“13 Reasons Why” Review

By Anshu Kotha, Grade 8

Disclaimer: If you or anyone you know are showing signs of depression, please know there is help out there. See the resources listed. This show brings up many serious issues, so it is not recommended to watch unless you have adult approval or plan on watching with an adult.

- See your school counselor*
- Talk with a trusted adult like a teacher or parent
- Teen Link (206-461-4922 or chat online: https://866teenlink.org, open 6-10pm every night)
- Crisis Clinic (866-427-4747, www.crisisclinic.org)
- Crisis Text Line Text TALK to 741741, www.crisistextline.org
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 Available 24 hours everyday

*It is important to note the difference between the way the counselor is portrayed in the show versus our amazing counselors at Skyview. We have caring, committed, and thoughtful counselors here at Skyview who support students through all kinds of situations in life every day. If you reach out to a counselor at Skyview, know that you will always be heard and helped.

This show is about a girl who is new to a town. Her name is Hannah Baker. She was treated unfairly at her school. To be more accurate, she was bullied at her school. She ended up committing suicide, because she felt that there were no other options. However, there are always other options, like the resources listed above this article. People at Hannah’s school act like it’s a sad thing, but the worst part is several people at that school contributed to her feeling this way and did not report anything to an adult. Always take warning signs seriously, and never promise to keep them secret. Warning signs can include threats to kill oneself, giving away prized possessions, extreme changes in behavior, emotional distress, and/or preoccupation with death. If you notice any warning signs, get help by reporting to a trusted adult or using the resources above.

The show consists of 13 tapes. Each of the tapes is a reason (person) that lead to her feeling of helplessness and not wanting to go on. These tapes were passed around to every person that was mentioned in the tapes. Each person listened very quickly until it came to her friend, Clay Jensen. He took his time. Thanks to him, many secrets come out through the series. I think many people will like this show even though it is sad. It teaches you that even though it may seem like there is no way out, there is always help out there when you need it. I personally really liked this show and I found it really interesting. It made me think about how I treat others. However, this series is very upsetting so be ready to cry while you watch it. I hope this review helped and if you decide to watch, please keep in mind the disclaimer above.


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Red Queen

By Minita Laya, Grade 8

The book, Red Queen, is by Victoria Aveyard. It is about a 17 year old girl named Mare Burrow who lives in a world where there are two kinds of people; people with silver blood, and people with red blood. Silver bloods rule the kingdom with their magical powers. The red bloods are their servants. Mare is one of the red bloods. She lives with her family, waiting for the day that she turns 18 and gets conscripted into the army. One day, messengers from the king take her away to work as a servant at the palace. She is working a night shift at a ball when she somehow shoots electricity and lighting from her hands at one of the silver bloods. Mare knows that she should not have this power, but to avoid execution, she agrees to pose as a long lost Silver princess and marries one of the princes. The king wants her to stop a rebellion of Red servants who were tired of living in poverty. Mare doesn’t want to live a lie, but she will do everything she can to keep herself and her family safe. However, being part of the group she swore to stop will be a different challenge.

This book tells us that things are not always what they seem, and that some people are so power hungry that they will do terrible things. This book is for people who like dystopian societies magic, and strong female characters.

Source: http://images.gr-assets.com/books/1449778912l/22328546.jpg

The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Minita Laya, Grade 8

The Mysterious Benedict Society is a realistic fiction book about child guinesses, a secret society, and a dangerous mission. Hundreds of children take a test to see if they are qualified for “special opportunities.” Of those children, only 4 pass.

Reynie, Sticky, Kate, and Constance are different from other children their age. They are all either abandoned or orphans, and are highly intelligent. After passing the test, they meet the bizarre Mr. Benedict, who informs them that the world is in terrible danger, and only they can save it. The four must band together, face their fears, and embrace their difficulties. And they had better do it fast. Their lives, and the lives of others depend on it.

