

# RANT & RAVE

## Book reviews for you, by you!

Do you always walk around with a book in your bag? Stay up all night reading under the covers? Love to tell your friends what to read next? Wish someone had told you to skip a book you hated? This is the place to make your voice heard! *RANT & RAVE* is a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. Four times each year, we collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them in *RANT & RAVE*.

Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:



Can you believe this issue begins our second volume of *RANT & RAVE*? We've had so many great books reviewed over the past year, from mysteries, to fantasies, to novels about the drama of everyday life. In this issue, we bring you two five-star reviews of books about two very different girls facing two very different kinds of challenges. Read on to find out more!

### *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins



*What is the book about?*

A world where the government controls everything and holds a game every year which revolves around killing.

*What did you like?*

The first word to the last word.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

I already have.

*Lasting thought you took from the book...*

Yay, it is a trilogy!

— Michael Byrd,  
age 11



### *Girl of the Moment*, by Lizbeth Zindel



*What is the book about?*

A girl looking for an internship gets a job with a famous girl and finds the boy of her dreams.

*What did you like?*

When she fell in love.

*What did you NOT like?*

When the dog peed on that one dyed. (sic)

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

— Mika Lee Blanco, 8th grade

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Deadline for the Spring issue: Feb. 1st, 2011

### Upcoming Events for Teens at Buncombe County Libraries

#### TAG Meeting

4– 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4  
Weaverville Public Library

#### TAG Meeting

4– 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18  
Weaverville Public Library

#### TAG Meeting

4– 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9  
Weaverville Public Library

# Rant & Rave

## Book reviews for you, by you!

Spring is coming, and that means lots of rainy days perfect for reading. Your fellow reviewers are here to help! This issue has it all: books you loved, books you hated, comic books, novels, sci-fi, fantasy, humor, family drama, and adventure. No matter what you've been reading or how you felt about it, we want to hear what you thought. Keep those reviews coming!

Do you always walk around with a book in your bag? Stay up all night reading under the covers? Love to tell your friends what to read next? Wish someone had told you to skip a book you hated? This is the place to make your voice heard! *RANT & RAVE* is a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. Four times each year, we collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them in *RANT & RAVE*. Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:



Terrible      Okay      The Best!

### ***Doctor Who: Agent Provocateur,*** by Gary Russell



*Doctor Who: Agent Provocateur*, by Gary Russell, is a comic book addition to the *Doctor Who* series. It's hard to actually tell what the book is about. Each chapter seems to have a completely different story to it that is very loosely connected to the other stories. The first two chapters are the Doctor and his companion at the time, Martha Jones, off on random adventures. The second and third chapters start to pull together a story, but it's still very random and confusing. In the last few chapters of the book, the story gets even more confusing, and a lot of space is taken up trying to explain what's even happening. The way it was written ended up sounding like a poorly written fan fiction trying to fit into a space between episodes in the actual *Doctor Who* story.

The style the comic was drawn in also made it difficult to read. It kept changing throughout the book, but never to a style that looked nice. It was just hard to see the Doctor and Martha drawn in such an odd style after watching all of the seasons they were in. The characters in the book were written in a way that didn't fit how

they would act in the series. They didn't seem like the same characters. Martha was never even one of my favorite companions in the series, but I was a bit annoyed that she wasn't written to act like herself. That just added to it coming off like a bad fan fiction.

It did have some funny references to the series, like Martha talking about a character in another television show who is played by Alex Kingston, who is River Song in *Doctor Who*, and the Tenth Doctor dressed in clothes that looked suspiciously like those of the Third Doctor, but those moments didn't make up for how awful the book was otherwise. It's similar to *Doctor Who: Touched by an Angel*, by Jonathan Morris, because they're both side stories for the

*Doctor Who* series. *Doctor Who: Touched by an Angel* is a lot better of a read than this book, though. It also seemed like a story they were trying to shove in where it made sense, but it wasn't done as poorly.

I wouldn't recommend this book. To someone who is a *Doctor Who* fan, the book is hard to read because of the style and how different the characters are. To a non-*Doctor Who* fan, the book would be very confusing, and probably boring.

