

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Stretch Your Imagination
with Norton Juster's

The Phantom Tollbooth

Linda Ho

Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* is the tale of a boy who was always bored and didn't know why – until he takes a trip through the “Lands Beyond” with the help of a mysterious tollbooth that appears in his room. Sounds surreal? I'll be honest: it's a children's book. There are pictures every few pages, and it's been described as a “modern-day fairy tale.” Its appeal lies in its simplicity, but this is exactly what makes it a double-edged sword in terms of AR points: it's a good book if you only have a few points to finish off, but if you've barely started your points, this would not be a wise choice.



The Phantom Tollbooth is refreshingly straightforward about the fact that it is an allegory with a message: education brings order and interest to the world. Its honesty is precisely what allows it to get away with this. Even if you ignore the message (like I did when I read it for the first time several years ago), the story stands alone as a delight. Think Dr. Seuss meets Alice in Wonderland meets Roald Dahl. The book is bursting with puns and clever plays on words. The characters have allegorical names – King Azaz rules the land of letters and words, his brother the Mathemagician comes from a land of numbers, and Rhyme and Reason are sisters.

This book may seem childish to some – but it's a 6.7 ATOS level, with 7 AR points and quiz number 130 – but it's almost the end of the year. You have the summer away from people who make fun of you.

Because descriptions of puns aren't nearly enough, I entice you with various quotes taken from the book:

- “You can swim all day in the Sea of Knowledge and not get wet.”
- “I don't know of any wrong road to Dictionopolis, so if this road goes to Dictionopolis at all it must be the right road, and if it doesn't it must be the right road to somewhere else, because there are no wrong roads to anywhere.”
- “Whether or not you find your own way, you're bound to find some way. If you happen to find my way, please return it, as it was lost years ago. I imagine by now it's quite rusty.”
- “Why not? That's a good reason for almost anything – a bit used perhaps, but still quite serviceable.” ***Linda's note: this is my answer if you're still asking me why you should read this book.

Albums of summer #13

Elsa Ayala

1. **Daft Punk**- Random Access Memories/ May 17
2. **Vampire Weekend**- Modern Vampires of the City/ May 14
3. **Big Time Rush**- 24/Seven/ June 11
4. **Jimmy Eat World**- Damage/ June 11
5. **3OH!3**- Omens/ June 18



Bullet For My Valentine overview

Yasmine Gutierrez

The Welsh group Bullet For My Valentine is one that fans of classic metal would enjoy. After fallout with some band members and a change in musical direction, the band secured a five-album deal with Sony BMG in 2002, thus beginning their legacy. According to front man Matthew Tuck, they went from the “nu metal” trend set by Korn and Limp Bizkit to thrash metal with “harmony guitars and angelic choruses” and working around the precedents set by classic metal bands like Metallica, Iron Maiden, and Slayer. Their debut album, *The Poison*, dropped in 2005 and helped the band make their mark in the UK as well as the US. Their sophomore album *Scream Aim Fire* was more up tempo, but much more aggressive and raw, helping to secure their title of “heavy metal band.” More success came in 2009 in the form of their third studio album *Fever*; Tuck stated that their current and upcoming records would “stand the test of time” with their classic rock vibe. In February, their most recent album *Temper Temper* was released and showed more of the timeless rock and metal that left fans wanting more.

Personal picks from each album:

The Poison (2005)

- All These Things I Hate (Revolve Around Me)
- Cries In Vain
- Tears Don't Fall
- Her Voice Resides
- Room 409

Scream Aim Fire (2007)

- Scream Aim Fire
- Waking the Demon
- Deliver Us From Evil
- Say Goodnight (electric and acoustic)
- Ashes of the Innocent

Fever (2009)

- Your Betrayal
- The Last Fight
- A Place Where You Belong
- Alone
- Dignity

Temper Temper (2013)

- Breaking Point
- Temper Temper
- P.O.W.
- Riot
- Tears Don't Fall, Pt.2
- Not Invincible



6. **Wale**- The Gifted/ June 25
7. **Sara Bareilles**- The Blessed Unrest/ July 16
8. **Chris Brown**- X/ July 16

Talent Show Highlights

By Dax Capangpangan

Last month, there was a talent show, and many of you may have missed it because of your completely busy social lives (developing the relationship between you and your pillow, right?), so here's a list of the highlights of the show.

