is about two shapeshifters—Danica Shardae, an Avian, and Zane Cobriana, a Serpiente, are each about to inherit their respective thrones. Both are willing to give any and everything to stop the war which has been going on between their two races for so long that all have forgotten why they're fighting. But in order to stop it, Danica and Zane must marry. How can they get over their fear for each other and learn to trust one another? You'll have to read this book to find out.

The Wayfarer Redemption

Sara Douglass

★★★

The Wayfarer Redemption takes place in this world where there is a conflict between the Acharites and the Forbidden. But they must unite under the Prophecy of the Destroyer or their world will become overtaken by Gorgrael. So, if you like to read long books with tons of battles, then I think you'll enjoy reading this book.

Review by Lindsay Lutes

Head Games

Mariah Fredericks

★★★★

After I read this book I looked at life a little differently. Judith Ellis, a fifteen-year-old girl, plays a game on the Internet. When she loses, she and this boy Jonathan decide to make a game set in reality. Jonathan's known as the troublemaker and when Judith's mom finds out about Judith and Jonathan's friendship she makes sure she puts a stop to it. But for once, since Judith's last friendship (which ended horribly), she is actually happy with life.

In this story you will feel with the characters unlike you ever do. I recommend this book to anyone who has had a very unusual friendship or someone who is very unsure of his or herself.

Reviews by Oonagh McQuarrie

Guitar Girl

Sarra Manning

★★★★★

Molly, Jane and Tara start a band, but it's not very good. Dean and T see them performing at a birthday party. Dean says that they need help and badgers his way into the band. Molly, however, is strongly opposed to having him in the band and they don't get along. As a year goes by, you see the band go through all the drama of celebrity life, included a cheapo manager

Michael, who screws them up.

I really, really loved this book. It was great 'cause it seemed real. It wasn't a great happy story, but rather true to life.

Stranded in Boringsville

Catherine Bateson

★★★

Rain May and her mother move to Clarkson. Her mother is divorced and takes Rain to her grandmother's old house to stay and get away from the city. Her mother is an earthmother and loves trees in the country. But her regular, Daniel, gets sick and Rain must find a way to help him get better. I enjoyed this book, but I thought it was like a lot of other books. Worth the time, though.

If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's My Prince?

Melissa Kaufer

★★★★★

This is a fantastic book. Let's start with establishing that. It's funny, touching, and has a spectacular plot. It leads you through right to the end. The characters are memorable and loveable. So: plot. Lucy North has moved from West Coast, Cali, to Long Island, NY. She lives with her father's new wife Mara. Mara is Lucy's opposite, and her feelings are very, very easily hurt. Lucy catches the hottest guy in school, but he isn't what she really wants. Slowly she realizes that it's not Conner, the cutest, but somebody else. From Cinderella to Somebody's Princess, this story is about finding love and finding your place in a family. I really, really liked this book and I encourage everyone, of all ages and genders, to read it.

Born to Rock

Gordan Korman

★★★★★

Leo Caraway has high hopes for his future. He is getting a scholarship to Harvard, is president of the Young Republicans, and is a good guy. Unfortunately, he is caught "cheating" on a test, and his scholarship of \$40,000 is taken away. It is then that he discovers his father is lead singer for the baddest punk rock group in the history of the genre.

He meets his biological father and Mr. Maggot takes him on a USA tour with the band. On the way he discovers some things about himself and the world in general. I really enjoyed this book, but it was a little mediocre. The characters were really easy to relate to, but the plot was a little predictable.

Not Like I'm Jealous or Anything

Marissa Walsh, editor

★★★★

I liked this book. It was about jealousy and various peoples' stories about their jealousy. This book helped show how silly jealousy is. There are multiple authors, ranging in age from 7th graders and high schoolers to adults and college kids. Any age can relate to it and everybody knows what it feels like to be jealous of something or someone.