— Sierra Barlowe, 17



***The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins**

Heartache, survival, selflessness and love are just a few words to describe *The Hunger Games*. This captivating tale by Suzanne Collins caught my attention one day at school, and on a whim, I read it. It did not disappoint in any way, shape or form.

This tale is about a girl named Katniss just trying to survive in a futuristic North America called Panem, illegally hunting to feed her family and defying the "Capitol" by doing so. Her home, which is set in Appalachia, is called District Twelve. There are twelve districts in Panem, all regulated by the capitol. In this story, Katniss Everdeen is just trying to get by when she takes her sister's place in the Capitol's gladiatorial-style fights called the Hunger Games.

She and a boy from her district named Peeta are pitted against twenty-two other contestants chosen from the other districts. During the course of the games, many die, many suffer and only two prevail. In the midst of all the fighting, love prevails (or at least, seems to) between Katniss and Peeta, the boy from her district. When a change in the game rules makes them allies instead of enemies, they have a glimmer of hope.

*The Hunger Games* is a wildly popular story, and I can see why. Suzanne Collins's writing style may be centered toward younger audiences, but I had no problem staying interested in the tale. I found myself in a daze at the amount I had read, losing time and still yearning for more. The story is in its own way similar to *Winter's End*. Both stories are about young people trying to survive tough conditions set forth by tyrannical governments. This book by far is one of the best stories I have read and I can't wait to read the rest of the series.

**In a snapshot:**

*What is the book about?*

A teen girl who gets thrown into her dictatorship government's games.

*What did you like?*

Story, characters.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

You don't have to be the best to win.

— Jacob Laughter, 18  
Owen High School

***Pendragon #1*, by D.J. MacHale**

*What is the book about?*

A boy who travels to different places.

*What did you like?*

The suspense.

*What did you NOT like?*

The romance.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes, I would.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

Don't trust just anybody.

— Raul Barreda, 15  
Owen High School



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Deadline for the June issue: May. 1st, 2012

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid, by Jeff Kinney**

*What is the book about?*

This book is about a middle-schooler named Greg Heffley. It's like his "diary" where he tells how his day has been in school and weekend with all the ups and downs.

*What did you like?*

The pictures

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

Why Greg did this (bad) and not that (good).

— **Merci Garcia, 7th grade**  
South Buncombe Library

**Blood is Thicker, by Paul Langan and D.M.**

**Blackwell**



*What is the book about?*

The book is about this boy named Hakeem Randall. He has to move in with his cousin Savon, and they don't get along.

*What did you like?*

What I liked about the book was in the end Savon apologized to Hakeem for being a mean cousin to him.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

— **Keli Aluarado, 7th grade**  
South Buncombe Library

**Paper Towns, by John Green**

*What is the book about?*

After Quentin's night of pranks and Seaworld break-in with the adventurous and popular Margo Roth Spiegelman, Margo disappears and she leaves Quentin several clues on how to find her.

*What did you like?*

This book has an amazingly innovative plot and characters. The reader will want to find Margo as much as Quentin and want to run away with her at the same time. The book has a wonderful message of looking past the idea of a person and truly knowing them.

*What did you NOT like?*

Quentin often has long thought sessions that can be a bit dry. These, however, are essential to the plot and character development.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Absolutely.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

I fell hopelessly in love with this book and I was inspired by the book's message. It's one everyone needs to hear.

— **Rachel Wilson, 18**  
Owen High School

**Graceling, by Kristin Cashore**

This books is "the best!"

*What is the book about?*

In a land where some are born with certain powers called "Graces", Katsa, niece of the king, Graced with killing, is forced to work as his thug. However, after she runs into Prince Po, her life takes a turn for the better.

*What did you like?*

There was a lot of very good, descriptive writing in this book. Very good for a first novel! Ms. Cashore has utilized her writing skills to the finest!

*What did you NOT like?*

Since I didn't read the reviews on the back, I unexpectedly got a taste of some romance. Even so, the romance fits in easily, and greatly surpasses that of *Twilight*.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Maybe. . .

