Welcome to the very first issue of *RANT & RAVE*, a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. 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!

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

Tarrible Okay The

Terrible Okay The Best!

For our first issue, we have reviews of two very different books, a nonfiction memoir and a fantasy novel. Read on, intrepid book-lovers, read on!

Jessie Snedden, 15, of the Leicester library reviews . . . A Child Called It, by Dave Pelzer



What is the book about?

It's about a boy telling his life story about how his mom treated him. She singled him out from his two brothers, and it's just terrible how she abused him; it's really sad.

What did you like?

I liked how he had the courage to deal with all that and how strong he is. He's a big inspiration. I also like how he made it through everything his mom put him through

What did you NOT like?

I didn't like the way his mom was, but there isn't anything about the book itself that I didn't like. Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, I would definitely recommend it. Lasting thoughts you took from the book. . .

People really need to realize what they have because some people really live a rough and horrible life, and they wish they had what we do. So everyone needs to stop complaining and be happy with what they've got.

Eilish Hollar, a junior, of the Weaverville library reviews . . . *Starlighter*, by Bryan Davis



What is the book about?

A girl enslaved by dragons and a boy who grew up poor try to save the people enslaved by dragons.

What did you like?

The action and suspense, and the witty comebacks.

What did you NOT like?

The point of view, and that they worked without knowing the other was also doing something about it 'til later in the book.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thoughts you took from the book. . . Sometimes you just have to believe.



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Terrible

It's spring (well, almost)! Exams and end-of-grade tests are coming, but you still have time to squeeze in some fun reading before it's time to get down to some serious studying. In this issue, our reviewers cover everything from international crime capers to the story of a father recovering from war.

Emily Greene (9th grade) of the Fairview Library reviews . . . Heist Society, by Ally Carter ****

What is the book about?

Kat Bishop. A girl born a thief despite all her What is the book about? attempts to change that. When Kat's father is accused of stealing a collection of incredibly valuable paintings, she is in charge of retrieving the from the war that make him do weird things. It is paintings. If she doesn't, her father could end up dead.

What did you like?

Carter weaves the most unlikely things into her creative masterpieces. Kat, the honest thief. Hale, the billionaire 16 year-old. My favorite aspect of Heist Society would be the creativity in these types of characteristics. I also enjoyed the romantic part of the book. Though not a main focal point, the romance was sweet and fun.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing, really.

Would you recommend this book to your friends? Already have.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . . Who is Visily Romani?



Hannah McDonald (11) of the Weaverville Library reviews. . . The Outside of α Horse, by **Ginny Rorby**

A girl named Hannah whose dad got back from the war with only one leg. Her dad has flashbacks horses down the street that Hannah turns to for comfort.

What did you like?

The author does a good job explaining the characters so you feel very attached. It is a book that you will read very guickly and will not be confused for the whole thing.

What did you NOT like?

There was nothing I really didn't like, but if I had to say one, it would be that things repeat themselves.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, anyone would like this, even if you don't really like horses.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

I thought that this book showed that even if things are bad, they can always get better if you try hard.

Welcome to the third issue of *RANT & RAVE*, a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. Summer is almost here! For book lovers like us, that means long afternoons of reading to our hearts' content, whether it's at the beach or the pool, under a favorite tree, or in the nice, cool air-conditioning. This issue we bring you five-star books full of dragons, werewolves, dystopian futures, and real life drama. Who knows? Maybe one of them will turn out to be your favorite summer read! Also in this issue: Summer Series Highlights and how you can get involved in the Summer Reading Program.

Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:



Terrible Okay The Be

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! Four times each year, we collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them in *RANT & RAVE*. Read on to find out how you can get involved.

Lockdown, by Alexander Gordon Smith



What is the book about?

Alex and Toby go to rob a house until giant men and Wheezers with gas masks come and kill Toby and frame Alex. Now Alex is sent to Furnace and must get out (it is where there is no hope).

What did you like?

Everything!

What did you NOT like?

Nothing.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Everything is great and fast-paced and danger at every corner.

— Ryan Hobart, 11 Oakley Library

City of Bones, by Cassandra Clare



What is the book about?

Clary stumbles upon a world of werewolves, vampires, fae, and warlocks and shadow hunters. She is thrown into a battle to save the downworlders, shadow hunters, and her mom.

