

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian

Sherman Alexie

Little, Brown and Company, 2007

229 pages

SUMMARY:

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Toughest Indian in the World, Sherman Alexie

A collection of stories about young Native Americans introduces a cast of characters who live and love in two worlds, balancing their Indian heritage and traditions against the realities of the modern world.

The Way, Joseph Bruchac

Cody LeBeau, who is fatherless and an Abenaki Indian, is the new kid at school and the new target for the bullies, but things begin to change when his uncle comes to town for a martial arts competition and he and Cody begin training together.

Who Will Tell My Brother?, Marlene Carvell

During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

Offsides: a novel, Erik Eskilsen

Tom Gray, a Mohawk Indian and star soccer player, moves to a new high school and refuses to play for the Warriors with their insulting mascot.

Swiss Mist, Randy Powell

Follows Milo from fifth grade, when his mother and philosopher father get divorced, through tenth grade, when his mother has married a wealthy businessman and Milo is still a bit of a loner, looking for the meaning of life.

WEBSITES:

The Official Site of Sherman Alexie: <http://www.fallsapart.com/>

This site offers information on the author and his books, as well as articles, video clips, pictures and a wide array of other information relevant to Sherman Alexie.

BOOKTALK:

Fourteen year old Arnold “Junior” Spirit had been looking forward to taking geometry class freshmen year of high school – up until he realized that not only were they using old textbooks but they would be using textbooks that his parents had used when they were in high school. Angered over the poor standards and conditions on the “Rez,” he throws the textbook which hits and breaks the nose of his teacher. Struggling with physical challenges and the hopelessness of living on the Spokane Indian Reservation, Arnold realizes that he must take some action. He begins attending a small high school in Reardon, a rich, white farm town that is 22 miles away from the Rez. This begins his career as a part-time Indian. On the Rez, he is Junior, the funny looking kid everyone likes to beat up. At Reardon, he is Arnold, the only Indian in school, except for the mascot, who dares to stand up to the jock and kiss one of the prettiest girls. Cartoons scattered throughout the book give emphasis to the story.

Prepared by: Dee Robinson, Teen/Youth Services Librarian, RCPL, drobinson@myrcpl.com

Beanball
Gene Fehler
Clarion Books, 2008
128 pages

SUMMARY:

Luke, known as “Wizard” to his friends because of his multi-sport talents, experiences his worst nightmare when he is hit by a beanball during a baseball game and loses sight in one eye. Told in free verse by many voices, the story follows Luke’s fight to find a reason to get better and get on with his life.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

High Heat, Carl Deuker
Shark Girl, Kelly Bingham
Crazy Horse Electric Game, Chris Crutcher
Game, Walter Dean Myers

WEBSITES:

Gene Fehler: Poet – Fiction Writer – Softball Player--<http://www.genefehler.com>
Author website; books, poetry, author visits

Clarion Books

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/titledetail.cfm?titleNumber=100564>
Publisher website; offers Google preview

BOOKTALK:

This story is best told in the words of Tim Burchard, the umpire on that fateful day:
“It’s the worst sound I’ve ever heard
In all my years of umping.
Oh, I’ve heard plenty of pitches hit a helmet.
But this . . . this fastball, up and in.
This one hit bone, right in the face
Not even a scream or grunt from the kid.
He went down like he was shot.

I know him.
I’ve umped and reffed
Maybe a dozen of his games.
Not just baseball –
Football and basketball, too.
The kid’s a great athlete, a natural.
That’s why it was such a shock to see him
Go down like that.

The screams come from everywhere:
bleachers,
dugouts,
infield,
mound.

Even from me.”

Told in free verse by Luke's friends, coaches, family, and even Luke himself, *Beanball* is a story of survival. How do you adjust when your life drastically changes? Read *Beanball* by South Carolina author Gene Fehler to find out.

Prepared by: Karen Tisdale, Library Media Specialist, ktisdale@lex5.k12.sc.us

Big Fat Manifesto

Susan Vaught
Bloomsbury, 2007
308 pages

SUMMARY:

High school senior Jamie Carcaterra tries to win a scholarship by sharing her experiences as a fat girl in today's appearance-obsessed high school culture, but as she opens her life up to the criticism of her classmates and the media, she begins to wonder if she is being truly honest with herself.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY.....

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes, Chris Crutcher
Inside Out Portrait of An Eating Disorder, Nadia Shivack
Anything But Ordinary, Valerie Hobbs
You Know Where to Find Me, Rachel Cohn
Sweethearts, Sara Zarr

WEBSITES:

Susan Vaught – Fiction Writer – True to Life – Oprah’s Book Club
<http://www.susanvaught.com/books/fatgirl/index.html>

Book Review – Teen--<http://teenbookreview.wordpress.com/2008/03/18/review-big-fat-manifesto/>

Bloomsbury Publishing--<http://www.bloomsbury.com/>
Publisher website; offers search engine

BOOKTALK:

The story is best conveyed through Jamie’s featured articles.

Fat Girl Fuming, Part I

Check out these pics. [insert image of saleswomen here: make Blowfish prominent]

These women did not want to sell me a shirt.