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

I CAN'T WAIT TO READ THE NEXT ONE!  
(Time to plan a trip to Barnes and Noble.)

— **Grace Kay, 12**



**Syren, by Angie Sage**



*What is the book about?*

A boy who is a senior apprentice and gets trapped on an island.

*What did you like?*

The writing style, and how it is constantly keeping you on edge.

*What did you NOT like?*

Some of the grammar and the way it was bourd (sic).

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

People can change if you allow it.

— Kura Hoshi Iaka  
Joseph Adam Drawdy, 17  
East Asheville Library

**The Scorpio Races, by Maggie Stiefvater**



*What is the book about?*

The book is about two characters, Sean Kendrick and Puck Connolly. Sean Kendrick has been riding in the fatal races (Scorpio Races), ever since he was a boy, while Puck has never been near the races and finds herself riding in them. Their paths intertwine, causing a wonderful story!

*What did you like?*

My favorite part was when they actually started to race, showing that even the smallest can be brave.

*What did you NOT like?*

That it ended so fast.

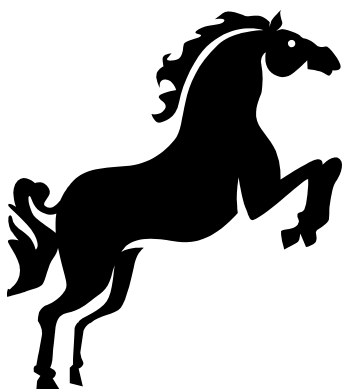
*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Definitely.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

"Wow, I never want it to end; is there a second?"

— Sophia Elise Sherar,  
7th grade  
Leicester Library



**Upcoming Events for Teens at Buncombe County Libraries**

**TAG Meeting**

4– 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 16  
Weaverville Public Library

**Tape-tastic**

**Tape-stravaganza!**  
3:30– 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 24  
East Asheville Public Library

**TAG Meeting**

4– 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 30  
Weaverville Public Library

**TAG Meeting**

4– 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 20  
Weaverville Public Library

**TAG Meeting**

4– 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, May 4  
Weaverville Public Library

**TAG Meeting**

4– 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, May 18  
Weaverville Public Library

**Check the "Teen Links" tab on the Buncombe County Library's web site for more exciting events!**

**2019, by J.H.**



*What is the book about?*

A scientist named Einstein left a formula called Quantum Gravity, and it's really powerful. We can only get it if we stop killing each other, and the book explains how.

*What did you like?*

It lets me think and come to my own conclusions. Even though it is explaining why something is, it doesn't tell me everything about it. Also, I really liked the part where I got to learn about poverty, and I really, really liked the part where he explained that time doesn't exist—it was super cool.

*What did you NOT like?*

It is very hard to read, because it is a very complex book. It felt like a puzzle, and I don't have all the pieces.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes, yes, yes. Everyone *needs* to read this book.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

I want to do my part.

— Rick Cooper  
North Asheville Library

# Rant & Rave

## Book reviews for you, by you!

If you're like us, you've been waiting the whole school year for summer to come so you can read the books YOU want to read—not the ones your English teacher assigned you, but the ones you've been staring at longingly while you crammed for tests and typed papers late into the night. Fear not, intrepid readers! Summer is almost here, and that means plenty of time to sit by the pool, under a shady tree, or in the back seat of a car on a road trip, reading to your heart's content. If you're wondering what to read next, our reviewers have some great suggestions for you, everything from epic fantasy and chilling non-fiction to murder mysteries and manga, with a few classics thrown in, as well.

Four times each year, we collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them in *RANT & RAVE*. Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:



### *Tears of the Giraffe*, by Alexander McCall Smith



It is uncommon to find many novels set in Botswana. Let alone mystery novels. Alexander McCall Smith, however, has set this entire series of books there (twelve so far and counting). This is not the only component that sets Mr. Smith's book apart from other mysteries, though. Authors such as Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle focus on the "who?" and "how?" components of their novels and short stories, while Mr. Smith strives to answer the question of "why?" Why do these characters commit the acts that they do?