- Several acts of singing and dancing (What, did you not expect to see this here? Well, they were phenomenal, as always)
- The Improv club's improv skit (Me, on stage, no? Well, I liked me)
- Just Dance 3 on stage (People were embarrassing themselves on stage. Intentionally. Need I say more?)
- Jahnke's singing! (This is what many people were talking about for days after the show. If you haven't at least seen videos of him singing, then you've missed out)
- The MCs (...well, they were something.... Just kidding. They were funny and kept the show going)

Also, if you're wondering who won, it was **Omaida Axume and Hector Torres** in first, followed by **Jesus Salcedo and Michael Castillo** in second, and **Frank Guardron and Erik Bautista** in third. Congrats!



The MCs



Omaida Axume and Hector Torres



The Improv Club



Multicultural Show 2013

By Serratia Krank

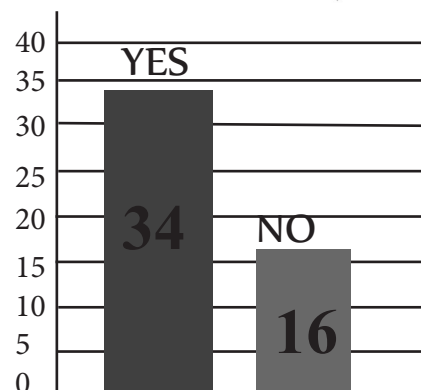
The most anticipated and celebrated event has arrived. The Multicultural Show, sponsored by the Spanish department and

directed by Mrs. Jordan, is scheduled for this upcoming May 23rd from 4:00pm to 9:00pm. This event includes a variety of cultural dishes, recreational booths, a fashion show, and live performances from your peers. This HMSA traditional event has gone on for years, bringing in audiences of over 700 guests. It is also traditionally held on a Thursday and this year it's immediately followed by a 4-day weekend! With the help of 9th-11th grade Spanish students, and a handful of dedicated seniors, HMSA transforms from a school to a cultural-blending festival filled with friends, family, food, and fun. After two long gruesome weeks of AP testing, it's the perfect event to relax and enjoy the unique cultural diversity HMSA provides.

Hope to see you there.

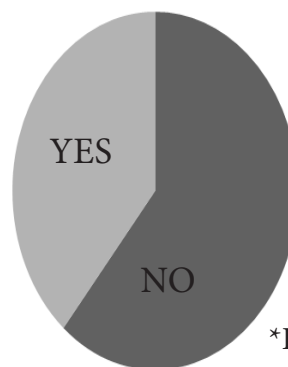


Are You Excited for Multicultural?



WERE YOU READY FOR AP EXAMS?

AP Exam Readiness



Based on 11 people

AVIATOR NEWS

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Invisible Man

by Ralph Ellison

By Nhi Nguyen



PAGE-BURNERS



The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity

By Gaby Rodriguez

“The narrator made it really hard to enjoy the novel because every dilemma he encountered, he complained and took no action.”

