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mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



Winter is definitely over, and spring is just about gone as well. The days are warm and sunny. Turn off the TV! Go outside! Hike, jog, rollerblade, skateboard, whatever! Just get outside and enjoy it before it gets too hot. Once it does get too hot, come to the Library and enjoy the free air conditioning. As long as you are here, pick up a good book. You will be glad you did.

Leon Eubanks
open shelf Editor

Send comments and suggestions to
YaacEditor@hotmail.com



rating system

bad ★
so-so ★★
good ★★★
excellent ★★★★★

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see the **Totally Teens** page!



A Door Near Here

By Heather Quarles

A Door Near Here is about a family with four kids, from oldest to youngest, Katherine, Douglas, Tracy, and Alissa. Their mom is an alcoholic and Alissa has a different father. The father of the other three lives in a different state with his new wife and has two kids of his own.

The story is about how the four kids learn to live on their own. I thought it was a good book.

—Janelle Novotny ★★ ★



Of Two Minds

By Carol Matas and Perry Nodelman

Like everyone else in her country, Princess Lenora has the ability to make whatever she imagines become reality. She is forbidden by law, and by her parents, to use her power.

Prince Coren was born with the gift of reading the minds of the people around him, and all of the plants, animals, rocks, and air. The only problem with reading minds is that everybody else in his country can read minds, too, including his parents. People pop in and out of his mind, reading all his thoughts and he can't stop them.

After being matched up by their par-

This month:

A Door Near Here by Heather Quarles

Of Two Minds by Carol Matas and Perry Nodelman

Search for Senna by K. A. Applegate

Before Wings by Beth Goobie

Roadwork by Stephen King

The Liar's Club by Mary Karr

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

How Tia Lola Came to Stay by Julia Alvarez

Forever by Judy Blume

ents to be married, Princess Lenora and Prince Coren get sucked into a fantasy world where everything is perfect. Or is it?

This book was really interesting and unpredictable as it jumped from one thought to another. It was lots of fun to read!

—Starr Whitwood ★★ ★★



Search for Senna

By K.A. Applegate

This book is the exciting introduction to the world of the Everworld series. The book starts off in modern America where David is having some problems with his family. He finds himself walking towards the nearby lake. There, he finds Senna, his old girlfriend. Christopher, April, and Jahlid also show up. A giant wolf comes and steals Senna and Christopher; April and David are dragged along into Everworld. In Everworld, a planet created by the gods, they do just fine until Ka'anor, the god-eater, comes along. Now it's a free-for-all as the gods try to flee to the old world to escape Ka'anor's wrath. David and his new friends are caught in the middle, trying to find Senna and the portal to our world.

—Justin Millar-Haskell ★★ ★★

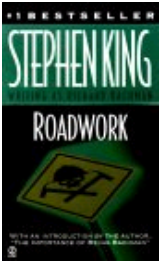
Before Wings
By
Beth Goobie

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An experience of blinding white light exploding in your head is just what happened to fifteen-year-old Adrien when she had a brain aneurysm two years earlier. With the possibility of having another potentially fatal aneurysm at any time, she goes to work at her aunt's summer camp. At the camp, she sees the spirits of five young girls. Faced with the messages the girls are trying to send to her, Adrien is pulled from the present to the past and back constantly. I really enjoyed this book; it was captivating. Set aside some time and read it in one sitting, or else you'll be left unsatisfied until you pick the book up again.

—Jennifer Yan ★ ★ ★ ★

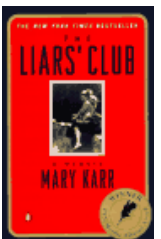


Roadwork

By Stephen King

Bart has lived on McEllen Street for years. His house is on that street, plus the laundromat he started. So when the highway 784 extension plans to take out his house and business, he decides he's not going without a fight. This book was good!

—Andrea Alonge ★ ★ ★



The Liar's Club

By Mary Karr

East Texas, also known as The Armpit of the World, is perhaps the worst place to grow up. So Mary Karr's memoir of her childhood can hardly be expected to be idyllic. With a "nervous" (read: crazy) mother and a workaholic father, Karr's childhood was chaotic. **The Liar's Club** details the disintegration of the Karr family in the 1960s. Karr leavens her depressing subject matter with a dose of dry humor.

À la Frank McCourt, Karr saves her narrative from descending to soul-suckingly depressing with humor. Karr, a poet, writes superbly and powerfully. Read this book!

—Erin Hutchinson ★ ★ ★ ★



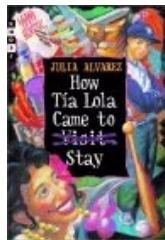
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

By Thomas Hardy

Tess Durbeyfield is a pretty little country girl who has to act as the responsible adult in her family. One day Mr. Durbeyfield finds out that if knighthood was hereditary, he would be Sir John d'Urberville. Let's just say that due to parental negligence, the family horse dies and Tess has to ask distant family of the d'Urberville name for work. These d'Urbervilles are not actually of the d'Urberville line, they just changed their name to it so its kind of sad that Alec, the son of her employer and Tess' "cousin" trick her into actually believing they are family. Things get worse when Alec has amorous feelings for Tess, pursues her, and rapes her. Its no surprise that Tess leaves, has a child, and lives as a social outcast in good old Victorian England. Eventually she moves away, finds the guy of her dreams—Angel Clare—but can't marry him despite how much she wants to because of the scandal it would cause if anybody learned about her "dubious" past. She does anyway, and that's where the fun begins.

Yeah, this book is slow and the characters' responses to Tess' situation sound rather stuck up and stuffy but hey, that's Victorian England for you.

—Elizabeth Steimle ★ ★ ★



How Tia Lola Came to Stay

By Julia Alvarez

How would you like to have an aunt come to your house who only speaks Spanish? Would you like to teach her English? That's exactly what Miguel and Juanita had to do. This book is a hilarious story about family and love. Would you want this person to stay or leave? Consider the fact that this is your aunt. Well, Miguel and Juanita made this choice, which was easy for Juanita, but what about Miguel? If you read the book, I think you will like it.

—Jasmine Williamson ★ ★ ★



Forever

By Judy Blume

Judy Blume tells a convincing tale of first love—a love that seems strong and true enough to last forever. Katherine loves Michael so much, in fact, that she's willing to do anything for him. And I mean anything. As the months go by, it gets harder and harder for her to imagine living without him. However, something happens when they are separated for the summer: Katherine begins to have feelings for another guy. What does this mean about her love for Michael? What does this mean about love in general? What does "forever" mean, anyway?

—Kathleen Melohn ★ ★ ★ ★

Young Adult Summer Reading



A REEL

ADVENTURE

May 29-July 28, 2001

Ages 12-18, grades 7-12

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