*Tears of the Giraffe* is the second book in Mr. Smith's award-winning *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. This series follows the adventurous Precious Ramotswe, or, as she is called by even her fiancé, Mma Ramotswe. Mma Ramotswe is a "traditionally built" woman (she wears a size 22 dress) who spent the money that her father left her when he died on the very first private detective agency in Botswana. What makes her business even more unique is that she is a lady detective.

At the end of the first book in the series, *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, Mma Ramotswe agrees to

marry Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, the reliable mechanic, and in *this* book, their relationship and family is developed when Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni adopts two orphans. On the professional level, Mma Ramotswe solves the cases that come to her at the agency with the help of the newly promoted assistant detective Mma Makutsi. On the personal level, she tries to acclimate herself to the idea that she will soon be gaining not only a husband, but a son and a daughter as well.

This book is very leisurely; at no point could it be considered action-packed. This works to both its advantage and its disadvantage. The book is a calm read with interesting characters, settings, and concepts. However, at times it can be slow going. If Mr. Smith were to keep the pace up a little more, the book would be much more readable.

Overall, *Tears of the Giraffe* is a wonderful read. Unlike the first book in the series, it does not end on a hook. This book does not need one. It's so good that you're left eagerly awaiting the next book in this delectable series. If you're looking for something similar, try other novels by Mr. Smith. For mystery novels with a similarly self-assured and splendid protagonist, try reading Diana Gabaldon's *Lord John* series.

— Martha Speegle-Snell, 12th grade  
Black Mountain Library

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**Graceling, by Kristin Cashore**



*What is the book about?*

In a fictional world, Katsa, the king's niece, is gifted with a "grace," a special talent that, in her world, puts you under complete control of the king, to do his bidding. All too soon, her grace is revealed to be exceptional at the worst thing in the world: A talent to kill others. When a neighboring kingdom's elder goes missing, Katsa teams up with the elder's grandson, Prince Po, to find him, and destroy a man with a grace even more horrible than Katsa's.

*What did you like?*

I loved Katsa, the heroine. How she's not afraid to do anything, how she never doubts her abilities. The characters in the book are the best part, especially the antagonist, King Leck!

*What did you NOT like?*

It was a little morbid for my taste. At some parts, it can move a little slow. But other than that, it was excellent!

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Definitely.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

Don't underestimate yourself and your abilities.

— Anonymous, 11th grade  
Weaverville Library

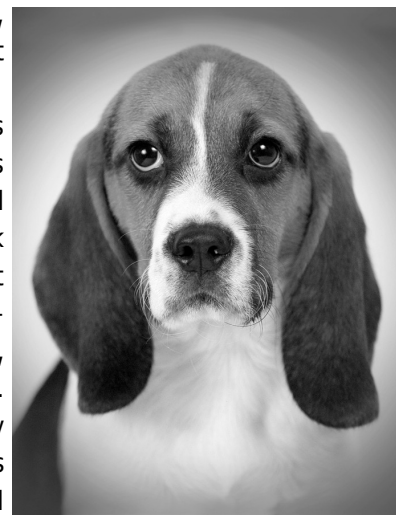
**Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls**



The book I chose for this review is *Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls, the story of a young, poor Southern boy named Billy Coleman who buys two young hound dogs for hunting. The story is a triumphant tale set in an early 1900s rural setting in the Ozarks. The boy and his two companions, named Old Dan and Little Ann, grow together and develop a deep bond that lasts until the heartbreaking end.

I read this book in the seventh grade and I still remember it to this day. The story reminds me of my days when I was young and loved my animal companions that deeply. Those days are long gone, but this tale brings back those fond memories of my younger days. I'm not too sure what the theme to this book really is, but I always thought it was respect.

The author's writing style was quite interesting. I could read this book for a while without getting overwhelmed by large, cumbersome words. The all-around flow of the book was smooth and fluent. I didn't spend much time wondering what the author meant, or was trying to say. Also, I had no trouble trying to figure out what was going on. The language of the book was basic, but at the same time, had a hint of Southern sophistication that was correct for the book's setting.