Although Invisible Man portrays an important message about the necessity of viewing humanity with an open mind, there are parts where the novel seems

to be tormented with wordy rants and wild ideas. Obviously, the ideas presented are very significant and emotional, especially the hardships of African-American history, so it's not to say that it is a bad novel, because it is, indeed, a very powerful one. However, the novel seems to take a different turn when the narrator becomes a popular orator. At this point, the story turns away from the theme of exploring one's identity to portraying the rage of African-Americans. This is not necessarily a bad thing; however, it is not agreeable to every reader. This novel is definitely not a happy-ending type of story; it shows how the protagonist devotes such a large chunk of his life trying to find his identity only to keep failing until he ends up living alone underground. The story is full of segments where the author seemsto use the story as a way to go on angry rants. The narrator made it really hard to enjoy the novel because every dilemma he encountered, he complained and took no action. He blamed others for his predicaments and he never took the initiative to find out if there's something he could do about it, or if there was someone behind those disastrous events. Thus, one can't help but conclude that the message is essentially that African-Americans cannot overcome racial prejudice. To reach this conclusion, it takes 580 pages and countless bizarre moments. Sure, the grammar is good, and the punctuation is right on, but the story could have been well executed in half that space, saving stress and frustration in the process.

If you're very religious and you are interested in reading about God and other people's point of views on him, then you should read this book. If you want a different image on God, you should also read this book.

To be honest, I expected this book to be really good because of the reviews and descriptions that were on the back. The reviews were decent and the back cover had a summary describing a girl who was kidnapped and thought to be murdered (which I guess is true in the first couple of chapters). The publishers over-emphasized what sells – crimes and murders – but did not reveal that the book is mostly about God.

During the first few chapters, I was really drawn into the book because the crime was taking place, but then everything all just shifted to God. That honestly got me kind of mad; I didn't expect this to be one of the things that I'm not the biggest fan of: religion. I don't oppose it, but it doesn't interest me. It felt as if the book was trying to make me change my view on God and suddenly enlighten me or have me worship God. I've been on the same chapter for the past 2 weeks and I am not looking forward to opening the book again.

The author's name is W.B. Paul Young. It is a fiction novel, and it's worth some good points (13.0) while having an easy book level (6.6), but that's the only thing it has going for. I really don't recommend this book to anyone – not even to the people who really love God and are extremely interested in religion. This book tries changing how you see him or wish to see him, and that may anger people.

If someone still wants to read despite my warnings, good luck and happy reading.

I'm Repulsed

By Linda Ho

Sapphire's "Push" is one of the most mind-curdling books I've ever read. It's the frictional story of a girl who gives birth to two children by her father. If it was written by a more skilled author, this could've been a moving tribute to victims of sexual abuse. However, it's obvious that Sapphire is no true author. She is unable to show the main character's anguish...or whatever that emotion is. Instead, long, lurid passages are saturated with as much descriptions of rape as possible.

I remember hearing people who read the book gush over how much it made them cry, so I was disappointed when I read it and realized the author's true purpose: not to transport the reader into the main character's shoes, but simply to make the reader cry. That's right. Cry. The fact is, a book that moves you to tears is not necessarily well-written (for the record, I didn't cry). Those long passages about rape fill up most of the book. There is no real journey. The main character, Precious, mostly states events; internal conflict is more or less nonexistent. You would think that she would be slightly self-destructive or defensive as a result of her abuse, but instead she feels no malice/resentment/hatred against her own baby and treats him as a perfect mother. Things fall together too unrealistically. What's more, the conclusion feels hasty and abrupt. Just like –



Death of a Salesman

By Lubna Malik

Although many believe that "Death of a Salesman" is Arthur Miller's best play, it has its share of faults and shortcomings. The first reason this play is not a page-turner is because it lacks suspense. Although it is a drama and not a tragedy, all stories should include some element of suspense in order to keep the reader entertained. In this case, the ending is already given in the title so readers already know that the main character is going to die.

Another aspect of the play that doesn't make it a good read is that that protagonist, Willy Loman, is the only dynamic character. His two sons, Happy and Biff, are difficult to relate to because they are two men around the age of thirty but still act as if they were young boys. Happy has a steady job and keeps promising his parents that he will soon settle and get married but never really gets far in anything. Biff manages to get into an argument with his father every time he comes home because Willy wants him to make it big somehow but Biff cannot keep a steady job to save his life.

