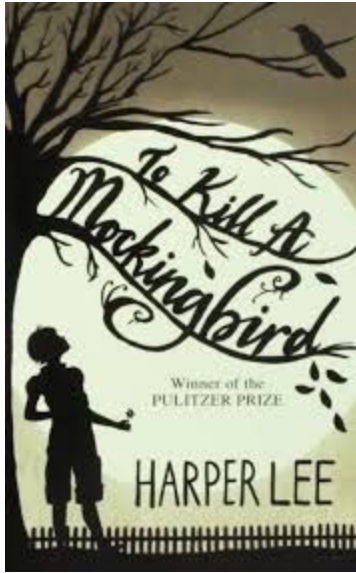


To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Student : Max

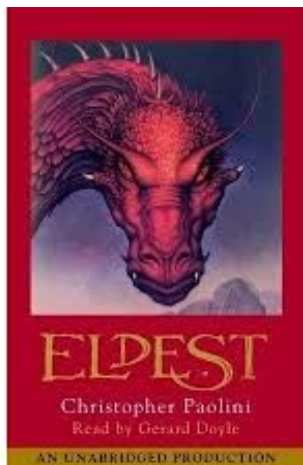


I am reading the book called To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The book is told from the perspective of Scout, the youngest in the Finch family. Scout is very clever and smart, she is able to understand the world at the very young age of around 5-8. This is supported by the fact that she is already able to read when other kids in her class haven't even started. The story takes place around Maycomb, Alabama, in the early 1900's during the time of slavery. The rest of the Finch family is made up of Atticus, the dad, and Jem, the older brother. In this time period, Atticus is a bit different than other people in a southern state. He believes that everyone should be treated equally, but everyone in the town still respects him. Jem is the older brother, him and Scout are regular siblings, they get along sometimes and fight sometimes. There is another main character in the book named Dill, Dill comes to Maycomb every

summer a couple houses down from the Finches. Scout and Jem spend a lot of time in the summer with him. Overall the Finch family has a very strong bond and will protect each other throughout the book.

In To Kill a Mockingbird there are 2 main plots in the book. One is about the 'mysterious and evil' Boo Radley and his scary house around the corner, and the trial of Tom Robinson. Boo Radley, who lives several blocks down from the Finches, is known as a villain to Jem, Scout, and Dill. In the book, it would say how Jem and Scout would sprint past his house when walking home from school. Later in the book, the kids see a different side of Boo though, one that isn't as frightening and more seen as a mockingbird who doesn't harm anyone or anything. The second is about Tom Robinson who has been accused of raping a white woman and his trial. Tom Robinson is also seen as the mockingbird in this book.

I really liked the book mostly because of the characters and how they don't discriminate black people in the town. The book, although the tough vocabulary, wasn't that confusing to me and I think 8th grade was the perfect time for me to read it. My favorite quote from the book was from Atticus, and he said something about how you should never kill a mockingbird because it hasn't done anything to harm you. It was really interesting getting to know what a classic is like and to see how those books are written.



Eldest by Christopher Paolini

Student: Cassidy

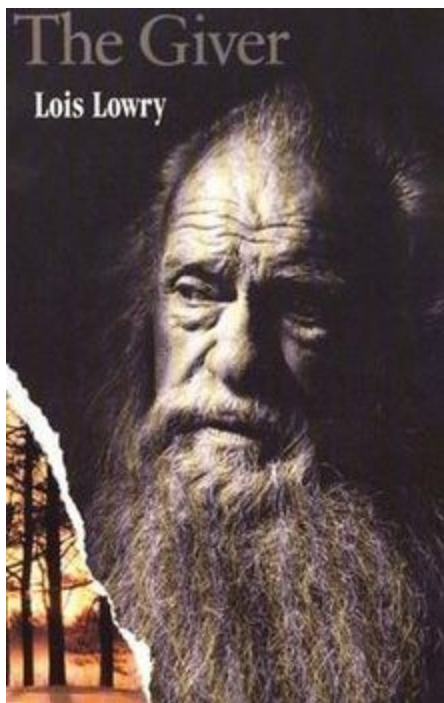
The story of *Eldest* takes place over many locations on the continent of Alagaesia. These include the dwarf city of Tronjheim,

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Ellesméra, and elven city, Carvahall, the main characters' hometown, Surda, the southern portion of Alagaesia, and more small settings over the plot's timeline. The first main character of the story is Eragon, a dragon rider who is nearly always accompanied by his dazzling blue dragon Saphira. The second main character is Roran, the cousin of Eragon, who is a natural born leader and protective man. Some other important characters are Galbatorix, the evil king of Alagaesia, Murtagh, Eragon's friend, Oromis and Glaedr, an older and wiser pair of dragon and rider, Arya, an elf an Eragon's friend, and Nasuada, the newest leader of the Varden. Eragon is faced with the task of learning to accentuate his magical abilities, while Roran is leading his town of Carvahall away from Galbatorix's evil offences.