*Where the Red Fern Grows* truly is a classic that is rivaled by few in the Southern tale category. A book that is another classic is *Old Yeller*. A book with similar writing style is by Fred Gipson. That book also has a similar story as *Where the Red Fern Grows*, where a young boy has a similar deep bond with his canine companion, and have their bond tragically ended.

As a Southern boy raised in that country style, I have a deep love and fondness for this tale.

— Jacob Laughter, 18 2

**GET YOUR ZOMBIE ON!**

**Join the Weaverville Public Library's Teen Awesome Group for their Book Movie Trailer program series!**

TAG teens voted to create a book trailer for *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*, by Carrie Ryan. They have read and discussed the



book and written the script, and they're now preparing to film the trailer. At the finale, they will screen the final cut at a red carpet library event!

All teens 12-18 welcome ; join in at any time. Call (828) 250-6482 for more information and to sign up for e-mail updates.

***The Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien**

*What is the book about?*

Frodo Baggins, a hobbit from the Shire, travels across Middle Earth to destroy the One Ring, and crush Sauron's reign. *The Lord of the Rings* is split into three books, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*, although Tolkien originally intended it to be one whole book. His publisher insisted on splitting it into a trilogy.

*What did you like?*

The epic adventure, the diverse characters, the use of ancient languages, the battles, the conflicts, the creatures, and Tolkien's unique writing style. Basically everything.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing. *The Lord of the Rings* is AMAZING. It is my favorite book series.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

HECK YES.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

*The Lord of the Rings* is known as the greatest fantasy tale of all time, and reading it myself, Tolkien's work inspires me, because I enjoy writing fantasy tales.

— Claire Eubanks, 11th grade

***Sailor Moon*, by Naoko Takeuchi**

*Sailor Moon*, by Naoko Takeuchi, is about a 14 year-old girl named Usagi Tsukino who meets a magical cat who tells her that she's been chosen to be a guardian. She transforms into a crime-fighting magical girl who goes by Sailor Moon. She first transforms when her friend's family's jewelry store is being robbed. In the rest of the first volume, she meets other girls that were chosen as guardians, Ami Mizuno, who goes by Sailor Mercury, Rei Hino, who goes by Sailor Mars, and Makoto Kino, who goes by Sailor Jupiter.

*Sailor Moon* is a classic manga and anime series. It was one of the first series that helped bring anime to the United States, and it started up the "magical girl" series in Japan. For a lot of anime and manga fans, *Sailor Moon* is their introduction to the genre. I never actually watched or read the series when I was younger. It's harder to get into for older teenagers, because the series is disgustingly cute, and after being an anime fan for a long time, the typical cut, sparkly, magical girl series gets boring.



Also, the art style in *Sailor Moon* isn't something a lot of fans now would be used to seeing. It uses an older manga drawing style, which even compared to more modern anime styles, gives the characters huge, sparkly eyes, pointy noses, long limbs, and gravity-defying hair. I didn't really like the style, because I'm used to the slightly more realistic style that most manga artists use today. I liked reading it, because of how important the series is to the anime and manga genres now, but it's hard to get into because of the art style and the magical girl genre.

I would recommend this series to any of the few anime fans who haven't already read it. It's a classic anime and manga that I think any fan should at least try out. For someone who isn't familiar with anime and manga, it would be quite strange to read. Mostly, I would recommend this to people who are familiar with anime and manga, because of how important the series was to bringing anime to the United States, despite how hard it is to get into because of the art style and genre.

— Sierra Barlowe, 17



***The Knife Man: Blood, Body-Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery, by Wendy Moore***



Today, surgical students are each given their own cadaver to dissect and textbooks that detail what they are seeing. With this corpse, they are able to explore the inner workings of the human body with their own two hands. But what did these students do before people were given the option of donating their bodies to science, before scientists understood the intricacies of our anatomy? John Hunter is the man who advanced the field of medicine to such lengths that today he is considered the father of modern surgery, artificial insemination, experimental biology, early evolutionary theory, dental implants, and taxidermy.

