

RANT & RAVE

Book reviews for you, by you!

Can you believe it? *RANT & RAVE* has been going strong for two years now, thanks to your spectacular reviews. We know you've all be swamped with schoolwork so far this year, but winter break is coming soon. What better way to spend those snowy days than curled up with some hot chocolate, reading a great book? Here's wishing you lots of books and reading in the new year!

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!



Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott



What is the book about?

Little Women is the story of four sisters that have little money, but have a huge heart and feel rich in their hearts. They learn many things—Their father is at war and their “Marmee” is very kind. Join Beth, Amy, Joe, and Meg in their story of sacrifice, love, and laughter.

What did you like?

I loved everything about the book. I like how the sisters work together, and even though hard times come, they get through them together.

What did you NOT like?

The only thing I didn't like is that there is no sequel! :) There's so much more that could be written about and told about these four sisters.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES! :) It is so beautiful and wisdom fills the pages.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

The lasting thought I took from this book was that these girls would sacrifice anything for each other, and they learned that money isn't the only way to be rich—your heart and home can be just as rich. . . even richer.

— Jasmine Bumgarner, 14
East Asheville Public Library

Upcoming Events for Teens at Buncombe County Libraries

Forest of Hands and Teeth

Book Trailer Premiere

3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5th

Weaverville Public Library

The Weaverville Teen Awesome Group has been hard at work filming a book trailer for *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*, by Carrie Ryan. Come see the finished product! Please call (828) 250-6482 for more information.

Check in with us online for information about future programs at www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Library/Teens.aspx

OR

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

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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 Spring 2013 issue: Feb. 22, 2013.

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Spring has sprung! This time around, it's an all-Laurie Halse Anderson novel issue of *Rant & Rave*. If you haven't read her books, you're missing out! Read on to find out more about this awesome author, and keep those reviews coming. Our deadline to turn in a review for the summer issue is May 17, 2013.

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Winter Girls, by Laurie Halse Anderson



What is the book about?

This book is about a girl trapped in her own thoughts about a friend who is now gone. She suffers anorexia, and the ending will shock all.

What did you like?

She has things in common with me.

What did you NOT like?

Longer, please! It was so good!

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

The dead aren't always gone.

— Rachel Nelson, 13
South Buncombe Public Library

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson



What is the book about?

A freshman named Melinda tries to survive high school with very few friends, due to one bad mistake. . . the party.

What did you like?

The writer's descriptive adjectives were absolutely perfect. She made the story come to life, tugging at your emotions.

What did you NOT like?

I wanted it to be longer, because it was so good! :-)

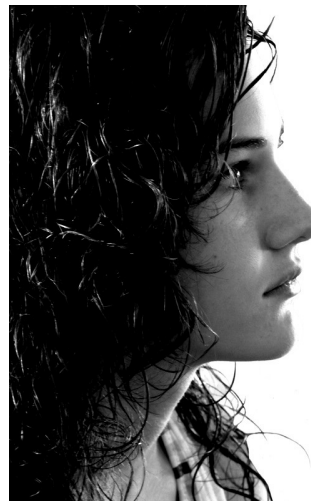
Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES!!!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Be yourself and express what is "you."

— Rachel Nelson, 13
South Buncombe Public Library



Buncombe County Teens Online

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Book reviews for you, by you!

Summer is here! That means it's time for reading at the beach! Reading in your hammock! Reading in the shade of your favorite tree! (Oh, and swimming, hiking, and summer jobs, too.) If you're looking for something to read, check out the reviews below. You might find just the thing you're looking for.

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Fire, by Kristen Cashore



What is the book about?

A girl known as a "monster," meaning she attracts other monsters and people. She can control minds, except for one person. Fire, the girl, ends up trapped inside a monumental plot that involves her . . . with no apparent way to escape.

What did you like?

BRILLIANTLY written! An enthralling, captivating story full of unexpected twists and turns. . . Cashore created a whole new world. And, I must say, did it splendidly. AWESOME BOOK! I highly recommend it to anyone reading this.

What did you NOT like?

Honestly, not much. The story had sad parts, like what happened to Archer. . . But I'll let you read it for yourself. It does have some adult material. . . I'll let you decide how you feel about that.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes! (Along with Cashore's other books, *Graceling* and *Bitterblue*.)

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Beauty is only skin deep. (Or, things aren't always what they seem — monsters aren't always evil.)

— Sara Acz, 13

East Asheville Public Library




**Buncombe County Teens
Online**

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

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Burnout, by Rebecca Donner



What is the book about?

The book is about a girl named Danni and her family. Her mom is dating an alcoholic who is violent and hates Danni. Danni's stepbrother, Haskell, is an environmentalist. When Haskell is accused of eco-terrorism, Danni must make hard choices to survive.

What did you like?

Danni is portrayed very clearly. (The book is a graphic novel, so credits to Inaki Miranda, the illustrator.) The story is complex, yet understandable. The story was also enthrallingly descriptive and powerfully written

What did you NOT like?

Some parts are hard to understand, but other than that — nothing! It was a great book.