The plot begins as such: Three days after a war between the Varden and Galbatorix's forces, Ajihad, leader of the Varden, is assassinated. Murtagh and a pair of twin sorcerers are kidnapped, and presumed dead. They eventually choose Nasuada, Ajihad's daughter, to lead the Varden in his place. Eragon begins to have strange dreams and visions that tell him to visit "the Cripple who is whole" and makes the decision to leave for Ellesméra to train with an elder dragon and rider. They meet Oromis, The Cripple who is Whole, and his great gold dragon, Glaedr, and begin their training to advance Eragon's magical and physical abilities. Meanwhile, Eragon's cousin, Roran, is planning to marry the butcher's daughter while their town is attacked by Galbatorix's forces. The village eventually decides to leave altogether. The Varden arrives in Surda, as Galbatorix knows their location. As Roran is leading Carvahall towards the Varden, Eragon completes his training, and Nasuada is ready to fight. Will the Varden win against a new war on the Empire? What really happened to Murtagh and the twins?

Personally, I really liked this book. I've always been a fan of fantasy. The writing style is also very good and understandable, and the worldbuilding is amazing. I loved the ending, and the characters are very enjoyable to read about. I thought Saphira's subtle advances towards Glaedr were funny. Overall, I'd rate this book 4.8 out of 5.



The Giver by Lois Lowry

Student: Devon

The Giver by Lois Lowry is quite a good book. It takes place in what is never explicitly said to be, but is nevertheless evidently, the future. It seems at the beginning to be a utopia, but it becomes apparent that this is not the case. The main character is a boy named Jonas who, at the beginning of the story, has a perfectly normal life. He is soon to turn twelve, and when he does, he will be assigned a rôle in his community. However, he is not sure what he will be assigned, because nothing in particular draws his attention. The day eventually comes, and he is assigned to be the next "Receiver of Memory". This means that he will have to take all of the built-up memories of previous times from the current Receiver of Memory. This job is necessary

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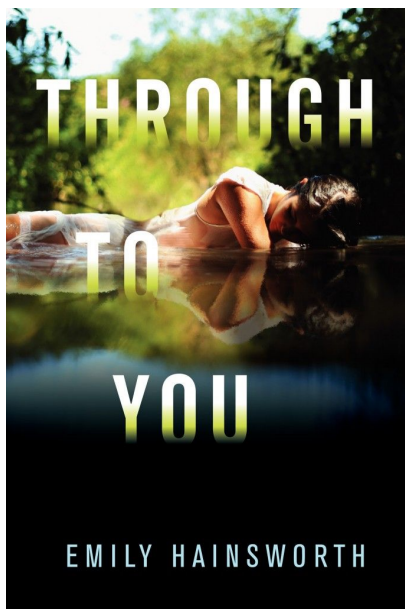
due to the fact that humans have decided that all the memories of previous, arguably

harder times, shall be contained in one person and one person only.

That is what happens for the first part of the book. The next part contains Jonas receiving the memories while gradually realizing that it's not right for only one person to have all of these memories, that they should be distributed among the people. He and the previous Receiver of Memory, who is now the Giver, decide that Jonas must run away from the community and give the community their memories. So Jonas sets out in the middle of the night and leaves the community to head for what lies beyond.

I enjoyed this book more than I expected too. I don't know why I didn't expect to like it much, but there you are. Although the basic idea is somewhat hard to imagine, that humans would choose to have their lives be how they are in this book, this does not detract from any aspect of the book. It certainly wasn't predictable. The author's style of writing was not memorable, but it definitely worked for what the book was. It seems to me to be quite a unique book. There are probably books that have at least part of what this book has, but I don't know that there would be any other books that use what this book uses in the way that it does.

I would recommend this book to just about anyone. It's a thoroughly enjoyable book, that it seems as though most people would enjoy. I particularly enjoyed the part where Jonas is just starting to escape. He gets to see all sorts of animals for the first time, and the writing is lovely there. This is one of the many reasons that I would give this book four and a half stars out of five.



Through to You by Emily Hainsworth

Student: Emma

The book Through To You is about a teen boy named Cam who lost his girlfriend when the car they were both in hit a pole. He made it but she did not. It starts off on the two month date of the accident and the crash happened at his school, it was a pole at his school so he has to see it everyday.

The book tells about the journey of Cam going in and out of a green portal where the crash happened. He finds out that on the other side Viv his girlfriend who died is on the other side of the portal didn't die. It was

Cam who died on that side, not Viv. When he first started going in and out of the portal there was a girl named Nina who warned him not to come over because there could be consequences.