What did you like?

The action, Jace, the humor, Jace, and the plot was great. Did I mention Jace?

What did you NOT like?

Simon and Valentine.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES!!!!!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Some things should remain a mystery.

— Eilish Hollar, 11th grade Weaverville Library

YOU ARE HERE!

The Summer Reading Program at your library isn't just for kids. Check with your local librarian about prizes, events, and volunteer opportunities especially for teens this summer.

Sign-up starts June 1st!



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

Deadline for the Fall issue: Aug. 1st, 2011

Summer 2011 Volume 1, Issue 3

Lemonade Mouth, by Mark Peter Hughes



What is the book about?

Social outcasts form a band in an effort to break the social hierarchy and stand up for what they believe in.

What did you like?

I liked how the characters have different personalities, but they mesh just the same. What did you NOT like?

How the "popular" crowd acted toward the band. Would you recommend this book to your friends? Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

It's always best to stand up for what you believe in.

— Eilish Hollar, 11th grade Weaverville Library

Out of My Mind, by Sharon Draper



What is the book about?

It's about a girl named Melody, and she has disabilities, like not being able to talk or walk, and she's really tiny, kind of like a baby! She's almost eleven years old and she still can't say a word. What did you like?

I liked when Melody got a friend named Rose, and when she entered the math whiz she beat the first two rounds, but then she had the final round.

What did you NOT like?

I didn't like when they were in the car going to school one day and Melody was making all these grunting noises for a good reason, because Penny, her little sister, would have gotten run over by the car. Penny did get run over by the car, but just her leg. Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, definitely.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

You should never, ever call a disabled person stupid or dumb, and that some disabled kids are smarter than you, and you should never judge them by their prettiness. You should judge them from what's inside, and it is really, really, really, really hard being a disabled person.

— Eva Hart, 10 9/10 \bigstar East Asheville Library \bigstar

Eragon, by Christopher Paolini

What is the book about?

It is about a boy who finds a rock that turns into a surprise, and is on the run of his life.

What did you like?

Everything. I wouldn't change it if I could.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing. I think it doesn't have any problems. Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

When is the next one coming out? Where can I get my hands on it?

— Landon James, 13 Fairview Library

The Giver, by Lois Lowry

What is the book about?

The Giver is a thrilling tale of Jonas getting a big responsibility at the age of 12. He turns into the receiver of memories, and part of Jonas's adventure is finding out all the secrets that have been kept from him for so long!

What did you like?

I liked the adventure, the way it is very different from other books, and the characters!

What did you NOT like?

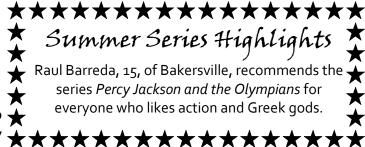
I did not like it when I found out what "release" meant!

Would you recommend this book to your friends? DEFINITELY!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

I think this book is very powerful and it really means a lot to me!

— Stacey Grace, 10 Oakley Library



Summer is coming to an end. Boo. But that doesn't mean we have to stop reading! Tons of great new books come out each fall, and many of those are available at your local library, along with some older favorites. For our fourth issue of RANT & RAVE, our reviewers bring you their favorite books about vampires, dogs, and real life drama.

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Terrible

Okay

The Best!

A Dog's Purpose, by Bruce Cameron



What is the book about?

A dog who wants to find out what he's on the earth for.

What did you like?

It completely revolutionizes the way you see a dog's thought processes.

What did you NOT like?

It had a sad ending.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

You can never give up searching for your purpose, whether you're dog or human

Britney Owenby, 7th grade
 Fairview Library

The Missing Girl, by Norma Fox Mazer



What is the book about?

A family going through a hard time and really didn't know the sister was missing.

What did you like?

Everything.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Read this book.

— Emily Livernois, 10th grade Fairview Library

Twilight, by Stephenie Meyer



What is the book about?

Vampires, humans, and wolves/people, with love/romance, and fights with some suspense.

What did you like?

Everything. Love and suspense. If it will last, it is true. Who will win?

What did you NOT like?

Sometimes it had spots that were a little unneeded, but all great to me.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

When can I read the next book?

— Sarah

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Deadline for the Winter issue: Nov. 1st, 2011