*The Knife Man* is divided into chapters that are both a specific person or animal and a body part (The Coach Driver's Knee, The Kangaroo's Skull, The Anatomist's Heart, etc.). Each chapter details how their title is relevant and delves into Hunter's life and career, as well as the conditions of his time period, the mid and late eighteenth century. John Hunter was a poor Scottish farm boy who came to London to join his elder brother William at his new school of anatomy. The brothers were each other's antithesis. John was the wild child who cursed, drank, and caroused with ladies of questionable reputation, but one might say he was also an anatomy prodigy. William, on the other hand, was a religious man who followed his era's mores. He went by the book when it came to teaching and learning. Unlike his brother, he wasn't as naturally adept with anatomy as his brother was.

John Hunter flouted the accepted medical texts and ideas, questioning everything and arriving at his own conclusions (that were nearly always correct and years ahead of their time), jump-starting eighteenth and nineteenth century medicine. Wendy Moore does a splendid job of relating his life and times with fascinating detail that is written to amaze and enthrall the reader. Since the book focuses not only on his life, but also on the science of anatomy in his lifetime and what that entailed (body-snatching), this book can't exactly be categorized as biography, more of a history -biography hybrid.

While Moore does a wonderful job portraying Hunter's career, she does not focus as much as I would like for her to on his relationships with other people. She especially negates his relationship with his children and wife. It must have taken a resilient woman to tolerate his anatomical antics, and the book would have been better if we had learned more of her and the children.

While reading this book, I was reminded of the book *Stiff*, by Mary Roach. The content of *The Knife Man* is similar to this book in that it is devoted to what happens to people's bodies once they die. This book's unique genre, however, reminded me of the book *The Monsters*, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler. This book, like *The Knife Man*, is mainly a biography, but is a mixture of genres that make it difficult to categorize.

— Martha Speegle-Snell, 12th grade  
Black Mountain Library



***The Ghost Writer, by Robert Harris***

*The Ghost Writer* is a novel about an unnamed man only referred to as "The Ghost." He's hired to write the memoirs of the ex-British Prime Minister Adam Lang, after the first writer, Mike McAra, suspiciously dies. A ghost writer is not supposed to get recognized for his work on a book. He simply interviews the client and writes a book for his client to publish.

The Ghost knows exactly what to do, as he has written many books about washed-up pop stars and aging actors, although he's literally gong into this with absolutely no knowledge of politics. However, he's confident as he flies to Martha's Vineyard in almost complete secrecy, because the manuscript is too valuable to Lang to be left in anyone else's care. As The Ghost begins interviewing Adam Lang, he realizes something isn't completely right about the Langs or Mike McAra's death. His death was called a suicide and quickly shrugged off by the Langs and the police, but not everyone on Martha's Vineyard so easily accepted it. The Ghost then

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

starts his own private investigation, hoping to find out what the ex-prime minister is really hiding, but to his surprise, there's more to politics that he could ever imagine.

*The Ghost Writer* is a compelling book revealing the world of deceit in politics as told in the point of view of the main character, The Ghost. The Ghost has charisma and it's a real joy to read his story as he gives a true feeling to an actual British man in the profession of ghost writing. He has a sense of humor not only with himself, but to the people around him as he observes his surroundings. Robert Harris has written a cast of characters that are inevitably some of the most interesting characters I've read, all the way down to the least important of characters. The descriptions of Martha's Vineyard in the cold days of January literally make you feel the chilling wind upon your face as The Ghost describes it.

*The Ghost Writer* is sure to please anyone who enjoyed *The Lincoln Lawyer*, because it has the same mystery and suspense that will grip your enthusiasm and keep you wondering until the very satisfying end.

— Rachel Telleyrian, 11th grade

## Upcoming Events for Teens at Buncombe County Libraries

### Dream of Flight: Make Model Airplanes that Really Fly with the Asheville Buncombe Aeromodelers

11 a.m. Friday, June 8

Swannanoa Public Library

Space is limited. Please call (828) 250-6486 for more information or to reserve a ticket.