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I thought that it was a very good book because I wanted to read it all the time till it was done, but I couldn't because sleeping is a thing. I liked how just when you got

comfortable with it it would change and do something new. This writer is a very good one because she knows how to keep the reader intrigued and continue it. I haven't read any other of her books either because we don't have any more of her books at home.

I would definitely recommend this book because if you're a fast reader you'll be done with the book on the same day. But if you're a slower reader then you'll want to stay up all night just to find out what happens next. The book is called "Through To You" by Emily Hainsworth, if you want to read it I think you can order it online on Amazon. I would give this book a ten out a ten too. I really think that some other kids would like this book too. I think that you should get a copy for the library at school if you don't mind doing it. I thought that's what this assignment was for more books for the library at school.



Me Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews
Student: Cassidy

For my book review, I read Me Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews. The book is about Greg Gaines, a highschool loner who is acquainted with everybody, living in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. His only real friend is Earl Jackson, but they don't associate inside of school. They bond over making movies together, and recreating their favorite scenes of movies. Greg is doing pretty well at balancing highschool, until his mom tells him a former friend (Rachel Kushner) is battling cancer. The story revolves around Greg getting dragged into being friends with Rachel, and the guilt and dread that comes along with it.

Greg starts going to Rachel's house everyday. He talks and talks, because Rachel never offers conversation. Between those points, it mentions how Greg's perfectly perfect high school social plan is slowly being ruined by Rachel. One day, a popular girl who heard that Greg was hanging out with Rachel asks Greg and Earl to make a movie for Rachel. This causes a multitude of problems, explained in the book. Between his complicated emotions towards Rachel and his social life self imploding, Greg Gaines feels like he's lying facedown on the highway.

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Me Earl and the Dying Girl is a simply written book. It's an honest look in a teenage boy's head. You know the end of the book, and while reading it you feel like

you're slowly watching a train derail. It's interesting to see how feelings develop and how the cracks start to form. Jesse Andrews wrote rough truth, and it was very enthralling. Because of that, it isn't your classic YA. In fact, kind of the opposite. An anti-YA, if you will. None of the romance or cheesy one-liners.

I would definitely recommend this book to kids my age. It's a funny, honest book that cuts no corners. There are lots of lighthearted moments, like Greg and Earl stealing the teachers soup, but real moments too, like Greg watching Rachel's mom deteriorate. I think a lot of people could benefit from reading this book. It deals with death in a blunt way, leaving nothing unsaid. On my scale, it would be a %.



The Giver by Lois Lowry
Student: Rowen

The Giver is about a boy named Jonas who lives in a futuristic dystopia with very strict laws and restrictions. In this community everything is perfect, there is no violence, nothing to fear and your whole life is planned out in front of you from you getting a coat with pockets at age 8 to getting a bike at age nine and being assigned a job at age 12. Jones is a smart kid who rarely breaks the rules, but after he finds out his assignment and starts to learn more about the past world, he begins to grow concerned and question his community. He wonders how it runs and what else the elders are hiding from him and the rest of his community.

In Jonas' community you are selected an assignment at the age of 12. Jonas is assigned to be the next receiver of memory. The receiver of memory gets memories from the giver. The giver holds all of the memories from the past world such as animules, war, feelings; like love and hate, and simple things like down hill and sunshine. Through his training he learns more and more about what life was like before his society existed. As Jonas learns more and more about life before his time he finds out secrets about his community and the terrible things they are doing. Jonas starts to learn more and more about what his community is truly doing. He stops taking his medication that stops him from feeling emotions. As a result of this he starts to feel very angry at the elders for doing such horrible things. Something that really stood out

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to Jonas is his father's job, releasing babies from the community which he finds out means to kill them. Jonas needs to find a way to save his community and the babies and bring everyone life.

I really liked this book because I liked the plot of a futuristic dystopia. The book was confusing at some parts but overall it was a pretty easy book to read. I thought the ending was very good and really completed the book. For me, I did not see it coming and it was very unpredictable. My favorite part in the book was Jonas's first day of training when the giver gives him the memory of sledding because it just shows how different their society is from ours today. This book really reminded me of the Bee Movie in the sense of how you are given a job when you are young and that is your job you do for the rest of your life.

I recommend this book to students who want a good, intriguing book. I rate this book four out of five stars because the book really sucks you in and makes you want to keep reading. Although it could get boring at some parts it was a really amusing and interesting book. One part I really liked is when Jonas went to his first day of training to be the next receiver of memory, and the giver gave him memories such as down hill, snow, and runners. When Jonas had never heard of any of these things it shows you just how different our lives are from theirs.