Vegan Virgin Valentine

Carolyn Mackler

★★★★

I enjoyed **VVV**. The characters were good and I loved the plot. It pulled me in and didn't let go. Mara, V, Travis and James were good strong characters. The plot was interesting and I loved the twists. It's basically about Mara, who is the perfect uptight senior who's vying for valedictorian with her masochistic ex. She works in a coffee shop called Common Grounds with her friend. Crazy love triangles and rectangles ensue as the characters' lives take the oddest, strangest turns. I really highly enjoyed it. Great, great book.

Reviews by Deidre Oberpriller

Firebringer

David Clement-Davies

★★★★★

One night, in a cold clearing in Scotia, there is trouble in a red deer herd. Lord Drail has forbidden Anlach, the time of the rut, forcing the other deer to allow him to continue his rule over the herd. The

Outriders, the herd's police force, are outraged by this, for the rut was the only way for them to curb their need to fight each other and gain new hinds. Brechin is known to be one of the top captains in the Outriders, and one of the most outspoken against the new ruling. He and the other Outriders summoned to the meeting are killed violently. All that is left of the herd are the hinds and the Draila - the new police force, deer so brainwashed by Drail and his second, Sgorr, that they will stop at nothing to bring Drail's new ways to the herd. But in the wake of all this turmoil, there is hope. A fawn is born to Eloin, Brechin's favorite hind—a beautiful fawn, with a “leaf of oaken” birthmark on his forehead. Only old Blindweed, the storyteller, can tell the hind of the hope it will bring to the herd... and the danger it will mean to the fawn and hind if the Draila discover it. What does the rest of the Prophecy foretell for the young fawn Rannoch? Read **Firebringer** for the rest of the Prophecy, and try to understand it with the rest of the herd. Rannoch's life begins in turmoil... how will it end?

Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City

Kirstin Miller

★★★★★

Anaka Fishbein is your ordinary seventh grader. She gets picked on by the older kids, and never seems to have the best clothes. Well, she's not exactly ordinary. Due to a relative who happened to make millions on an invention of his, Anaka's parents never had to worry about her tuition, or theirs, for that matter. You see, her relative put all his earnings in a special trust that they can only use to pay for schooling. So her parents take advantage of it by working on multiple Ph.D.'s while putting their daughter in the best girls' school in Manhattan. One day, just before break, a new kid shows up. Anaka spends weeks tailing this Kiki Strike, trying to find out who she is and why, mysteriously, no one seems to ever remember seeing her, not even the kids in class that day. Eventually, she befriends Kiki, and finds out that the girl wants to find the Shadow City, a city that was only recently unearthed... and only Anaka and Kiki know of its existence. They recruit other girls for the task. Kiki is, of course, is the leader of the group they name the Irregulars. She also provides the only key to the only known entrance to the Shadow City - the grave of her dead grandfather.

But what is the Shadow City? It is an underground city built by Kiki's grandfather as a way to smuggle goods into New York and sell them secretly. It became something of a legend among thieves, convicts, and other miscreants, until it fell

out of use during an epidemic. Since then, no one has ever entered it... except for the rats. So why does Kiki want to reclaim it and secure it from prying eyes? Treasure, she tells them. But is that really what she wants? Or does this stranger have something else in mind? Read this book to find out!

Warning to high schoolers - I found this book to be a bit “young”. All the Irregulars are in seventh grade, and they age about two or three years during the story. I found that it made the story a bit less believable for older readers.

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

Rick Yancey

★★★★★

Alfred Kropp's mother died of cancer when he was twelve and he never knew his father. After spending three years going from foster home to foster home, Alfred was finally taken in by his uncle Farrell, a night watchman at a big company's office building. He didn't see much of his uncle, and he was constantly picked on at school. Uncle Farrell doesn't make all that much money for what he does, so when a businessman in a silk suit offers him a large amount of money to steal a sword from the owner of the building he's supposed to guard, Uncle Farrell takes him up on it, and recruits Alfred to help him. Alfred's not sure about the whole thing. There's something about this businessman that tells Alfred he can't be trusted. But Alfred has no choice. It's either help his uncle and go against his instincts about their employer, or lose his chance at getting his driving permit. Little does he know that getting caught up in this fraudulent endeavor will give him the chance to drive cars he would never have gotten to drive before, wield a legendary sword to defend the descendent of a legendary knight, and (most importantly) discover who his father is.

