

# Rant & Rave

## Book reviews for you, by you!

It's been a crazy winter so far. Snow on November 1st?! Record low temperatures?! Chances are, we're all going to be spending a lot of time inside to try to keep out of the snow and ice. Good thing we have books to keep us company! Read on for some excellent (and weirdly excellent) suggestions from our reviewers.

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!



### ***Beanworld: Wahoolazuma!***

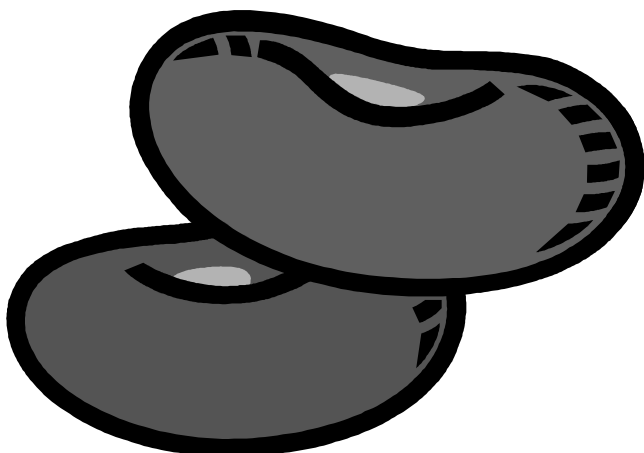
by Larry Marder



*What is the book about?*

This book is a graphic novel that is not like any other comics I have ever read. *Beanworld* is a unique world that has different physics, food chains, slang, germs, everything! It takes a little getting used to, but once you get into it, it's great.

The world is made up of eight layers, including the Thin Lake, Hoops, Twinks, and Der-stinkel. It is populated by the "Beans," little beanlike creatures who live on an island with their guardian tree, "Gran'Ma'Pa." Gran'Ma'Pa grows seedish thingies called "Sprout Butts," which they take down to another layer populated by the "Hoi-Polloi," incessant gamblers whose currency is a substance called "Chow." The Beans steal the Chow and give the Sprout-Butts in return, which explodes into more Chow.



But that's just the preliminary stuff you find out from the back cover. There are no end of wacky stories, complex mythology, goofy words, and hilarious catchphrases. And if you look closer at the stories, they might just impart some great lessons without being moralistic or preachy in any way whatsoever.

Read this book, it is a great experience.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Heck, yeah.

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

HOKA-HOKA GUNK-LDUNK! HOKA-HOKA HEY!!!

— Sagan T., 16

## **RANT & RAVE NEEDS YOU!**

Read a great book?

Or a terrible one?

Consider sending in

your own review to

***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

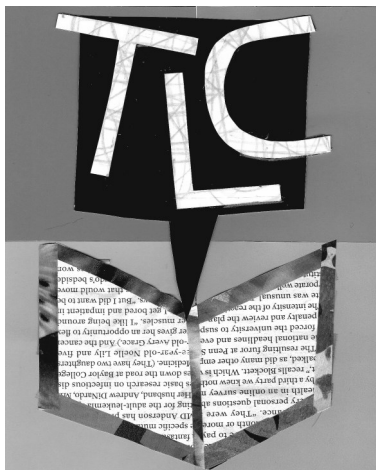
make sure to tell us your name, the author's

name, and the title of the book.)

**The deadline for the Spring issue**

**is Feb. 21, 2015.**





Check out all the ways you can connect with TLC online!



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



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[www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)

## UPCOMING TEEN LIBRARY COLLECTIVE EVENTS AT BUNCOMBE CO. LIBRARIES

### UPCYCLED CLOTHING WORKSHOP

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015

Black Mountain Public Library

105 N. Dougherty St.

Call 828-250-4756 to sign up.

Bring any clothes you would like to alter or upcycle.

### PIZZA PLANNING PARTY

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23, 2015

Pack Memorial Library

67 Haywood Street, Asheville

Bring your ideas for future TLC events!

### ALTERED BOOK ART

noon - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015

Pack Memorial Library

67 Haywood Street, Asheville

All materials provided.

TLC EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS, 11-18.

### *The Blood of Olympus*, by Rick Riordan



*What is the book about?*

The seven demigods of the Argo II are afraid. With only days left to defeat the wicked mother earth, Gaea, the must reach Greece by the feast of hope. Meanwhile, two other demigods must reunite the two camps and home of all the demigods, Camp Half-Blood and Camp Jupiter. Can they make it before time runs out?