I love this book for its imaginative plot, funny characters, and all the emotions that I felt while reading it. This book will make you laugh as much as it will make you cry, but it is a must read for any teenager.

Source: http://stcroixfallslibrary.org/sites/stcroixfallslibrary.org/files/001-4.jpg
**Book Reviews**

**Carry On**  
*By Hanna Koh, Grade 8*

This edition’s review is on one of my favorite books, Carry On by Rainbow Rowell. Carry On is a partial companion novel to Fangirl, and I recommend you read Fangirl first, but it isn't necessary to. Be sure to read Fangirl anyway.

Carry On takes place in Watford School of Magicks (no I didn't spell magic wrong, that's just how it's spelled in the book), with the main character as Simon Snow. Yes, it is the same Simon Snow I mentioned in my review of Fangirl (the review for Fangirl is in the first edition of the Talon). Simon studies magic at Watford (of course). In his first year, when the Crucible (a fancy test in which the students at Watford get their roommates) puts Simon with his nemesis, Baz, Simon knows he’s in for an interesting time at Watford.

Now Simon's in his eighth year, and there are many problems at Watford and the rest of the magical world. For example, the magic is running out, and a magic-hungry monster is rampaging, wearing Simon's face. It's up to Simon to solve this! I mean he is the chosen one........ Carry On Simon, carry on.

I give this 6/5 stars and I hope you enjoy this fast paced fantasy LGBT romance novel!  

**Anime Reviews**

**Your Lie In April**  
*By Amy Cai & Harrison Taylor, Grade 8*

This sweet and sour romance sparks every watcher’s interest from the very first moment of the first episode. Kousei Arima, a young piano prodigy, has lived almost his entire life in fear. Fear of what exactly? The ironic thing is, he's afraid of what he loves the most: the piano. One day, he meets Kaori Miyazono, a stunningly beautiful musician with a magical and breathtaking aura. He tries to take a photo of this inspiring moment, but she thinks he is being a creep. Kaori just happens to be the girl that’s in love with his best friend. What a coincidence! Through various unique and quirky events, they gradually become closer and closer. Kousei finds himself falling deeper and deeper for her insanely talented violin playing, and her bright and cheerful demeanor.

Kaori, after learning about Kousei’s history as a pianist, wanted him to be her accompanist for her upcoming competition. He at first denied her invitation, but eventually gave into her requests. During the performance, the one thing that he dreaded had happened. He couldn’t hear the sound of his piano, despite having perfect hearing. He became unable to hear the piano after an incident that had scarred him emotionally. Maybe as well as being called the “Human Metronome.”

Overall, Your Lie in April is a heartwarming anime that will leave you in tears. Its beautiful Original Soundtrack fits well with the events going on, and its voice actors capture the emotions of the characters amazingly.  
Danganronpa

*By Harrison Taylor, Grade 8*

The Animation is a murder mystery anime based on a video game. In it, 15 extraordinary students are trapped in a prestigious high school. Their headmaster, Monokuma, stated that in order to leave the school and rejoin society, they have to kill someone else. However, they must also pull off the perfect murder, and survive the following Class Trial. If they are voted guilty in the trial, then they will be executed. However, if someone else is voted, then the killer can go free and everyone else will be executed. All of this takes place within a high school known as Hope’s Peak Academy.

Hope’s Peak Academy is a school for students with high amounts of talent. They are known as Ultimates (Or Super High School Levels, in the Japanese version,) Ultimates are chosen from all fields, regardless of how legal they are. The antenna-haired protagonist, Makoto Naegi, is average, and was only selected by pure chance. He was selected from a lottery to be allowed to enter the school as the Ultimate Luckster. He is a member of Class 78, as in the 78th class to attend Hope’s Peak. On his entrance ceremony, he feels very dizzy and passes out. He then wakes up and meets the 14 other students trapped with him within this School of Despair. Will he survive the Killing School Life? Only one way to find out! “Upupupu…”


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Video Game Reviews

**Azure Striker Gunvolt**

*By Harrison Taylor, Grade 8*

Azure Striker Gunvolt is a relatively unknown video game series available only on the 3DS and PC through Steam. It is a side scrolling shooter, in which you play as a teenage boy known only as Gunvolt. The goal of the game is to beat the Sumeragi Corporation, an organization that tries to utilize people with Septimal powers for energy.