What kind of cars? What sword does he wield? Which knight? Who is his real father? I'm not telling! That's why you're supposed to read this book! Well, that, and the fact that there's action on practically every single page! Or are you one of those people that likes to read boring books with absolutely no action? If you're not, then why are you still reading this?! Go pick up **The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp** and stop reading this review of it! Seriously though, enjoy this great book!

Get a Life!

William Shatner

★★★★

Perhaps you have gone to a Star Trek convention in the last ten years and been questioned by a rubber-masked guy with a squeaky voice. Guess what? That was probably William Shatner. **Get a Life!** was written as a research book. The research? What fans enjoy at conventions. Normally, Mr. Shatner would be at the convention in time for the appearance, make his appearance, and leave. But then he realized that he really didn't know what conventions were about. So, in his odd and hysterical way, he started researching Star Trek conventions.

I really enjoyed this book. Shatner told lots of funny stories and shared great advice for those who buy stuff at conventions. I'd recommend it to anyone.

A Hard Rain

Dean Wesley Smith

★★★★★

This is another **Next Generation** book, but you can't really tell as most of the book takes place on the holodeck. If you're a Star Trek fan, or know someone who is, you know that one of the holodeck programs Picard frequents is the Dixon Hill program. Dixon Hill is a hard-boiled private eye straight out of American pulp fiction and the program takes place in a 1940's San Francisco. Who knew they would spend almost 24 critical hours as Dixon Hill and his "boys" solving a case that, if left unsolved, could mean total destruction of the Enterprise as it enters the Blackness (a region of space that acts much like a black hole)? The captain is joined by several crew members, and with the safety protocols offline anything could happen. This book is another great example of Star Trek fiction. Read it!

I'm Working on That: A Trek from Science Fiction to Science Fact

William Shatner

★★★★

Have you ever wondered about the scientific breakthroughs we have had in the past decade or two? Probably not. But if you want to know more about some of the technologies people work on, this is the book to read. Shatner wrote the book in such a way that you don't have to have

any scientific degrees to understand it. He decided to write about some of our newest technologies, but since he understands very little about even everyday tech (like computers), he seeks out some of the leading scientists in almost every field. However, there is one condition: all the technologies have to be predicted by Star Trek. So, if you want to know more about the inventions that had their beginnings in science fiction (mainly Star Trek), start with this book.

Reviews by Nykii Ryan

Pagan's Crusade

Catherine Jinks

★★★★★

Pagan Kidrouk is in trouble, and he needs money... badly. So, he joins the Knights Templar to help defend the Holy City from the Infidel. Assigned to Lord Roland Roucy de Bram ("Son of St. George"), Pagan is soon shining in chain mail and escorting brainless Pilgrims. Though Roland seems at first to have the looks and personality of a statue, when the going gets tough Pagan finds that he's made a valuable friend—one that he's in danger of losing.

Despite his name, Pagan is an Arab-born Christian. This book does deal with questioning religious dogma, but it's great for anybody who just likes short, smart-mouthed squire boys, too.

Catch a Tiger by the Toe

Ellen Levine

★★★★★

This book is set in America, during the Red Scare. Jamie is a girl whose parents are a part of the Communist party in America, and she has to lie to keep them safe. But during those days, no one was really safe from Senator McCarthy and his committee; Jamie's family is no exception. Her parents lose their jobs, and people start avoiding Jamie. But it's the roughest of times that reveal who's truly a friend. **Catch a Tiger by the Toe** is a fantastic read about family, friends, and values.