Why?

Because I’m fat.

And Hotchix clearly doesn’t want to wait on me at all. And they had plenty to say, trust me, as if Fat Girl doesn’t have ears and can’t get her feelings hurt just like the next girl.... Ask any Fat Girl you know, or any large gut for that matter. They’ll tell you what it feels like to walk into a store like this and be glared at like you’re nasty rotten gum on the bottom of somebody’s pointy-toed witchy-poo shoe.....

Hotchix is nothing special, nothing new, and definitely not alone. A few years back, a big clothing designer----who used to be fat himself, by the way----actually had a little snit when some of his creations were manufactured in “larger sizes.” (Uh like size 14? That’s sooo large.) “What I created was fashion for slim, slender people,” he said.

Seriously!

If you don’t believe me, look it up.

So, many----maybe most----of the major designers don’t offer “large sizes” (large being defined seemingly at random). If they do, it’s only online, not in the brick-and-mortar stores. So, my friends and I, who are all different sizes, can’t go clothes shopping together, even for the Senior Shoot.

Never mind the fact that large sizes are lots more expensive, so for those of us not rolling in dough, it’s Diana’s and the West End or nothing. And I’m sorry, I’m too cool for Diana’s and the West End. Besides, the air just doesn’t smell good in there.

I need more options. I need real clothes I can actually wear and afford. I need a blue shirt with a wonderful pattern to match my skirt.

Is that impossible?

According to Hotchix and some clothing designers, I guess it is.

Fat Girl Freaking, Fat Boy Chronicles I

My freak-out cauldron is approaching rapid boil.

I've been gigantic since I was born.....

My boyfriend Burke, who has given me permission to dub him Fat Boy, must feel like he has a lot to live down. He's tried of assumptions, stereotypes, snarky comments, and attitude thrown in his general direction. He's tired of the things people say.

Mostly, he's tired of being Fat Boy.

Yeah, that's right. Fat Boy has had enough. He's so sick of it that he's going to risk his life to change his outsides.

What do you think of that?

Fat Boy's giving up football.

Fat Boy's giving up a chunk of his senior year, and some of his counts-for-college grades.

Fat Boy's going under the knife, and all Fat Girl can do is watch and pray and make sure all or you every one of you in this whole school, get this one crucial point" Obesity surgery is not an easy way out of being fat.....

You have no idea what Fat Boy is about to go through to look more "normal" to feel more "normal".....

By this time next year, because he's choosing surgery, Fat Boy has a one in twenty shot of being Dead Boy.

Dead and buried from surgical complications.

But he's had enough, and he'd rather be dead than fat.

Prepared by: Cheryl Roycroft, Teacher, croycroft@scsd2.k12.sc.us

Blood Brothers

S.A. Harazin

Delacorte Press, 2007

224 pages

SUMMARY:

With his best friend on life-support after taking drugs at a party, seventeen-year-old Clay, a medical technician, recalls their long friendship, future plans, and recent disagreement, and tries to figure out who is responsible for the accidental overdose.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Crank, Ellen Hopkins

Saint Iggy, K.L. Going

You Know Where to Find Me, Rachel Cohn

Tweaked, Katherine Holubitsky

Crackback, John Coy

Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

WEBSITES:

S. A. Harazin: Young Adult Author--http://www.saharazin.com/Home_Page.html

Class of 2K7--http://classof2k7.com/authors/sa_harazin.php

Drug Abuse and Addiction: Understanding the Signs, Symptoms, and Effects--
http://www.helpguide.org/mental/drug_substance_abuse_addiction_signs_effects_treatment.htm

National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Information for Students and Young Adults--
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/students.html>

Drug Abuse: Make a Difference--
http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/body/drugabuse/print_article12.html

BOOKTALK:

From the Christmas Eve night when Clay, dirty and broke, wound up on Joey's doorstep, the two became best friends. They were an unlikely duo. Joey's family was wealthy; Clay's was poor. Joey made friends easily; Clay did not. Even so, the two seven-year-old boys quickly formed a friendship that they intended to last a life time, and they sealed the bond by becoming blood brothers.

The boys remained close until one fateful summer night after graduation when they argued over a girl. Clay, who dreamed of becoming a doctor but did not have the means to attend medical school, wanted the girl. The spoiled rich girl wanted Joey, the valedictorian preparing to enter Duke as a pre-med student. Joey didn't want the girl, but that didn't matter. Clay, hurt and angry, exchanged words with Joey and left. He never dreamed that his bond with Clay would never be the same again.

The next day, Clay went to Joey's house to patch things up with his friend. When he arrived, something was terribly wrong. He found Joey naked, obviously drunk, and in a state of rage. As he was making a 911 call for help, Joey attacked Clay with a hoe. In self-defense, Clay knocked Joey down.

Suddenly, Clay's world was in turmoil. Joey's condition continued to deteriorate, and Clay was left to wonder if his self-defense action was a factor. Also, the police chief kept questioning him about his whereabouts on the afternoon before the 911 call and whether or not the boys took drugs. Joey's parents, especially his father, blamed Clay for their son's condition, and mistakes at work lead to Clay's dismissal. As Joey fought for his life in intensive care, Clay vowed to

find out what really happened to his friend. With his world crashing down around him, Clay has to reach deep inside himself to find the strength to rebuild his life, with or without Joey.

