

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe

by Adams, Douglas

Mr. Mills, Discussion Leader

256 pages : Fiction
Science Fiction

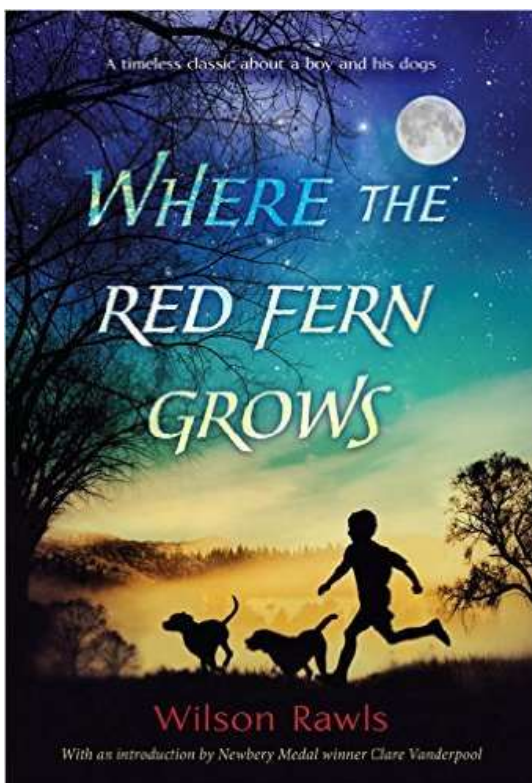
NOTE: Sequel to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Reading *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is strongly suggested.

Arthur Dent and his friends encounter new adventure and danger in their space travels.

"DOUGLAS ADAMS IS A TERRIFIC SATIRIST." *The Washington Post Book World*
Facing annihilation at the hands of the warlike Vogons is a curious time to have a craving for tea. It could only happen to the cosmically displaced Arthur Dent and his curious comrades in arms as they hurtle across space powered by pure improbability--and desperately in search of a place to eat.

... Their destination? The ultimate hot spot for an evening of apocalyptic entertainment and fine dining, where the food (literally) speaks for itself.

Will they make it? The answer: hard to say. "What's such fun is how amusing the galaxy looks through Adams' sardonically silly eyes."



Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Ms. L. West, Discussion Leader

289 pages : Fiction
Realistic Fiction, Adventure

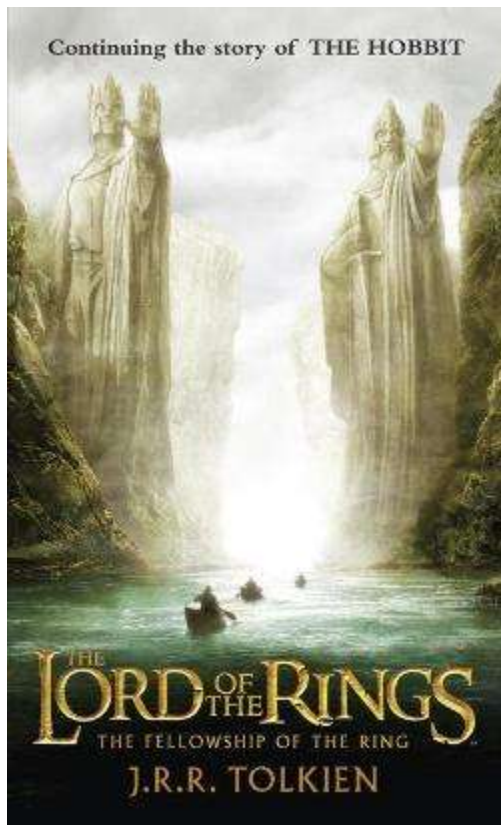
Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own he's ecstatic. The adventures of a ten-year-old boy and the two dogs he loves so much. A classic everyone should read.