*What did you like?*

I liked that the author included different points of view so you could tell how different characters felt during different parts.

*What did you NOT like?*

I did not liked that there was no point of view of two of the main characters. I have stuck with those two characters for ten books and they didn't have a huge part in the last book about them.

*Would you recommend this book to your friends?*

Yes, the whole series.

— Julia



# Rant & Rave

## Book reviews for you, by you!

If you're like us, you've been huddled in your house, trying to keep out of the ice and snow. Extra time for reading is nice, but the weather is most definitely not. Enough is enough! Bring on Spring! In this issue, our teen reviewers tackle manga, science-fiction, and the creepy-quirky *Miss Peregrine's*, which we've heard is going to be turned into a movie directed by Tim Burton in 2016.

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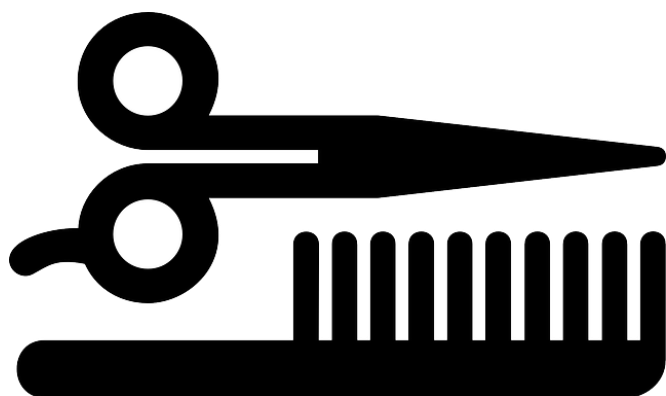
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Terrible                      Okay                      The Best!

### ***Beauty Pop*, by Kiyoko Arai**

This manga is about Kiri Koshiba, whose family owns a beauty salon in Japan. She does makeovers on a few friends and her skills draw the attention of haircutting genius Shogo Narumi, who is the head of the school's Scissor Project—a group of three boys who do makeovers on girls. Narumi think Kiri is a competitor for Top Beautician in Japan and challenges her to a Haircut Battle. The story is about her uncertainty on becoming a beautician.

I really enjoyed this series and would recommend it to anyone interested in Japanese culture, for it is very true to what Tokyo is like today. The anime is exceptionally well done and really helps bring the manga together.

—Chloe H., 13  
Weaverville Library



## **FLASH REVIEW!**

### ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*,**

by Ransom Riggs



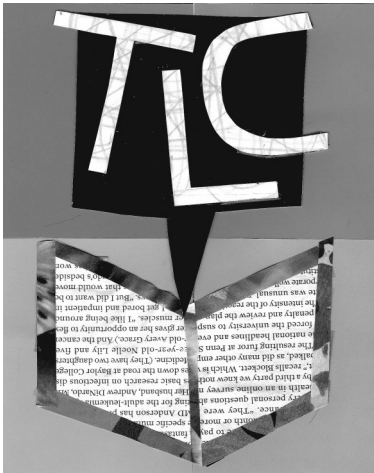
—Anna, 19  
Weaverville Library

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The deadline for  
the Summer  
issue is  
May 25, 2015.





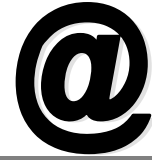
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/Governing/Depts/Library/  
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## UPCOMING TEEN LIBRARY COLLECTIVE EVENTS AT BUNCOMBE CO. LIBRARIES

### PI DAY PRE-GAME

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Fairview Library

1 Taylor Road, Fairview

### RENEW YOUR SHOES

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

East Asheville Library

902 Tunnel Road, Asheville

Bring a pair of old shoes to decorate.

### CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE UPCYCLE

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Black Mountain Library

105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain

Recycle materials into funky fun for your unique style. What a way to celebrate Earth Day! We'll be making accessories, t-shirt skirts, and more with materials gathered from home. Bring old sweaters and t-shirts that you are particularly fond of and we'll make something new for you to rock.