This fast-paced, action-packed novel is sure to be a hit with reluctant readers and anyone who enjoys hospital drama.

Prepared by: Melissa Mixon, Library Media Specialist, mmixon@chesterfield.k12.sc.us

Circle of Blood
Alane Ferguson
Viking Juvenile, 2008
256 pages

SUMMARY:

Murder or suicide? As assistant to her father, Cameryn Mahoney is used to working around dead people. But when the deceased is someone she just met, Cameryn is pulled further into the mystery than she might like.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Angel of Death, Alane Ferguson

Christopher Killer: Forensic Mystery, Alane Ferguson

The Missing Girl, Norma Fox Mazer

WEBSITES:

Alane Ferguson's website--<http://www.alaneferguson.com>

<http://www.writing-world.com/mystery/forensics.shtml>

Learn tips for writing your own forensic mystery stories

BOOKTALK:

When someone commits suicide, it is a terrible loss. But when that person is young, the community and everyone involved seems to feel compelled to find a reason. Cameryn Mahoney, the main character, is used to working around dead people as an assistant to her father, the town coroner. Mariah is a young girl who is found dead – at first it seems to be self-inflicted. But after a unique analysis of her brain, it is discovered that she has been murdered.

Add to this mix the fact that Mariah was last seen talking to Cameryn's mother and her mother doesn't want to reveal the details of the conversation. There's more mystery around the death as details of a religious sect emerge as a possible connection to the dead girl.

Cameryn's life is further complicated by the on-going strife between her father and her mother, along with the constant comments made by her well-meaning Irish grandmother. The local sheriff's deputy continues to keep a watchful eye on Cameryn. Could there be something more than her safety involved in his concern?

If you're a fan of Bones, CSI and other investigative shows, you'll find lots of vivid details about autopsies and crime scenes. The characters and mystery around each of them draw you immediately into the story and keep you turning the pages for the next clue.

Lurking in the background of this story is an old foe – reminding Cameryn that unresolved mysteries can still hurt.

Prepared by: Beth Pace, Teacher, Beth.Page@spart1.org

City of Bones: The Mortal Instruments: Book One

Cassandra Clare

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007

485 pages

SUMMARY:

Suddenly able to see demons and the Shadowhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

City of Ashes: The Mortal Instruments: Book Two, Cassandra Clare

City of Glass: The Mortal Instruments: Book Three, Cassandra Clare

(March 2009)

Tithe, Valiant, and Ironside, Holly Black

American Gods, Neil Gaiman

Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn, Stephenie Meyer

Darkhenge, Catherine Fisher

The *Harry Potter* books, J.K. Rowling

WEBSITES:

Mortal Instruments – <http://www.mortalinstruments.com>

Cassandra Clare – <http://cassandraclare.com>

Holly Black's interview of Cassandra Clare—

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/book.cfm?tab=1&pid=526009&agid=8>

Cassandra Clare's blog – <http://cassandraclare.livejournal.com>

The Mundanes – <http://www.themundanes.com>

BOOKTALK:

“‘I was proud of my work on you,’ he said slowly, looking at Clary. ‘So clean. So perfect. What you saw you would forget, even as you saw it. No image of pixie or goblin or long-legged beastie would remain to trouble your blameless mortal sleep. It was the way she wanted it.’

Clary's voice was thin with tension. ‘The way who wanted it?’

Magnus sighed, and at the touch of his breath, the fire-letters sifted away to glowing ash. Finally he spoke—and though she was not surprised, though she had known exactly what he was going to say, still she felt the words like a blow against her heart.

‘Your mother,’ he said.”

Clary Fray has always felt that something is missing in her life. Maybe it has something to do with her father dying before she was born. Then again...maybe not.

After witnessing a murder at the Pandemonium Club, Clary is introduced to a world she never knew existed. The murderers reveal themselves to be Shadowhunters, or demon killers. Clary is disbelieving at first, but when her mother goes missing and she's nearly killed by a demon, she quickly becomes a believer.

Clary soon realizes that her mother is a former Shadowhunter and has been magically shielding her from this world her entire life. Clary can now see vampires, werewolves, fairies, demons, and many other creatures. She can see through glamours that hide true appearances. She even discovers that she possesses some unique gifts herself.

The Shadow World, of which Clary is now a part, is on the verge of war. Valentine, a Shadowhunter gone bad who was believed to be dead, is back and wreaking havoc in his quest

for the Mortal Cup, the vessel by which new Shadowhunters are made. He must be stopped, and a motley group of teenagers figure they're the ones to do it. There's Clary, who has just found out about her Shadowhunter heritage; Jace, the enigmatic Shadowhunter to whom Clary is mysteriously drawn; Isabella, a beautiful girl with a wicked whip; Alec, who harbors an intense dislike of Clary; and Simon, Clary's normal friend, who has a not-so-secret crush on her.