"An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget." --*School Library Journal*

"Written with so much feeling and sentiment that adults as well as children are drawn [in] with a passion." --*Arizona Daily Star*

"It's a story about a young boy and his two hunting dogs and . . . I can't even go on without getting a little misty." --*The Huffington Post*

"A brilliant literary work." --TeenInk.com



The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

Mr. Karnes, Discussion Leader

458 pages

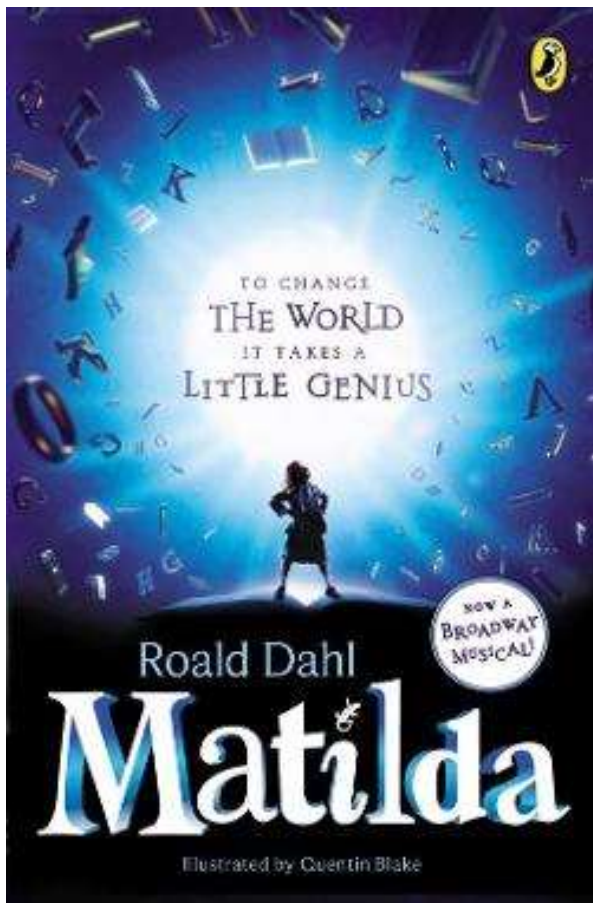
Fantasy

Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

The dark, fearsome Ringwraiths are searching for a Hobbit. Frodo Baggins knows that they are seeking him and the Ring he bears--the Ring of Power that will enable evil Sauron to destroy all that is good in Middle-earth. Now it is up to Frodo and his faithful servant, Sam, with a small band of companions, to carry the Ring to the one place it can be destroyed: Mount Doom, in the very center of Sauron's realm.

Thus begins J.R.R. Tolkien's classic The Lord of the Rings, which continues in *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*.

"A unique, wholly realized other world, evoked from deep in the well of Time, massively detailed, absorbingly entertaining, profound in meaning." – *New York Times*



Matilda by Roald Dahl

Ms. Martin, Discussion Leader

232 pages

Humorous Fiction, Fantasy

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it!

Booklist starred Review

Dahl exaggerates to the point of absurdity, which makes his cruelest characters (usually adults) more comical than terrifying, a quality perfectly echoed in Blake's loose, cartoonish line drawings. Readers will revel in Dahl's wordplay and in bookish Matilda's triumphs. A fantastically funny and empowering story of happily-ever-after.

School Library Journal Review

Dahl has written another fun and funny book with a child's perspective on an adult world. As usual, Blake's comical sketches are the perfect complement to the satirical humor.