**TLC EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN  
TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH  
SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS, 11-18.**

### *Dune*, by Frank Herbert

*What is the book about?*

It's hard to summarize *Dune* in just a few sentences, due to how multilayered it is. Essentially, it is about Paul Atriedes, a 15 year-old boy of noble birth, and his story to avenge his family and become a religious leader on the barren and hot planet of Arrakis. More things enter the plot, such as the animals and spice of the planet, and the Harkonnens (Paul's rival family), and the natives of Arrakis (the people to whom Paul becomes a leader).

*What did you like?*

Just about everything! It is very well written and detailed. The planet's religion, ecology, politics, and so forth are told masterfully. The story is a grand epic, almost unlike any other.

*What didn't you like?*

Well, I didn't dislike anything. However, it should be noted that due to how complex it can be, some people might not be able to get into it.

*Would you recommend it?*

Absolutely. *Dune* has five immediate sequels (in addition to prequels published by Herbert's son), however it works as a standalone. Like I said, some people may not be able to get into it due to how multilayered it is. But if you can, you may find it to be one of the best books you have ever read.

*Lasting thought you took from the book:*

The last thing would have to be the closing lines, as they were somewhat unexpected, however a fitting conclusion to a masterpiece that will last forever

— 'Drew H., 15  
Weaverville Library

# Rant & Rave

Book reviews for you, by you!

School's out! Summer's here! Come cool off at the library with some great books and find out how you can take part in the yearly Summer Reading Program. Our theme this year is *Unmask!* and it's all about. . . You guessed it! Superheroes! One of our reviewers has gotten into the superhero spirit, and you can, too.

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:



## *The Adventures of Superhero Girl,* by Faith Erin Hicks



*The Adventures of Superhero Girl* is an absolutely hilarious collection of comic strips. I was in hysterics for fully half the book. It is the story of an early-20s woman with inherited superhero powers, who tries to shy away from "mainstream superheroes," and comes up against a dazzling array of evil frat boy ninjas, giant pink tentacled monsters from space (with cute whiskers!) aannnd. . . Skeptical Guy. ("You can't really be a superhero! All superheroes must have dead parents and a huge emotional tragedy in their past.") It is great as a parody, but even greater as a wonderful, well-told story. I loved every minute of it, even when I wasn't laughing. If all this sounds good, read it! If all this *doesn't* sound good, read it anyway. You'll love it, I promise.

— Sagan, 17



### Check out all the ways you can connect with TLC online!



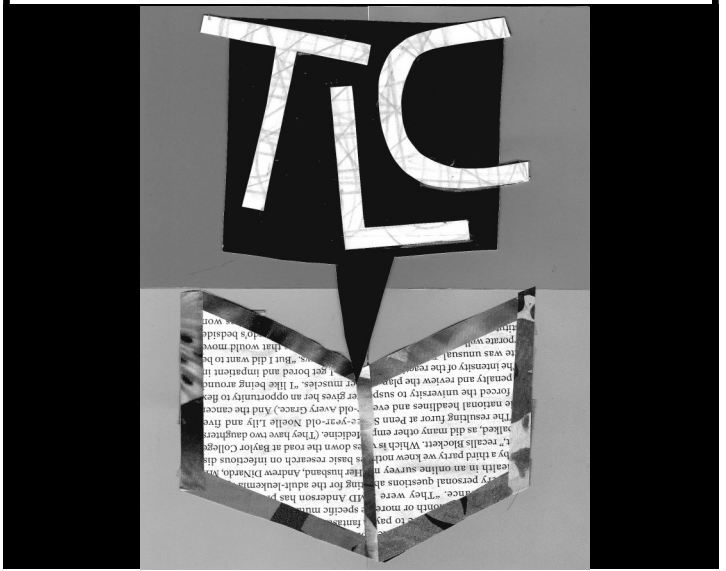
[www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens](http://www.facebook.com/BuncombeCountyPublicLibraryTeens)



<https://twitter.com/BuncombeTLC>



[www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)



# UNMASK!

## SUMMER TLC EVENTS AT BUNCOMBE CO. LIBRARIES

### BOOK SPEED DATING FOR TEENS

3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Pack Memorial Library

*Get to know some new books and then take some home to keep. Plus, enter into a drawing for a brand new Kindle Fire tablet!*

### CREATE A COMIC BOOK WALLET

2:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 18, 2015

East Asheville Library

902 Tunnel Road, Asheville

*Calling all crafters and comic book enthusiasts! Come upcycle an old comic book into a fun and functional wallet.*

### HENNA PARTY

4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015

Black Mountain Library

105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain

*Turn yourself into a work of art at our back-to-school henna party.*

**TLC EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS, 11-18.**

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## LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE LIBRARY THIS SUMMER?