How can a group of teenagers stop the bad guy to end all bad guys? And how can Clary learn to fight in a world she never knew existed? Enter the Shadow World to unravel the mysteries in *City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare.

Prepared by: Kelly Knight, Library Media Specialist, klknight@greenville.k12.sc.us

Enter Three Witches: A Story of Macbeth

Caroline B. Cooney
Scholastic Press, 2007
281 pages

SUMMARY:

After her father is killed for being a traitor, fourteen-year-old Lady Mary, who is a ward of Lord and Lady Macbeth, is sent to the scullery, where she works as a maid and uncovers the couple's secret plans. The book includes lines from Shakespeare's play.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Macbeth in Venice, William Logan

A retelling of Shakespeare's tragedy, as told by two WWII refugees making their way from Venice to London.

Something Rotten: A Horatio Wilkes Mystery, Alan Gratz

In a contemporary story based on Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, Horatio Wilkes seeks to solve the murder of his friend Hamilton Prince's father in Denmark, Tennessee. A smart, hip, funny twist on the classic.

WEBSITES:

Caroline Cooney Teacher Resource File--<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/ccooney.htm>

TeenReads.com – Author Profile: Caroline B. Cooney—
<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-cooney-caroline.asp>

TeenReads.com – Enter Three Witches--<http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/0439711568.asp>

BOOKTALK:

Mary had nothing. One day she was Lady Mary, foster daughter to Lord and Lady Macbeth, and engaged to the wonderful Asleif, who would one day own Gledstane Castle, and the beloved daughter of the rich and powerful Thane of Cawdor. Just hours later, she had nothing. During a fierce battle with the army of Norway, her father had betrayed the king, and afterwards, confessed to being a traitor, and was executed. People, who had respected her the day before, now looked at her with hatred. She sat still and quiet at the victory feast, waiting to see what her destiny would be. There were not many choices—all her wealth and property were gone. Her engagement was over. She was nothing now. But she was still young and beautiful and innocent—the celebrating soldiers eyed her lustfully. Now that she was their equal, she could be forced to marry any of them. That was, if the king didn't decide to execute her, or Lord and Lady Macbeth didn't decide to send her to a nunnery for the rest of her life. These were the only things left to her—death, a loveless marriage, or the life of a nun.

But Mary didn't know that the strange prediction by the three Weird Ones, witches who haunt the moor, was about to come true. Greed and deceit filled the castle, and as a result, her life was about to change again.

"Double, double, toil and trouble,

Fire burn and cauldron bubble....

When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning or in rain?

When the hurly-burly's done, when the battle's lost and won....

All hail Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor,

All hail Macbeth, who shall be king hereafter."

Macbeth will do anything to gain the throne, but no good can come of witches' predictions, when they are misunderstood and misused.

Bodart, Jodi R. "Enter Three Witches Booktalk." Scholastic. 2008. 1 Dec. 2008

<<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=10664>>.

Prepared by: Michelle Pope, Library Media Specialist, Michelle.Pope@spart1.org

Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature

Robin Brande
Alfred A. Knopf, 2007
268 pages

SUMMARY:

Following her conscience, Mena goes against the teachings of her conservative Christian background when she stands up for a teacher who refuses to include "Intelligent Design" in lessons on evolution.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Code Orange, Caroline Cooney

Double Helix, Nancy Werlin

Eva, Peter Dickinson

House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer

Monkeytown, The Summer of the Scopes Trial, Ronald Kidd

WEBSITES:

"Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature." Robin Brande, "Author and Dog Lover Talks About Reading, Writing and Other Vital Matters"—

<http://robinbrande.com/preview-the-book>

"Evolution: Library: Scopes Trial"--This PBS site chronicles the story about John Scopes and his trial concerning the teaching of evolutions on the classroom in 1925.—

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/08/2/1_082_01.html

"Becoming Human: Paleoanthropology, Evolution and Human Origins"--This website features an interactive documentary and other information from The Institute of Human Origins.—

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/library/08/2/1_082_01.html

BOOKTALK:

Mena Reece has been looking forward to starting high school her entire life, and now that the time has actually come, she doesn't have a friend in the entire world. That's right. Her best friend hates her. The guy she liked hates her. Her entire group of friends hates her. Everyone hates her. No one even talks to her—not even her own parents. Why? Because she did the right thing. She took a stand; a stand that went against the teachings of her church; a stand that has alienated her parents in the community. Now that a lawsuit has been filed against her church, Mena's life is just one miserable day after another. She gets food thrown at her in the cafeteria, gets nasty hate letters in the mail, even threatening e-mails. The only person who doesn't seem to care about Mena's recent notoriety is her lab partner in biology, Casey, who's pretty funny for a brainiac, a guy she would have never even thought twice about before . . .and Ms. Shepherd, her biology teacher, isn't so bad. But when Ms. Shepherd begins teaching the unit on evolution, school becomes more dramatic than ever . . . and Mena's life starts to evolve in some surprising and unforeseen ways.