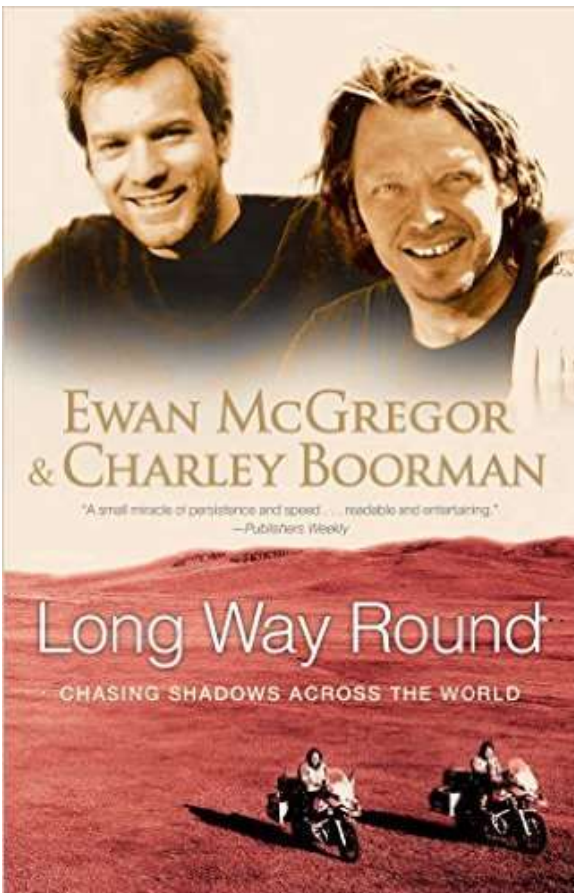
Bird & Squirrel on Fire by James Burks

Ms. Weber, Discussion Leader

192 pages

Graphic Novel

Bird and Squirrel finally make it home! It's been a long, crazy trip around the world. Now the duo is back in their beloved forest, and Bird wants to throw a party! But Squirrel isn't in the mood to celebrate. His house needs a good cleaning, the river has been dammed up by a pesky beaver, and the forest animals are jittery about a growing menace. Will the dam dry out the forest? Will the mysterious new danger ruin the party? Will Bird finally convince Squirrel to let go and just have a good time?"



Long Way Round : Chasing Shadows

Across the World by Ewan McGregor & Charley Boorman

Mr. O'Neill, Discussion Leader

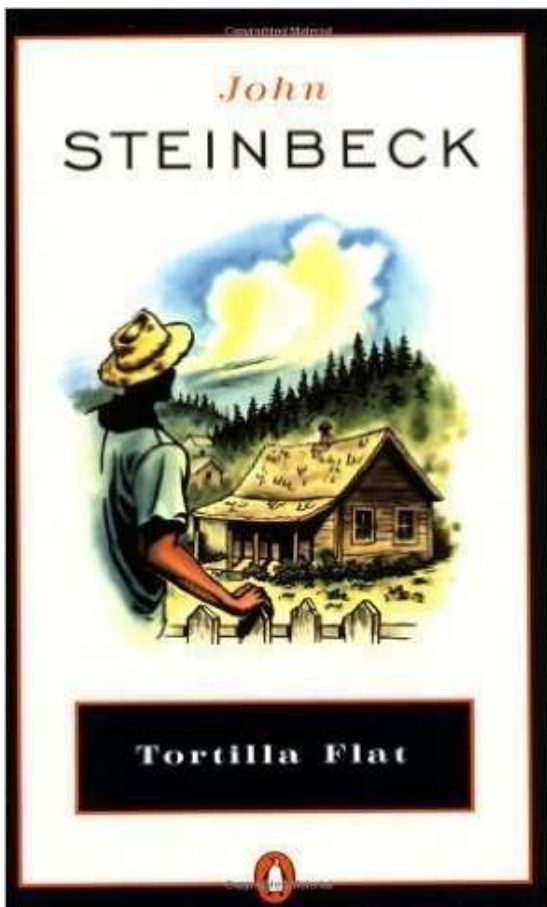
320 pages

True Adventure; Motorcycles

It started as a daydream. Poring over a map of the world at home one quiet Saturday afternoon, Ewan McGregor -- acclaimed actor and self-confessed bike nut -- noticed that it was possible to ride all the way round the world, with just one short hop across the Bering Strait from Russia to Alaska. It was a revelation he couldn't get out of his head. So he picked up the phone and called his fellow actor-slash-biker friend Charley Boorman and told him it was time to hit the road...

They managed to ride over 20,000 miles in four months, changing their lives forever in the process. As they travelled they documented their trip, taking photographs, and writing diaries by the campfire. Long Way Round is the result of their adventures - a fascinating, frank and highly entertaining travel book about two friends riding round the world together and, against all the

odds, realising their dream.



Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck

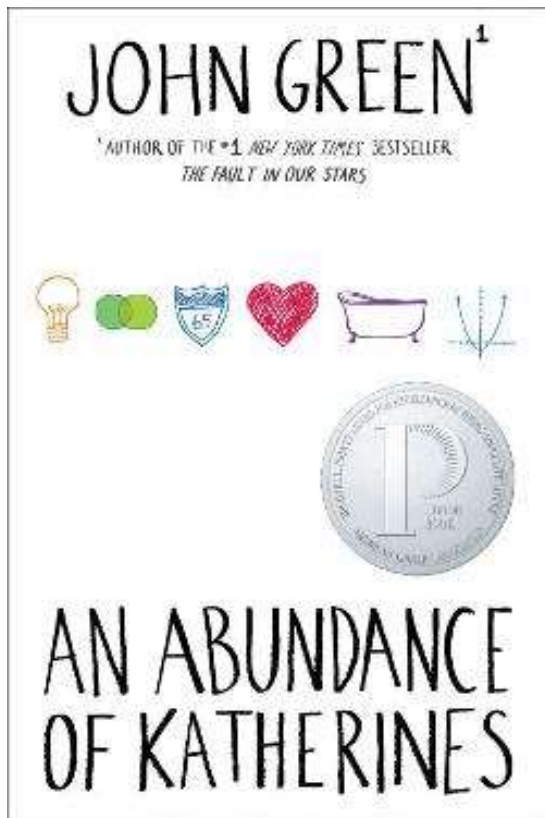
Mr. Booth, Discussion Leader

207 pages : Fiction

Classic Novel;

Above the town of Monterey on the California coast lies the shabby district of Tortilla Flat where Danny and his colorful group of friends live and where their revels recall the exploits of King Arthur's knights.

Adopting the structure and themes of the Arthurian legend, John Steinbeck created a "Camelot" on a shabby hillside above the town of Monterey, California, and peopled it with a colorful band of knights. At the center of the tale is Danny, whose house, like Arthur's castle, becomes a gathering place for men looking for adventure, camaraderie, and a sense of belonging--men who fiercely resist the corrupting tide of honest toil and civil rectitude.



Abundance of Katherines by John Green

Mr. Reimer, Discussion Leader

227 pages

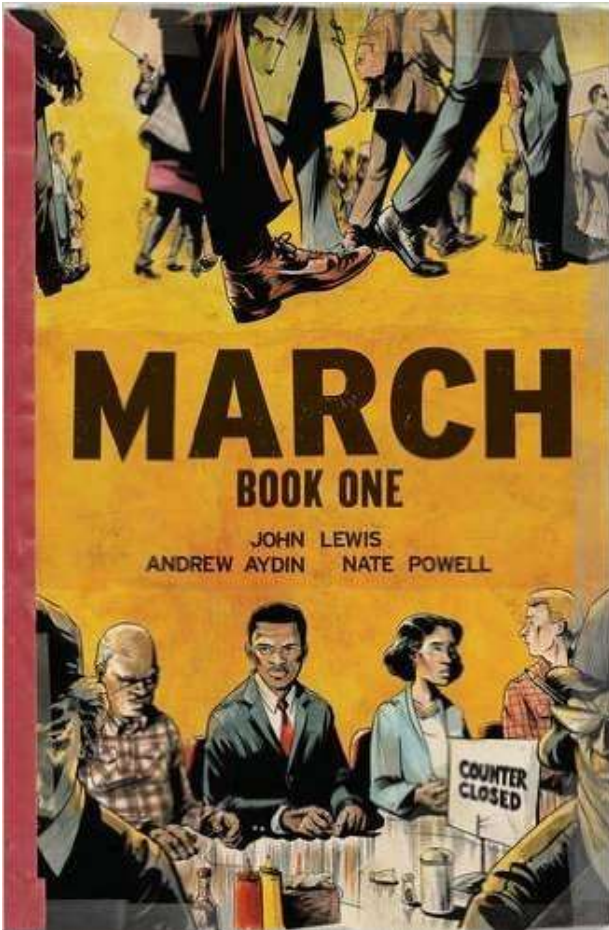
Realistic Fiction ; Coming of Age

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

Booklist Review

The laugh-out-loud humor ranges from delightfully sophomoric to subtly intellectual, and the boys' sarcastic repartee will help readers navigate the slower parts of the story, which involve local history interviews. The idea behind the book is that everyone's story counts, and what Colin's contributes to the world, no matter how small it may seem to him, will, indeed, matter. An appendix explaining the complex math is "fantastic," or as the anagrammatically inclined Green might have it, it's enough to

make "cats faint."



The March : Book One by John Lewis...