### TAG Meeting

4– 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 8

Weaverville Public Library

### TAG Meeting

4– 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 22

Weaverville Public Library

### Dream Big! A Visit with Young Adult Novelist Stephanie Perkins

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1

Pack Memorial Library

### Own the Night: Teen Self Defense with W.N.C. Center for Self Defense

3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4

East Asheville Public Library

You must turn in a signed permission slip to participate.

Parents welcome to attend with teens.

Call 828-250-4738 for more info.

Check in with us online for information about future programs at [www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)

OR

[www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens](http://www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens)

# OWN the NIGHT

The Summer Reading Program isn't just for your younger brothers and sisters. Teens can take part, too!

Here's how:

- **READ!** Earn a free book (for keeps!) after four visits to the library.
- **WRITE!** Turn in a review for *Rant & Rave*
- **VOLUNTEER!** Contact your local library to learn about volunteer opportunities.
- **HAVE FUN!** Teens are welcome at all SRP special events. Check the events calendar for suggestions.



# Rant & Rave

★★★★★  
Book reviews for you, by you!

School is back in session. There's a nip in the air. The sun is setting earlier every day. It's the perfect time of year to pull on a warm sweater and curl up in your favorite chair with a cup of hot cider and your favorite book. Our reviewers might not be able to help you with the sweater or the cider, but they definitely have some good books to recommend. From crime, fantasy, and dystopia fiction to the trials of having your mom run for president, there's something for everyone in this issue.

How does RANT & RAVE work? Four times each year, we collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them here. Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:

Terrible                      Okay                      The Best!  
 ☆☆☆☆☆

Read on, everyone! Check for most of these books and more at your local public library.

**Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer,**  
by John Grisham

★★★★★★

*What is the book about?*

A boy who loves the law and goes to one of the biggest cases in his town's history. The case seems hopeless, but then he gets some information that could turn it around!

*What did you like?*

I loved how it was a page turner, and as you go along, you get more and more information which makes you REALLY want to find out the outcome, and I also liked that the hero was a kid.

*What did you NOT like?*

I loved every bit of it!

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

Things aren't always what they seem.

— Anna Herbert,  
7th grade  
East Asheville  
Public Library



**The Other Side of the Island,**  
by Allegra Goodman

★★★★★★

*What is the book about?*

In the eighteenth glorious year of Enclosure, Honor and her family move to Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea. Earth Mother and the Corporation have capped the poles, and they, too, are enjoying New Weather. Everything on Island 365 is Safe, Secure, and Predictable, but Honor's parents are not. They are Unpredictable, and in this future world, those who don't fit in disappear.

*What did you like?*

I loved all of the book. My favorite character is Honor's friend, Helix. I like that he is not afraid to be different. I also like that everyone who is the same age have names that start with the same letter. For example, all 10-year-olds' names star with H, the 9-year-olds with I, and so on.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing! It was all great

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes! I have read lots of books, and this is my favorite!

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

What if things really were like that, and when will the sequel come out?

— Jenny Mullins, 13  
South Buncombe/Skyland Public Library

*Umbrella Summer*, by Lisa Graff



*What is the book about?*

After Annie has lost her brother, she worries about every thing. She never has fun. Can a neighbor help her close her umbrella?

*What did you like?*

It was addicting and not hard to understand. Lisa Graff has a wonderful way of telling a story.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing!

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Of course.

*Lasting thought you took from the book. . .*

Does she have any more books? Yes, she does.

— **Madison Downing, 6th grade**  
East Asheville Public Library



*The Tail of Emily Windsnap*, by Liz Kessler



*What is the book about?*

This book is about a girl that lives on a boat, and she has never swum before, and she has a new school, and she takes swimming lessons, and she turns into a . . . ? Read the book to find out!

*What did you like?*

I liked it because it was mysterious.

*What did you NOT like?*

Nothing.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes.