Prepared by: Carol Ross, Library Media Specialist, cross@darlington.k12.sc.us

Game
Walter Dean Myers
HarperTeen, 2008
218 pages

SUMMARY:

If Harlem High School senior, Drew Lawson is going to realize his dream of playing ball in college, then professional basketball, he will have to improve at being coached and being a team player. He finds himself second in line to a new white student who becomes the scouts' favorite pick.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY . . .

Slam, Walter Dean Myers
Rucker Park Setup, Paul Volponi
Travel Team, Mike Lupica

WEBSITES:

Reading group guide to *Game*--

<http://web3.streamhoster.com/idstaff/PDF/ReadingGuides/0060582944.pdf>

Biography of author and excerpt from book--

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93699480>

Books Walter Dean Myers has written and an interview--

<http://archives.wiseto.com/walter-dean-myers/3223820.html>

BOOKTALK

Do you love basketball? Want to win a scholarship to college? Want to be watched by scouts for the NBA? If you answered "Yes," then you will love reading long passages of detailed court action. Read this book and you'll find yourself in Harlem, in senior, Drew Lawson's hightops. In this Walter Dean Myers story, everything is going Drew's way UNTIL a new kid comes on the court at school. Jealousy arises and the basketball team begins to play as individuals. Find out what happens in this fast-paced, inner-city novel written by a veteran writer. There is plenty of sports action here, but as in any good sports novel, more is going on than the sport; life is the game, and this book portrays a likable kid, his family and his dreams.

Prepared by: Sarah Trani, Library Media Specialist, strani@fairfield.k12.sc.us

Good Enough

Paula Yoo
HarperTeen, p2008, c2008
322 pages

SUMMARY :

Patti, the PKD (Perfect Korean Daughter), is struggling through her senior year trying to balance her parent's inflexible high expectations with the desire to experiment and be her own person.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

How Not to Be Popular, Jennifer Ziegler
Sweethearts, Sarah Zarr
Crunch time, Mariah Fredricks

WEBSITES:

Paula Yoo/ Write like you mean it--www.paulayoo.com.
The author's blog page.

Harper Collins Book Description: Good Enough

http://www.harpercollins.com/books/9780060790851/Good_Enough/index.aspx.

The publisher's website with a summary about the book and recommended further reading.

Readergirlz bookbuzz--<http://readergirlz.com/issue200809.html>.

An e-zine with information on the book and a cool playlist related to the book.

BOOKTALK:

How to make your Korean parents happy:

1. Get a perfect score on the SATs.
2. Get into HarvardYalePrinceton.
3. Don't talk to boys. (Because boys will distract you from your studies.)

Patti's parents expect nothing less than the best from their Korean-American daughter. Everything she does affects her chances of getting into an Ivy League school. So winning *assistant* concertmaster in her All-State violin competition and earning less than 2300 on her SATs is simply *not good enough*.

But Patti is discovering that there's more to life than the Ivy League. To start with, there's Cute Trumpet Guy. He's funny, he's talented, and he looks exactly like the lead singer of Patti's favorite band. Then, of course, there's her love of the violin. Not to mention cool rock concerts. And anyway, what if Patti doesn't want to go to *HarvardYalePrinceton* after all?

Patti is hilarious as an overachiever who longs to fit in and strives to stand out. The pressure is on!

Prepared by: Laura Haverkamp, Library Media Specialist, lhaverkamp@richlandone.org

Gym Candy

Carl Deuker

Houghton Mifflin, p2007, c2007

313 pages

SUMMARY

Mick Johnson works hard for a placement on the varsity team during his freshman year, and decides to use steroids in order to hold onto his edge, despite the consequences to his health and social life.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Runner, Carl Deuker

Painting the Black, Carl Deuker

The Contender, Robert Lipsyte

Slam, Walter Dean Myers

WEBSITES:

Carl Deuker's website--<http://members.authorsguild.net/carldeuker/>

BOOKTALK:

Goals. Bigger, faster, stronger. Be the BEST. This is what has been drilled into freshman Mick Johnson by his former football standout father. A whole wall sits empty just waiting for trophies and accolades. An accomplished eighth-grade player, he is asked to attend conditioning with the high school team. At summer's end- it seems the dream is coming true- he is on the varsity team. However- just making the team is not good enough- he wants to start. His goal for improvement starts innocently enough, with legal weight/ bulk pills and protein powders, but gaining size naturally was not giving him a quick enough edge. Mick starts attending a new gym under his father's insistence, and there gains his own personal trainer, Peter. Peter has different ideas of how to increase Mick's power, something that Mick once would never have thought about doing, but with the possibility of starting in his sight- he will do anything. The question is- how far will he go? How much will he sacrifice to be bigger, faster, stronger? The best?

This is a hard-hitting, true to life story that everyone who knows/ is an athlete should read. The ramifications of being excessively competitive as opposed to being simply "driven" are a major point in the book that all student athletes should understand.