Coach Roberts, Discussion Leader

121 pages : Autobiography

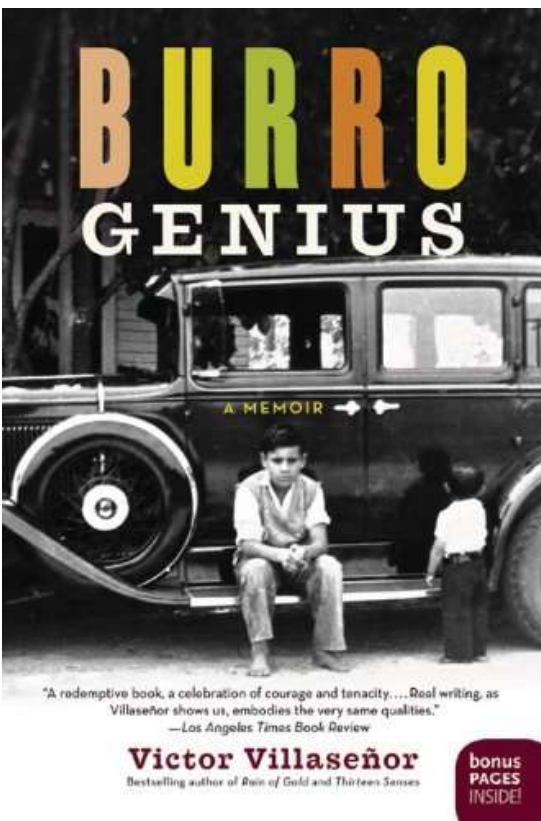
Graphic Novel; Civil Rights

Presents in graphic novel format events from the life of Georgia congressman John Lewis, focusing on his youth in rural Alabama, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.

School Library Journal Starred Review

Gr 8 Up-Lewis, a sitting congressman from Georgia, reflects on his early life and his role in the Civil Rights Movement. Lewis's eyewitness account, particularly recalling the lunch counter sit-ins in 1959 and 1960, provides significant insight into this momentous period of history. Powell's realistic black-and-white ink wash art intensifies this riveting personal narrative.



Burro Genius by Victor Villasenor

Mr. Blankenship – Discussion Leader

320 pages : Nonfiction

Biographical ; Mexican American Authors

Victor Villasenor recounts his own angry adolescence, describing the humiliation, misunderstanding, and abuse he faced at home and at school, and discussing how those events shaped his adult life.

Standing at the podium, Victor Villasenor looked at the group of educators amassed before him, and his mind flooded with childhood memories of humiliation and abuse at the hands of his teachers. He became enraged. With a pounding heart, he began to speak of these incidents. When he was through, to his great disbelief he received a standing ovation. Many in the audience could not contain their own tears.



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

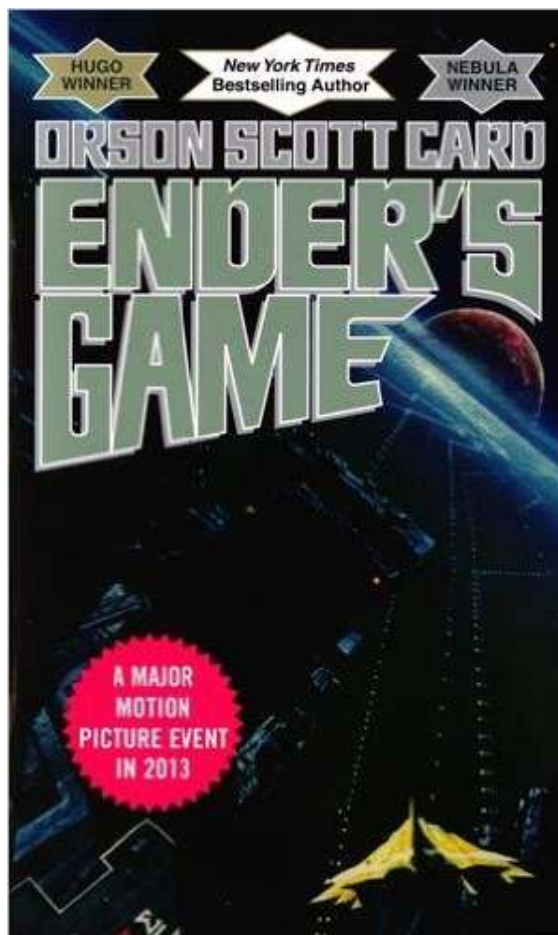
Ms. Galloway – Discussion Leader

374 pages : Fiction

Virtual Reality, Science Fiction

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win--and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.



Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

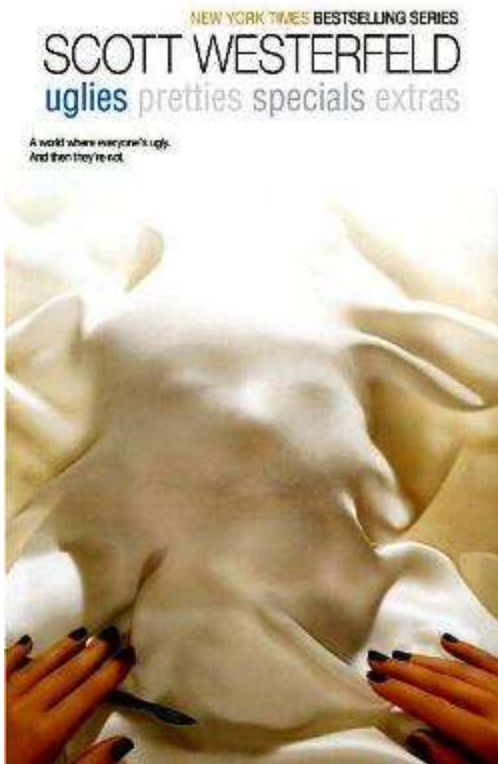
Ms. English - Discussion Leader

380 pages : Fiction

Science Fiction

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Intense is the word for Ender's Game. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?



Uglies by Westerfeld, Scott

Ms. Sandoval-Perez, Discussion Leader

406 pages : Fiction

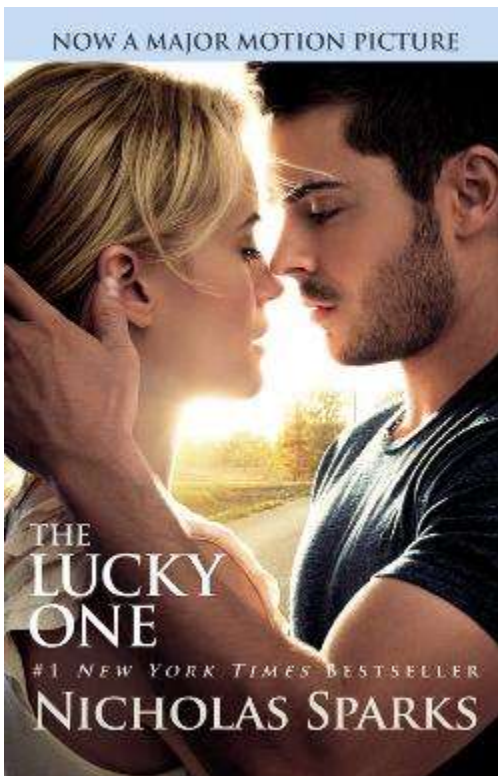
Dystopian, Personal Beauty

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

From School Library Journal - Starred Review

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity. Ethical concerns will provide a good source of discussion as honesty, justice, and free will are all oppressed in this well-

conceived dystopia. Fortunately, the cliff-hanger ending promises a sequel.



***The Lucky One* by Nicholas Sparks**

Ms. Arcos – Discussion Leader

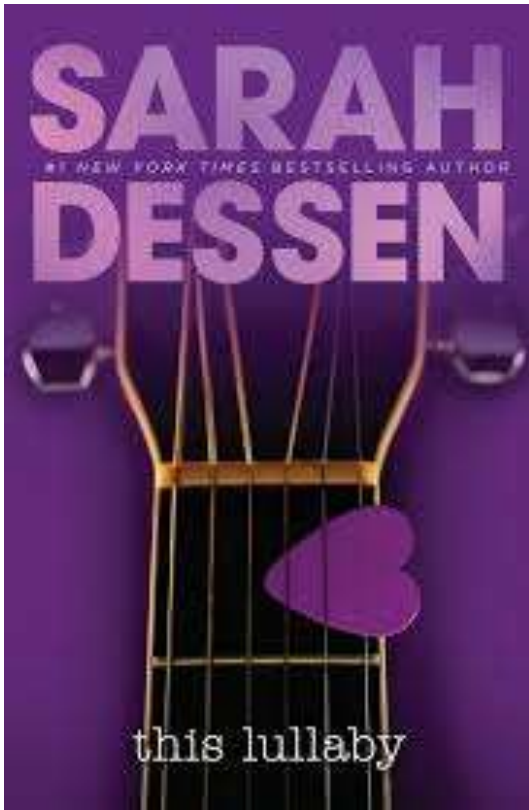
347 pages : Fiction

Romance

When U.S. Marine Logan Thibault finds a half-buried photograph of a smiling young woman in the desert in Iraq, he carries it with him and soon discovers that it brings him luck in games and during combat; after returning to Colorado, his obsession with the picture leads him in a fateful search for what

Back home in Colorado, Thibault can't seem to get the woman in the photograph out of his mind and he sets out on a journey across the country to find her. But Thibault is caught off guard by the strong attraction he feels for the woman he encounters in North Carolina - Elizabeth, a divorced mother -- and he keeps the story of the photo, and his luck, a secret.