### VOLUNTEER!

Talk to your local librarian about volunteer opportunities.

### WRITE A BOOK REVIEW!

Have you checked out Rant & Rave? Write a review of a book you loved (or hated) for the upcoming Fall issue of our quarterly review of books for teens, by teens!

## RANT & RAVE NEEDS YOU!

Read a great book? Or a terrible one? Consider sending in your own review to 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.)

**The deadline for the Fall issue is Sept. 24, 2015.**



# Rant & Rave

Book reviews for you, by you!

Another school year is here! Take a break from studying and read one of the books our reviewers liked for fun. In this issue, you'll find books about friendship, upcoming events, including the YALSA Teens' Top Ten Voting and Pizza Party, and information about our Fall Reading Raffle.

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## *Binny in Secret*, by Hilary McKay



*What is the book about?*

This girl (Binny) lives in this house in town. There is a terrible storm and she has to move to another house while the other one is repaired. She runs into this girl, and they become arch-enemies. She get bullied and she finds something strange outside, and she learns about the people who lived in the house before her.

*What did you like?*

How Binny and her friend Garreth always text each other, and how there is so much excitement and problems at school.

*What didn't you like?*

Sometimes the book would talk about the kids and what they did, but some of the stories were boring. Some of the talks with Gareth were annoying. Gareth could be pretty mean.

*Would you recommend it?*

Yes, but there is a first book, so they would be recommended to try the first book, then the second book next.

*Lasting thought you took from the book:*

"Wow, now Binny and her enemy are friends and they worked together."



— Julia M., 12

East Asheville Branch Library

## TLC FALL 2015 EVENTS

### YALSA TEENS' TOP TEN VOTING

Ongoing through Oct. 24

Go to [www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten) to view the nominees and vote for the books you think should win!

### PIZZA PLANNING PARTY

4-5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2015

Weaverville Library

Share your ideas for fun things to do this year at the Weaverville library.

### YALSA TEENS' TOP TEN VOTING & PIZZA PARTY

3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, 2015

South Buncombe Library

Cast your vote for YALSA's annual top ten list of the best teen-recommended books.

Bonus: pizza!

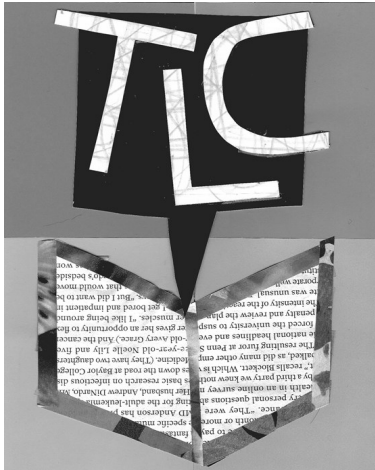
### TEEN HALLOWEEN PARTY

5:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 2015

East Asheville Library

Wear a costume if you want and join us for ghost stories, treats, and spookiness.

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



<https://twitter.com/BuncombeTLC>



[www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx)

## Ask your librarian about the **FALL READING RAFFLE!**

Ready to enter? Here's how!

- 1) Pick one of the Printz Award-winning books listed to the right.
- 2) Write a review of the book for *Rant & Rave*, and turn it in at your local library.
- 3) Your name will be entered into the raffle once for every review you turn in. Write as many reviews as you want!
- 4) The winner will be announced Dec. 4, 2015, on the TLC Facebook page and Twitter.

- *Kit's Wilderness*, by David Almond
- *Ship Breaker*, by Paolo Bacigalupi
  - *Going Bovine*, by Libba Bray
- *Postcards from No Man's Land*, by Aidan Chambers
- *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green
  - *The First Part Last*, by Angela Johnson
  - *In Darkness*, by Nick Lake
- *Jellicoe Road*, by Melina Marchetta
- *The White Darkness*, by Geraldine McCaughrean
  - *Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers
  - *A Step From Heaven*, by An Na
- *I'll Give You the Sun*, by Jandy Nelson
  - *How I Live Now*, by Meg Rosoff
- *Midwinterblood*, by Marcus Sedgwick
  - *Where Things Come Back*, by John Corey Whaley
  - *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Luen Yang

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**The deadline for the Winter issue is Nov. 21, 2015.**