Prepared by: Jen Seay, Teacher, jseay@horrycountyschools.net

In the Name of God

Paula Jolin

Square Fish Books, 2007

208 pages

SUMMARY:

Determined to follow the laws set down in the Qur'an, seventeen-year-old Nadia becomes involved in a violent revolutionary movement aimed at supporting Muslim rule in Syria and opposing the Western politics and materialism that increasingly affect her family.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood, Ibtisam Barakat

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

A Stone in My Hand, Cathryn Clinton

19 Varieties of Gazelle, Naomi Shihab Nye

Does My Head Look Big in This?, Randa Abdel-Fattah

WEBSITES:

Author Info/Debut Author article--http://classof2k7.com/interviews/authors/paula_jolin/

Syria--<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>

This is a source of information concerning the country of Syria, physically, economically and national issues.

Islamic Fundamentalism--<http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/rep/H007.htm>

This site gives historic definition of Islamic Fundamentalism outside of today's politics.

BOOKTALK:

Teenagers often like to read about teenagers. Some books place teens in 'fantasy worlds' while other teen stories are realistic in their own world. This may be completely unknown to the usual student in our communities. The story is placed in present times in Damascus, Syria. Nadia is a good student concerned about her grades and close to her family. She is a devout Muslim, living in a time of danger and fear. Nadia is visiting her aunt's home when her cousin Fowzi is arrested for speaking out against the local government. Nadia knows that her cousin must be innocent. In her efforts to sort her feelings about Fowzi and the world around her she wants to do something about it. Nadia finds herself pulled into the secret world of trying to rid their country of foreigners and foreign beliefs. She begins meeting a handsome male stranger who asks her to make secretive purchases with her own money. Sneaking around, telling lies, going to places alone - what will come of it? What else will this stranger ask her to do? Will she do it? Would you do it?

Prepared by: Eleene C. Levander, Retired Media Specialist, e_levander@yahoo.com

Mad Kestrel
Misty Massey
Tor, p2008, c2008
321 pages

SUMMARY:

Kestrel, a woman born with magical powers, sails the sea as she is hunted by Danisoban mages. She finds herself in a civil war between the Ageless King and Prince Jeremie, and runs across the handsome captain of a black ship.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Bloody Jack, L.A. Meyer

Girl Overboard, Justina Chen Headley

Nothing but the Truth (and a few white lies), Justina Chen Headley

WEBSITES:

Official site for the book—<http://www.madkestrel.com>

Misty Massey's website—<http://www.mistymassey.com>

Historical Female Pirates website--<http://www.katyberry.com/Dorianne/pirates.html>

BOOKTALK:

As if being an orphan wasn't hard enough, our heroine in this swashbuckling adventure is also a female pirate with extraordinary powers. In her world, having these powers means she should be owned by the Danisobans, evil magicians who steal away gifted children like herself, at birth. She has worked hard to not let anyone but one, Captain Binns, know of her power--and now he has been captured! She has to find a way to save her captain, without using her powers or letting anyone know. All this--with a crew that is changing their minds as constantly as the wind, and a handsome stranger she does not know whether to trust or make walk the gangplank. Plot twists and a sublime ending lend to an exceptional first novel from Misty Massey.

Prepared by: Jen Seay, Teacher, Jseay@horrycountyschools.net

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

Gabrielle Zevin

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007

271 pages

SUMMARY:

After a nasty fall, Naomi realizes that she has no memory of the last four years and finds herself reassessing every aspect of her life.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY ...

Deadline, Chris Crutcher

Elsewhere, Gabrielle Zevin

Thirteen Reasons Why, Jay Asher

Trigger, Susan Vaught

WEBSITES:

Official website of Gabrielle Zevin—<http://www.memoirsofa.com>

BOOKTALK:

It all starts with a simple coin toss. Naomi picked heads, and that decision led to a whole series of events that changed Naomi's life. She had to go back and get the yearbook camera. She hit her head on the steps. She woke up in the ambulance with amnesia. Maybe, Naomi should have picked tails. If she had, she would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She would have understood why her best friend called her "Chief." She would have known about the new people in her parents' lives. Naomi chose heads, but she should have chosen tails. Heads or tails – how many times have you chosen? Would you change your choice if you could? You might want to ponder this question as you enjoy reading *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac* by Gabrielle Zevin.

Prepared by: Pam Lorentz, Teacher, plorentz@lex2.org

The Adoration of Jenna Fox

Mary E. Pearson

Henry Holt, 2008

272 pages

SUMMARY:

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnology has made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, seventeen-year-old Jenna learns a startling secret about her existence.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Airhead, Meg Cabot

The Dead and Gone, Susan Beth Pfeffer

Double Helix, Nancy Werlin

Lock and Key, Sarah Dessen

WEBSITES:

Who Is Jenna Fox?-- Official book website, audio excerpts, and relevant resources and links--<http://www.whoisjennafox.com>

Mary E. Pearson-- Official author website and blog--<http://www.marypearson.com>

The President's Council on Bioethics, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health--

Bioethics and biotechnology background and research--

<http://www.bioethics.gov>

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics>

<http://www.genome.gov>

BOOKTALK:

Following a devastating accident, Jenna awakens after an 18-month-long coma with no memory. She can't remember her parents, friends, things she loved, things she hated, or which side to part her hair on. She doesn't even know who she is!