Filled with tender romance and terrific suspense, THE LUCKY ONE is an unforgettable story about the surprising paths our lives often take and the power of fate to guide us to true and everlasting love.



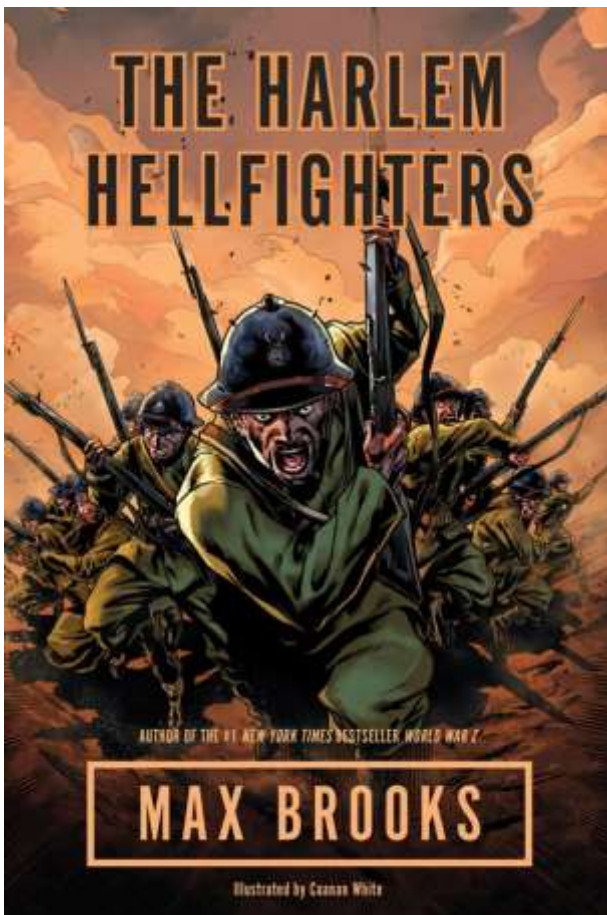
***This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen**
Ms. Cox – Discussion Leader

345 pages : Fiction
Dating, Musicians

Remy, a master at getting rid of boyfriends before any emotional attachments form, finds herself strangely unwilling to free herself from Dexter, a messy, disorganized, impulsive musician who she suspects she has come to love.

Booklist (April 1, 2002 (Vol. 98, No. 15))

Gr. 8-12. Remy never knew her father, but everyone knows the song he wrote for her, "This Lullaby," a schmaltzy tune with the line, "I will let you down." Well, he did, and Remy expects every boy to do the same thing, so she stays in control of her relationships. When Remy meets Dexter the summer after she graduates from high school, she breaks her cardinal rule: never get involved with a musician. This is a very full book. What's wonderful, however, is that this nuanced book is also a real romance; Dessen, who can turn out terrific prose, gets every feeling, every touch just right. Remy and Dexter (especially Dexter) jump off the pages into the hearts of readers, who will wish for a romance like this of their own.



***Harlem Hellfighters* by Max Brooks**
Mr. Henry – Discussion Leader

257 Pages : Graphic Novel
History – World War I and African Americans Troops
– History

Follows the journey of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the first African American regiment mustered to fight in World War I, from the enlistment lines in Harlem to the training camp at Spartanburg, South Carolina, to the trenches in France, all while facing struggles and discrimination for a chance to fight for America.

From bestselling author Max Brooks, the riveting story of the highly decorated, barrier-breaking, historic black regiment. In *THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS*, bestselling author Max Brooks and acclaimed illustrator, Caanan White, bring this history to life. From the enlistment lines in Harlem to the training camp at Spartanburg, South Carolina, to the trenches in France, they tell the heroic story of the 369th in an action-packed and powerful tale of honor and heart.