Although Willy Loman is an intriguing character, he is also frustrating. Willy has options; he has opportunities. However, for some reason, he does not take them and is unwilling to diverge from his old, soured dreams. His successful neighbor continually offers him a decent job but Willy never accepts it without ever offering an explanation. Thus, he has a chance to pursue a new life but instead chooses a miserable path leading to his ultimate death.

Title	Book Level	AR Quiz No.
The Shack	6.6	136835
Invisible Man	7.2	19790
Death of a Salesman	6.2	5980
Push	4.0	135071

World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War

By Jerome Casio



PAGE-TURNERS



Charlie St. Cloud
By Jocelyn De La Cueva

“World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War”

is a post-apocalyptic novel documenting a fictional war involving humans and zombies. Max Brooks writes the novel as a journal of his post-war interviews with survivors.

The book is perfect for zombie fanatics that enjoy reading. The best part is that each interview is from a different character so there's a lot of character development. The reader gets attached to each interviewee, because the stories are full of deep emotions and occasional action sequences for those who need it.

Brooks takes a political and dark approach in the zombie genre. He slows the pace of down, which is something the genre needs right now with all the action-filled, cliché-filled, plot-lacking media about zombies. It's a fresh way to tell the plot.

World War Z is original and cleverly written. It gives the genre a sensational break with its original plot, emotion, and strong characters. It's a shame the movie



adaption coming out this summer is going to flop, but “World War Z” seems like it'd fit better in the small screen instead. Readers looking for strong content will enjoy reading this book, whether or not they're fans of the undead.

Always Running:

La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.

By Gabriel Ferrufino

“Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.” by Luis Rodriguez is by far the best book I have ever read in my whole life! It is just such an amazing book and just keeps you interested throughout the whole thing and wanting to keep reading to find out what happens next. There is not one bad thing that I can say about this amazing book.

The book is nonfiction; it is Luis Rodriguez's autobiography. He struggles through school, becomes gang affiliated, and turns his life around. There are so many dramatic points and a shocking twist at the end. Rodriguez wrote the book for his son who is beginning to follow in his footsteps into the life of a gang member. That is, the book is meant to illustrate the horrors Rodriguez experienced because of the gang life so the son is discouraged from going down the wrong road in life.

The book is 262 pages long, but the long reading is very much worth it and it doesn't even feel long because it's such a good book. I loved reading the whole thing and was captivated by every event. It is only thirteen points, but it is a good nonfiction book, which should be extremely helpful since people are always trying to find a nonfiction book that isn't boring and this is the very opposite of that.

So if you like suspense and shocking twists, this is the book for you. I highly recommend it to anybody and everybody.

A Passage to the Unknown

By Geny Moya

A passage to an unknown, magical world? A world filled of shadow hunters and demons? “Clockwork Princess” is definitely your portal to this world. Written by Cassandra Clare, it is the third book of the series “The Infernal Devices.” Although it has 625 pages, the font is large and the book level is 6.1, making this book an easy 25 points. However, once you start reading this book you get lost in this fictional world of shadow hunters, demons, shape shifters, and vampires. Once you start reading this book you will wish this world actually existed. Who wouldn't want a world like this? A book that makes you question the mysterious shadow hunter world. The world where evil magic exists and you have to fight it. While on a trip to England in search of her brother, sixteen-year-old Tessa Gray is abducted by the Dark Sisters, who teach her of her rare ability to transform into any person by just carrying any of his/her possessions. The first book is about finding her brother and meeting the Shadow hunters. Both the second and third books are about falling in love. In “Clockwork Princess,” Tessa finds herself in trouble and in love with two guys: William Herondale, an extremely handsome guy (who happens to be a total jerk due to his fear of being cursed by a demon) and Jem Cartsaers, who isn't as good looking but extremely sweet. However, Tessa isn't the only one with a problem: Jem is dying. “Clockwork Princess” is an easy 25 points that you will absolutely love. You do need those 25 points, so why not pick this amazing book? If you like the first book then it will be easy to read the other two books for a total of 68 points.