She can recite passages of Thoreau yet can't remember having any friends. But as Jenna begins to remember, and unravel her parents' mysterious explanations, the true horror, with all its beauty and complexities, comes into focus as she learns that the controversial discoveries that have saved her life have created medical and bioethical debates. Through her new found friendships at the nearby charter school, she at last understands her mother's and father's "adoration" and their desperate attempts at saving her life as she desperately struggles to save her identity.

Prepared by: Ellyn Parsons, Library Media Specialist, ellynp@darlington.k12.sc.us

The Silenced

James DeVita

Eos, 2007

504 pages

SUMMARY:

Consigned to a prison-like Youth Training Facility because of her parents' political activities, Marena organizes a resistance movement to combat the restrictive policies of the ruling Zero Tolerance party.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Wave, Todd Strasser

Omega Place, Graham Parks

A Taste for Rabbit, Linda Zuckerman

1984, George Orwell

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

At the Heart of the White Rose: Letters and Diaries of Hans and Sophie Scholl,
Hans and Sophie Scholl

Useful Fools, C.A. Schmidt

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley

Feed, M.T. Anderson

Uglies, Pretties, Specials, and Extras, Scott Westerfeld

V for Vendetta, Alan Moore

WEBSITES:

“The White Rose:” Student Resistance in Germany During WWII -

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2001/09/00_ginder_white-rose.htm

Exploring Dystopia - <http://hem.passagen.se/replikant/>

Curb – Making it Write: James DeVita Authors Change -

<http://www.journalism.wisc.edu/j417/fall07/curb/subpages/sightspages/devital.html>

BOOKTALK:

“The ZTs keep taking things away, and the more they take, the more they hope we’ll forget, so that one day there won’t be any remembering. There will only be what they tell us. But we have to remember. And keep remembering. No matter what they do to us.”

In the not-so-distant future, the Zero Tolerance Party is in complete control. Nearly everything is restricted, the country is surrounded by walls, and those who resist the government are met with prison or death.

Marena is a prisoner in this world. She is only allowed to go to the Youth Training Facility where children are taught only what the Zero Tolerance Party wants them to learn. Kept under strict house arrest because of her mother’s resistance to the ZTs, Marena struggles to remember what life was like when her family was together and free. She tries to write down what few memories she has, but that becomes increasingly difficult when owning paper becomes a criminal offense.

Marena knows that the government is wrong, and she becomes determined to change things. She draws inspiration from Sophie Scholl and her friends, a group of teenagers who resisted Hitler’s rule in Nazi Germany and called themselves the White Rose. Marena gathers her friends and forms her own White Rose. She is determined to change this dystopian world in which the simplest freedoms are no more.

When the ZTs get wind that teenagers are organizing a rebellion against the government, Marena's very existence is in jeopardy. The ZTs will go to any lengths to suppress this resistance, and Marena must decide if she is willing to sacrifice everything for freedom. Will she succeed, or will the Zero Tolerance Party crush Marena and the White Rose? Read James DeVita's *The Silenced* to learn the truth, and remember that **"You have no right to be silent!"**

Prepared by: Kelly Knight, Library Media Specialist, klknight@greenville.k12.sc.us

Thirteen Reasons Why

Jay Asher

Penguin Group, 2007

304 pages

SUMMARY:

Clay Jenkins receives a package that changes his life. The package is filled with audio tapes narrated by this classmate, Hannah Baker. Hannah recently committed suicide, and the audio cassettes are going to reveal the 13 reasons why.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Invisible, Pete Hautman

What Happened to Cass McBride?: A Novel, Gail Giles

As Simple as Snow, Gregory Galloway

WEBSITES:

Teenreads.com--<http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/9781595141712.asp>

Teen Suicide Prevention and Awareness --<http://www.teensuicideprevention.org/facts.htm>

BOOKTALK:

Clay Jenkins is very excited to receive a package. When Clay opens the package and finds it filled with cassette tapes, he's totally confused. As he listens to the first tape, he is surprised to hear the voice of his deceased classmate, Hannah Baker. Hannah recently left many unanswered questions when she committed suicide.

The tapes are Hannah's attempt to explain the thirteen reasons why she killed herself. Clay is instructed to visit various sites discussed on the tapes. As Clay visits the sites, Hannah describes the different locations, activities, and people that were involved in the different situations that took place. Clay realizes that everyone's actions, no matter how insignificant, influence the actions of other people.

Prepared by: Galena Gaw, Library Media Specialist, ggaw@scsdb.k12.sc.us

Twisted
Laurie Halse Anderson
Viking's Children Book, 2007
272 pages

SUMMARY:

High school senior Tyler Miller comes from a dysfunctional family and fades into the background, until Tyler is busted for drawing graffiti on the school. His mandatory probation creates a brand new body and attracts Bethany Milbury's attention. Bethany is one of the girls in the popular group and the sister of Tyler's bully. Their relationship finally gets Tyler in with the popular kids. A series of events has Tyler questioning his place in school and his family.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Deadline, Chris Crutcher

Thirteen Reasons Why, Jay Asher

Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson

WEBSITES:

Teens BookPage--<http://www.bookpage.com/0703bp/children/twisted.html>
Find reviews for books written for teens.