— **Lydia Ruth MacNair, 6th grade**  
Fairview Public Library

## Stamp out Hunger!

### Hunger Games Marathon Week

Free. Join us for a viewing of *The Hunger Games* and a discussion of the movie and book at the following library locations:

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13  
Swannanoa Public Library

4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16  
Weaverville Public Library

5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16  
Fairview Public Library

2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19th  
East Asheville Public Library

If you would like to help us stamp out hunger, bring cans or non-perishable food items to donate to MANNA FOOD BANK at any of the showings.



Check online for information about additional showings at [www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)

OR

[www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens](http://www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens)

## Upcoming Events for Teens at Buncombe County Libraries

### Magnet Mania!

Make your own magnets out of anything and everything.

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15

East Asheville Public Library

Free. Please call (828) 250-6486 for more information.

### Teen Awesome Group

Weaverville's Teen Awesome Group will meet monthly through the fall season.

Please call (828) 250-6482 for specific dates and times.

Check in with us online for information about future programs at [www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)

OR

[www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens](http://www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens)

***As if Being 12 3/4 isn't Bad Enough, My Mother is Running for President,***

by Donna Gephart



*What is the book about?*

A 12 3/4 year-old girl named Vanessa Rothrock. Her mom, the governor of Florida, has decided to run for president. The book is about how Vanessa copes with the changes and what she does about them.

*What did you like?*

It was all very realistic, and I felt I could relate with Vanessa. The scenario seemed as if it could have happened, also. There are many surprises, and things I wasn't sure about were nearly always resolved. It was a compelling story, well written, and realistic.

*What did you NOT like?*

The action was too fast, and it seemed like as soon as something happened, it was over. Also, it seemed a bit exaggerated in the events—the duller parts stretched out too long.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Probably. I'm not sure they would like it, though.

*Lasting thought you took from the book...*

Sometimes what's right is the hardest thing to do.

— Sara Acz, 8th grade  
East Asheville Public Library



***Welcome Caller, This is Chloe,***  
by Shelley Coriell



*What is the book about?*

A girl named Chloe has it made — popularity, looks, etc.— but when her friends turn against her, and her project isn't up to standard, she goes to the student-led radio station and fixes it up.

*What did you like?*

How Chloe was so clever about dealing with the problems that the world threw at her.

*What did you NOT like?*

She (Chloe) was always obsessing about SHOES!

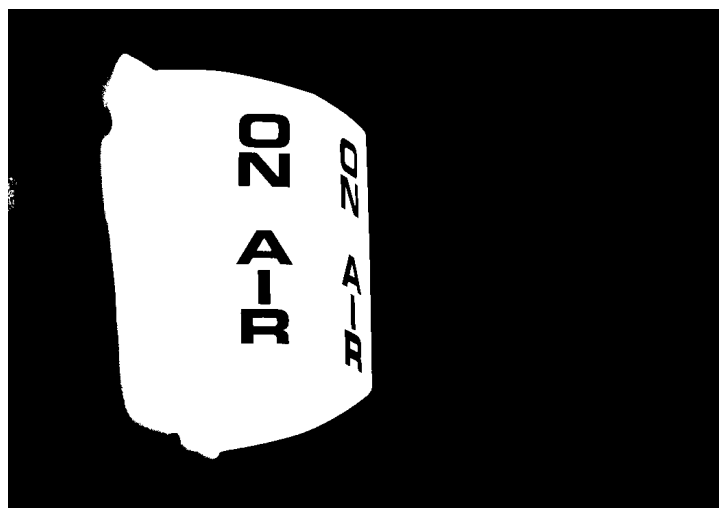
*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Definitely.

*Lasting thought you took from the book...*

If you take a closer look, you will find something truly special.

— Molly Pruett, 7th grade  
East Asheville Public Library



**Do you want your review published in RANT & RAVE?**

Anyone ages 11 to 18 can submit a review. Look for a submission form at your local Buncombe County public library. (Or write a review in your own style — just make sure to tell us your name, the author's name, and the title of the book.)

Turn in your review at any library and look for it in the next issue of RANT & RAVE!

**Deadline for the Winter 2013 issue: Nov. 21, 2012.**