Septima is a power that people are born with. It’s essentially like psychic powers. It manifests in many different ways. For example, the protagonist has the Azure Thunderclap Septima, which allows him to control electricity. There’s even the ability to control hair which appears in the second game.

In the tutorial/first mission, he is sent onto a cargo train to terminate an AI known as The Muse, aka Lumen. The tutorial teaches you how to control his electricity, including how to electrocute enemies using his bullets. It also teaches you how to use the Skill System.

At the end of the stage, when he locates Lumen, he finds out that Lumen is nothing more than a manifestation of a little girl named Joule’s Septimal Power, which is called the Muse. Sumeragi wanted this power, because they can use it to locate Adepts (the term used in the game for people with Septima), and it has other bonuses too. He decides to spare Joule, and she moves in with him, since Sumeragi is now on the hunt to recapture her.

The game has a really fun feature that is vital to the storyline. When you die in game, there is a chance for Lumen to use her Skill, called “Anthem” (which, is the same skill Sumeragi used to find Adepts,) to revive you, and grant you increased strength. The form the skill takes is a custom song for the game, called “Reincarnation”.

The game is really fun to play, and I would suggest it to anyone who has a 3DS or PC with Steam.

*Source:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyM6yfBC_gU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyM6yfBC_gU)
Animal Crossing: New Leaf

By Harrison Taylor, Grade 8

Animal Crossing: New Leaf is a life simulator for the 3DS. The player, a human, comes to a town inhabited by animals and is mistaken for their new mayor. The human then gets a house and has to work off the loan to obtain it.

The game has many different features in it, for the player to have fun with. You can spend all of your time trying to complete the game’s museum, or spend time making friends. You can even spend all of your Bells (the in-game currency) expanding your house to it’s max size. The NPCs in the game have varying personalities, and have the ability to move in and out of the town. They can also ask you to do things for them, or buy things from the shops. The more of these requests you complete, the higher the Citizen Satisfaction level will be.

Inside the Town Hall, you can talk to Isabelle, an NPC who is the mayor’s assistance. Therefore they are your assistant. You can talk to her for help learning to use the game, and to create buildings within the town. There are many buildings that are inaccessible at first, but can be created / unlocked by doing things in game or requesting to create it. There is one that is even made able to be built by not saving your game before shutting it down.

In the end, Animal Crossing: New Leaf is a cute life simulator that doesn’t really end. You can do basically anything in it, and there isn’t really any limits to it. I personally really like it, and would suggest it to anyone looking for a fun 3DS game.


Short Story

Harry Potter

By: Hanna Koh, Chloe Koh, Harrison Taylor, Amy Cai, Shane Adams, Escher Carroll, Soren Simpson, Siena Fiore (Harry Potter Club)

Harry walked into the large decrepit mansion. It was the same house that Draco inhabited. Inside the foyer, there was a large painting of a basilisk coiled around a large crystal trophy. Draco tripped over a non-existent rug while coming to greet Harry. A yellow tentacle monster walked in as Draco fell on Harry. Draco broke his nose on Harry’s aggressively sharp jawline. Reacting on instinct, Harry fixed Draco’s nose. The tentacle monster lifted Draco up by his leg, causing his shirt to fall over his face, and swallowed him in one gulp. Harry felt his face contort into one of horror as he saw his friend disappear into the darkness. Ron walked in and watched this spectacle take place. The tentacle monster ricocheted back into the wall as Draco fought viciously in the monster’s succulent esophagus. Draco felt the wall hit him from inside the monster.