Teensread.com--<http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/0670061018.asp>
Website provides reviews, author interviews and movie reviews for teens.

BOOKTALK:

When Tyler Miller, the school geek, gets fed up, he causes everyone to stop and take notice. After committing an act of school vandalism that lands him on probation, Tyler returns to school in the fall with a new attitude and more noticeably, a new body. Girls take notice and boys start to glare. When the hottest girl in school, Bethany, pays attention, Tyler becomes a part of a world he previously only viewed from the outside. But, things are not as good as they seem. Bethany is attacked and the new popular kid, Tyler, is the prime suspect. Does he have what it takes to clear his name? Read *Twisted* and discover if popularity is worth the price.

Prepared by: Lechel Pitts, Library Media Specialist, lpitts@richandone.org

Wake
Lisa McMann
Simon Pulse, 2008
210 pages

SUMMARY

Ever since she was eight years old, high school student Janie Hannagan has been uncontrollably drawn into other people's dreams, but it is not until she befriends an elderly nursing home patient and becomes involved with an enigmatic fellow-student that she discovers her true power.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Fade, Lisa McMann (Sequel to *Wake*; publication date: February 2009)

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Silent Echoes, Carla Jablonski

A Wrinkle in Time, [Madeleine L'Engle](#)

Dead Connection, Charlie Price

Alphabet of Dreams, Susan Fletcher

Bog Child, Siobhan Dowd

Dreamrider, Barry Jonsberg

WEBSITES

Official website of Lisa McMann--<http://lisamcmann.com/>

Parapsychology Foundation, Inc. website--<http://www.parapsychology.org/>

The Foundation provides professional resources, information and referrals to both the academic and lay communities worldwide, and serves as a clearinghouse for information on the science of parapsychology and psychical research.

Lucid Dreaming: The History of Lucid Dreaming—

<http://library.thinkquest.org/11189/nflucid.htm>

This website, sponsored by the Oracle Education Foundation, includes team websites created by students for students.

BOOKTALK

Janie's head is pounding. She's clammy. Cold. Her face slides in blood on a cold tile floor. She thinks her eyes are open, but her vision is taking a long time to return. She can't move her body. In the distance, she hears Cabel, calling her name, calling the guard. Carrie is screaming. For Janie, everything is black as night.

Welcome to the world of seventeen-year-old Janie Hallagan, who, at the age of eight, discovered that she was an unwilling participant in the dreams of other people. No one's secrets are safe from Janie, or their nightmares. Janie gets all the dreams, bad or good, of anyone who falls asleep near her. She is desperate to find a way to stop experiencing the dreams and to keep anyone from finding out what happens to her. After all, she doesn't want to be known as a freak.

Life gets more complicated for Janie when she takes a job at a nursing home to save money for college. Trying to juggle a nighttime job and school is a challenge. However, help is available, if she will have it. Through Miss Stubbin, an elderly nursing home resident, Janie learns that she is a dreamcatcher. Miss Stubbin will help Janie learn to control the dreams, if Janie will let her.

And then there's Cabel, a hot looking guy at school who just happens to sleep sometimes in study hall. There is a definite mutual attraction, but Janie is learning things about him through his dreams that Cabel would never tell her, and some of it is very disturbing. Will Janie allow herself to trust Cabel? Should she? And, can she find a way out the dreams, or at least find something good about her situation? Read *Wake* by Lisa McMann to find out.

Prepared by Melissa Mixon, Library Media Specialist, mmixon@chesterfield.k12.sc.us

Yellow Flag
Robert Lipsyte
HarperTeen, 2007
240 pages

SUMMARY:

Music or racing? This is the decision that Kyle Hillebrand must make. This choice might seem easy except for the fact that his family is one of the most famous racing families in the circuit.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Boot Camp, Todd Strasser

Gym Candy, Carl Deuker

Saturday Night Dirt: A MOTOR Novel, Will Weaver

WEBSITES:

Robert Lipsyte's webpage--<http://www.robertlipsyte.com>

NASCAR homepage--<http://www.nascar.com/news>

Provides connections to the racing world

BOOKTALK:

I've got everything and nothing going for me. I am in a jazz ensemble that could go far if we practice and commit enough. I have a girl that seems to like me a lot. I have a chance to drive for our family's racing team, a legacy. All of these sound great, don't they? But each has the potential to crash and burn – literally and figuratively.

I'm Kyle Hillebrand and all of these things are coming together at once. My older brother has medical issues (could I have caused it?) and I am asked to "sub" for him in one race. The next thing I know, there's a win and I have to race again. But if I do that, then I can't go to jazz practice and that will disappoint the jazz group and one special girl. Everyone else has a commitment for my future – but I don't know which one is the right one for me.

But she's not the only girl in my life. There's one hot girl who has joined the racing team and there's my mom who encourages me to "make my own decisions" privately but supports my dad in public.

Decisions, Decisions. Each one has a winner and a loser – just hope the loser isn't me.

Prepared by: Beth Pace, Teacher, Beth.Pace@spart1.org