The most interesting part of it is that it's based on true historical events. The Communist hunts in America were real. Innocent, good people lost their jobs, and were even killed over false politics and democratic blasphemies. This book really gives you insight to the mind frame of that

era, and makes you appreciate America as it is today. However, it also makes you look a little harder at our society...and realize that such prejudice does **not** only exist in storybooks.

Reviews by Leticia Salazar

Best Friends for Never

Lisi Harrison

★★★

Best Friends for Never is a cute book about two completely different girls. Massie, who is the most popular girl at school, cares only about her looks and gossip. Claire, on the other hand, has only one friend and wishes she could be half as great as Massie. When Massie's friend Alicia calls and tells Massie that the latest gossip is that Massie isn't as "in charge" as last year, Massie asks for Claire's help. The two pretend to be friends so their parents will let them throw a coed Halloween party. Typically, they both run into problems along the way. It's a great story of friends and I encourage girls of all ages to read it.

Goddess of the Night

Lynne Ewing

★★★★★

This book is about a girl named Vanessa, who finds out she is a daughter of the moon. She has the power to turn invisible. She also finds three other girls that are goddesses and daughters of the moon. Her best friend Catty can go back in time, Serena can read minds, and Jimena has premonitions. They all live in Los Angeles, California, and have to fight an evil side called the Atrox, which plans to steal their powers. There's a whole series starting with this book, and it has been the best book I've read so far.

Review by Ashley Sanders

Sons of the Dark

Lynne Ewing

★★★★★

Four guys in Los Angeles: a rock star, a rebel, an artist, and a shaman. Sound interesting? Well, let me tell you, it gets better by the chapter. Berto, the main character, has joined the Legend of the Four, a prophecy where four guys are to defeat the greatest evil to ever exist. Now, the only problem besides trying to survive high school is to figure out how they're going to defeat this "great evil." But before they go off on their quest, they have a more current conflict at hand. Students at Turney High have suddenly been disappearing. All that is left to mark their disappearance is a perfect black circle burned into the ground. Now Berto, Kyle, Obie, and Samuel must figure out what is happening, and try to stop these abductions. Can they? Well, if you really want to know, then read this book. Like I said before, it gets better by the chapter.

Reviews by Matt Sexton

Rackety Tam

Brian Jacques

★★★★★

Racket Tam is trying to get out of the army that he sold his sword to. He is a squirrel warrior that lives in the forest of Mossflower and goes after Galo the Savage, a wolverine. He goes to Redwall to help protect them. In my opinion this is a really good book because I like books about this kind of stuff.

The Golden Compass

Phillip Pullman

★★★★★

The setting of this book starts in an alternate world of Oxford, England. In this world, everyone has a daemon always by them as a kind of guide. Throughout the plot, Lyra, the main character, tries to learn

to use the golden compass, a device which helps her on many adventures.

In my opinion, this is one of the greatest books I've ever read. I have to say that when you are reading the story you don't want to put it down. People recommended this book to me, and now it's my turn to recommend it to you.

My Sister's Keeper

Jodi Picoult

★★★★★

Anne is the main character, who is suing her parents for medical emancipation so she has the right to decide if she wants to be a donor for her sick sister. Kate, Anne's sister, has APL (Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia). Anne has always donated her blood and other stuff needed to keep Kate alive. The book was terrific with a shocking ending. This book was not one of those books I normally read but I thought it was great.

Review by Chris Smith

The Skies of Pern

Anne McCaffrey

★★★★★

This is the latest book in Anne McCaffrey's Dragonriders of Pern series, and, in my opinion, the best. It is primarily about two dragonriders, F'lessan and Tai. Slowly, these two fall in love. But in the middle of their romance, disaster strikes. A meteor smashes into the ocean creating huge tsunamis. These riders and all the others of the planet assist in trying to save the day.

This series of books is one of the best. So read it, this book in particular.