The monster roared “Get out of my fan fiction,” as it charged at Ron. Ron ran backward, but tripped over the non-existent rug and the monster ate him, but he met Draco in a succulent place under the ground.

“This place is very weird, but I wonder how we can get out of here.” Ron said. None of them had any idea what was going on. It was as if a bunch of people who didn’t know anything were writing a story all at once.

Draco pulled out his wand with a flourish and said “Lumos Maxima.” Naturally, everyone was blinded due to the immense light. Since no one could see, everyone screamed like babies. A few minutes later, Draco’s and Ron’s sight returned, and everything went back to normal, as normal as a succulent place under the ground could be. Harry, left alone in the place above the ground, was feeling left out. He had no friends (other than Ron and Draco,) and Ginny hated him because he didn’t try to save Ron. Now that the rest of her family was gone or dead, she was all alone, just like Harry. So Ginny threw Harry into the monster’s moist mouth.

Harry found himself in the succulent place under the ground, and the devil ate him so he went into the extra succulent place under the ground. He was astonished by its succulence. So Harry got used to the new succulent world.
Informative Writing

Thermal Solar Cells

By Sherin Chethippuzha Philip, Grade 8

Solar Power can be extremely useful at times, by cutting down your electricity bill, saving your money, and helping the planet. However, solar panels can also be extremely bulky and can't store energy for later use. According to the article My Advice: Understand the Advantages, Disadvantages of Different Solar Cells and Who the Market Leaders Are, solar cells are “a device that converts the energy of sunlight directly into electricity by the photovoltaic effect.” This means that solar cells can convert sunlight into energy faster than solar panels. Photovoltaic is transferring the sun's energy into electricity so that it can be used. Researchers at MIT are working on a solar thermophotovoltaics which can take in more of the sun's energy faster that will be more capable of generating power than a solar panel. So far, the materials to make thermal solar cells cost a lot, and it can only work inside a vacuum. However, the next steps to making solar cells are to make bigger models that can be used outside of a laboratory. When scientists have run enough tests on solar cells and say they are ready to be sold, hopefully they will cost less and will keep the planet healthy.


Survey

A Survey of 3 Members of Newspaper Club

By Olivia Bustillos, Grade 8

If you had a magic wand and could change anything about the school, what would be the number one change you would make and why?
Harrison: Change the food options because he wants food from everywhere
Anshu: Be able to use phones so that research would be easier and there wouldn’t be a hassle of who has computers
Veda: Make it easier to earn A’s because people can get good grades and not have to stress as much

What makes a good teacher/principal?
Harrison: A headmaster that splits the school into different sections (like Harry Potter)
Anshu: Getting along with all students
Veda: Candy

Are there enough foreign language options? If not, what would you like to see added?
Harrison: Japanese
Anshu: Morse Code
Veda: Telugu and Hindi

Which subject do you think prepares you most for life after high school? Why?
Harrison: Library assistant because if you want to be a librarian you will know how to work as a librarian
Anshu: Wood shop because you learn building skills
Veda: Math because you can make simple calculations

What classes do you think they should teach in school that they aren’t right now? Why?
Harrison: Cooking classes so that people will know how to cook
Anshu: Parent classes so that people will know how to raise a child
Veda: Cooking classes so that people will know how to cook
D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself!) 

Metallic Candles

By Veda Singireddy, Grade 8

You need:
- Wax candles(s)
- 1 pair of scissors
- Metallic Duct Tape

Steps to follow:
1. Remove any plastic packaging on the candle.
2. Wrap the duct tape around the candle starting at the top (horizontally).
3. When you have reached the bottom of the candle, cut the duct tape.
4. Wrap any extra duct tape under the candle.
5. Repeat the steps above with other candles, and try it out with different colors.


Art

A Quote

By Hanna Koh, Grade 8

We are all made out of the same cosmic dust.

- Ulysses, Legendary Defender

[Image of a quote]