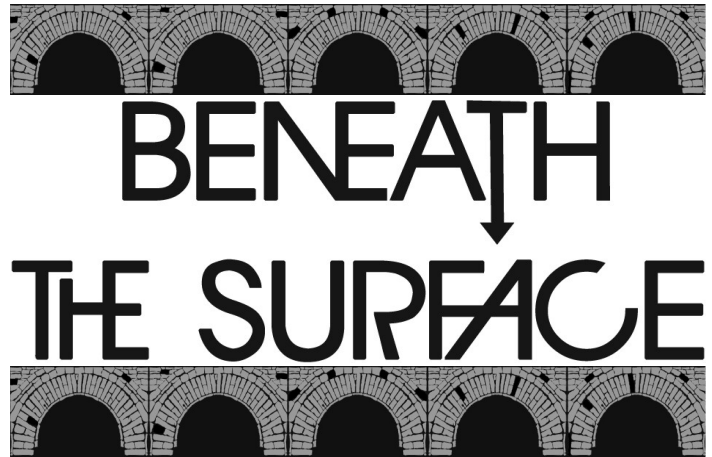
Would you recommend this book to your friends?

No doubt!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

No matter what happens, you can find a way to survive.

— Sara Acz, 13
East Asheville Public Library



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 below for events especially for middle school and high school students.

6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13
Book Speed Dating
Pack Memorial Library

Calling all teens and tweens! Looking for a good read? Come share your favorite books and fall for some new ones. Pizza and prizes! Space is limited. Please call 250-4720 to register.

3 p.m. Thursday, July 11
Make-Your-Own Clay Tile with Jim the Potter
Weaverville Library Age 7-15

Bring a cookie sheet to take your tile home and bake it. Limited space. Please pick up your free ticket at the library beginning June 27.

4-5:30 p.m. Friday, July 12
Teen Retro Revamp
Weaverville Library Age 12-18

Bring any boring item from your room or closet and revamp into a stylish work of art!

1:30-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3
Beauty Beneath the Surface
East Asheville Library Age 13 & up

Watch *America the Beautiful* (PG-13) and make a collage.

Rant & Rave

Book reviews for you, by you!

As we close out *RANT & RAVE*'s third year, our reviewers introduce you to three excellent fantasy series, a bone-chilling ghost story, and a drama-filled mystery series. As the days get darker and colder, why not choose one of these books to keep you company?

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***Abarat seires*, by Clive Barker**



What is the book about?

Sixteen-year-old Candy Quackenbush lives a boring existence in the small town of Chickentown, MN. This all changes when she meets a thief named John Mischief, who wears his brothers on his head, who then takes her to the strange archipelago of the Abarat, where she discovers that the Lord of Midnight, Christopher Carrion, is after her.

What did you like?

It sounds like a fairly same old, same old storyline, but Barker makes it seem completely fresh and new. I also liked the names of all the characters. They are particularly creative.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing much, really. Except at times, there was a little bit too much violence.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Sure!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

It's amazing how such an old storyline can be entirely revitalized, but the author does it very well. The series is a trilogy, so the books are kind of long. Oh, and I forgot. The illustrations are by the author, and in full color.

— Sagan Thacker, 15
Enka-Candler Public Library

***Graceling*, by Kristin Cashore**



What is the book about?

A girl named Katsa and a prince named Po are trying to find out who kidnapped Po's grandfather, but their journey turns into trying to save princess Bitterblue. Po has a secret and Leck does, too.

What did you like?

- Amazing! Katsa's journey with Bitterblue and Po is outstanding. It is a great book and well-written!
- You don't have to read the books in order.
- New cast

What did you NOT like?

Nothing (lots of fighting).

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES! (YA only—teens and up) Read *Fire*!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Girlpower (girls are strong, too!)

— Noela Moraga, 6th grade
East Asheville
Public Library



**Wait Till Helen Comes,
by Mary Downing Hahn**



What is the book about?

A thrilling ghost story about 12-year-old Molly and her brother, Michael. They both dislike their stepsister, Heather, as she seems to invent tales to get them in trouble. Then she starts talking to a ghost she calls Helen and threatening Molly. Worse, she twists their attempts to help. And then . . . Helen comes.

What did you like?

It was a very nice story, and the characters well-formed. (I always admire a writer who can shape good characters that suit the story.)

What did you NOT like?

[SPOILERS] Helen was portrayed as doing evil, but she was easily defeated by Molly. It seemed that M.D. Hahn was building up to a big attack that never came.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

It's possible.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

The dead aren't always gone.

— **Sara Acz, 13**
East Asheville Public Library

Pretty Little Liars, by Sara Shepard



What is the book about?

It's about four friends who lost a best friend that died, and they all think this A person killed her. They all are trying to find out who A is.

What did you like?

I like all the drama that's in the book and the show.

What did you NOT like?

There is nothing not to like. It's all good.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, I would.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Nope.

— **Courtney Powers, 17**
Fairview Public Library



**Alanna: the First Adventure,
by Tamora Pierce**



What is the book about?

A young girl named Alanna switches places with her twin brother, who is going to a palace to train for knighthood. She cuts her hair and pretends to be Alan. She goes through hard training and makes new friends, but if her true identity is uncovered, she could lose it all.

What did you like?

How Alanna works really hard. Even though she's a girl, she's going to show those boys. This book is brilliantly written! AWESOME! This book helped me in school.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing, really, just the chapter Black City (not long). No spoilers from me.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES. (Along with—*In the Hand of the Goddess.*)

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Girls are as good as boys.

— **Noela Moraga, 6th grade**
East Asheville Public Library

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