Reviews by Matthew Taylor

Mega Tokyo

Fred Gallagher

★★★★★

This is a graphic novel for everyone who enjoyed the web comic version, because the two are pretty much the same thing. Relive the misadventures of Piro and Largo, two Americans stranded in Japan. Read this!

FLCL

Hajime Ueda

★★★★★

A funny, random manga near impossible to understand—but who cares! Read this wonderful manga anyway.

Review by Joe Tuccillo

The Giver

Lois Lowry

★★★★★

This book is about Jonas, a citizen of a community in what appears to be the future. The Ceremony of Twelve is coming and Jonas is very excited. At the ceremony, Jonas is chosen for an important job: Receiver of Memory. He's not too excited until he gets in to training. But this task will change his life forever...

It's a really good book, and I recommend it to anyone who likes science fiction.

Review by Christina Walston

The Scarlet Ibis

James Herst

★★★★★

The book is based in the symbolism of red as death. The story revolves around a boy whose brother is born an invalid. The doctors don't even think that his brother will live, but the boy's pride will not allow him to do things the other boy cannot. The focus on the brothers' relationship is touching. The book is very interesting and a really good read.

Teens Top Ten 2006

Here are some more great reading suggestions for the summer. Vote for your favorites online during Teen Read Week, October 15-21, 2006, at www.ala.org/teenstopten/.

- [] Bowen, Asta. *Wolf: The Journey Home*. Bloomsbury, 2006.
- [] Bray, Libba. *Rebel Angels*. Delacorte, 2005.
- [] Brian, Kate. *Megan Meade's Guide to the McGowen Boys*. Simon & Schuster, 2005.
- [] Dowswell, Paul. *Powder Monkey: Adventures of a Young Sailor*. Bloomsbury, 2005.
- [] Gardner, Sally. *I, Coriander*. Dial, 2005.
- [] Hart, J.V. *Captain Hook: the Adventures of a Notorious Youth*. HarperCollins, 2005.
- [] Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes*. HarperCollins, 2005.
- [] Jones, Patrick. *Nailed*. Walker, 2006.
- [] Kantor, Melissa. *If I Have a*
- [] Krovatin, Christopher. *Heavy Metal and You*. Push, 2005.
- [] Meyer, Stephenie. *Twilight*. Little, Brown, 2005.
- [] Noel, Alyson. *Art Geeks and Prom Queens*. St. Martin's, 2005.
- [] Opper, Kenneth. *Skybreaker*. HarperCollins, 2005.
- [] Paolini, Christopher. *Eldest*. Knopf, 2005.
- [] Peters, Julie Ann. *Far from Xanadu*. Megan Tingley, 2005.
- [] Reiss, Kathryn. *Blackthorn Winter*. Harcourt, 2006.
- [] Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. Scholastic, 2005.
- [] Thal, Lilli. *Mimus*. Annick, 2005.
- [] Westerfeld, Scott. *Peeps*. Penguin, 2005.
- [] Whitcomb, Laura. *A Certain Slant of Light*. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
- [] Wooding, Chris. *Poison*. Scholastic, 2005.
- [] Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005.

Where's FRANK?

FRANK Teen Literary Magazine 2005 is now on sale at all three City of Mesa Library branches for 75 cents, or read it for FREE in the library or your school media center.

Look for the 2006 issue of FRANK later this year

You can also sign up to join the teen editorial staff.

Check

<http://mesalibrary.org/teens/frank/> for more information.

What is YAAC?



The Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) is a group of teens from many of Mesa's junior and senior high schools. They hold meetings twice monthly to review books for this newsletter and to plan special activities. They also help the librarians in Mesa Public Library's Young Adult Room at the Main Library as volunteers and assist with programs.

If you are interested in becoming a member of YAAC, call (480) 644-2734 or stop by the Young Adult service desk and ask for an application.

Learn more at:

 mesalibrary.org
City of Mesa Library on the Web

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Great People, Quality Service!