The Pregnancy Project

By Nishrat Khan

A senior project about faking a pregnancy sounds interesting, right? If you are interested in reading a book about how a teenage girl uses her fake pregnancy to battle stereotypes, then you must read “The Pregnancy Project.” It is a nonfiction book written by Gaby Rodriguez, who narrates the many struggles she has to go through living in a big Mexican family with a single mother – all while faking her pregnancy as her senior project to inform students about the stereotypes many people have to go through every day. The quiz number is 151534 and book level is 6.5, so you should definitely read this. This memoir is such a great book to read because not only does it address a normal teenager's life, it also gets your nonfiction requirement out of the way with 8 AR points.

Although there is a movie based on the book, I highly recommend the book over the movie because the book has important background details that the movie does not show or address at all. Knowing those details helps you better understand why Gaby would want to fake her own pregnancy. She has to go through many harsh and difficult critics because of her “pregnancy”, but she works through them and does not let them bother her because she really wants this project to be a success. It is an important book to read because it does not exaggerate anything in it so you'll feel like you're reading a memoir from an actual person instead of a story.

Ben Sherwood's “Charlie St. Cloud” is a fictional heartbreaking novel about two brothers separated by death. Sherwood reveals a world of a young brother looking to face reality but finds it hard to accept. When Sam dies in a car accident, Charlie does not accept the fact that his younger brother dies. However, he promises his brother that he will always be there for him. Charlie becomes miserable and visits his brother's ghost every day in a forest where they play their favorite sport together, baseball. The fact that Charlie refuses to let go of his brother reveals the strong love that both brothers have for each other.

When one is reading the novel, it engages one to be in Charlie's place and imagine how his world is filled with unhappiness. The reader learns that Charlie feels miserable for not being able to be with his brother anymore and that his brother is there with him only in spirit. Yet when Charlie falls in love with a girl, he is trapped in a world that forces him to make a difficult decision in his life. A book about two brothers' love that is too strong to let go of is a moving story that will be worth reading.

The book is an easy read; it is enjoyable because you feel as if you are actually in Charlie's place. Charlie discovers that facing reality was something he eventually had to do to let his brother rest in peace and so he can finally find happiness. Charlie's experience reveals that you should not feel as if your world has ended after someone's death. You should learn to let go and find happiness. If you want to read an interesting story and get some AR points, this is a great book.

Amy Tan's The Joy Luck Club

By Elizabeth Nolasco



“The Joy Luck Club” is a novel bound by cultural mystique, feminist charm, and limitless love. It's the perfect novel to snuggle up to on a quiet afternoon when you have enough time to think and appreciate; but do know you may experience a rush of tears by the end—or beginning?

Though our school is notorious for “not having enough time,” “The Joy Luck Club” is filled with such amazing tales of heroism, civil war, and mother-daughter bonds that an afternoon of reading will quickly, and most unnoticeably, fly-by. Best part? It's a fiction book worth a total of 14 points!

Not wanting to bore prospective readers, I'll give you a quick, non-spoiler, summary. The novel is set in different time periods belonging to different generations of women; modern, 20th century San Francisco belongs to the daughters, while communist-civil war drenched, 1940s China belongs to the mothers. Each mother tells a riveting story of their struggles in China, primarily focusing on the cruelty women endured in a patriarchal society. Each daughter tells a story of their own lives, reflecting on the difficulties of being Chinese-American and not knowing what culture they truly belong to. “The Joy Luck Club” is by far one of the greatest books I've ever read, and I sincerely recommend it as your next AR fiction book.

Title	Book Level	AR Quiz No.
Clockwork Princess	6.1	157982
Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.	6.2	41129
The Joy Luck Club	5.7	7111
The Pregnancy Project	6.5	151534
World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War	7.1	136769
Charlie St. Cloud	5.1	142774



Boys' Volleyball Team

By Juan Dominguez

HMSA's volleyball athletes ended their season with an impressive three-win streak, the final victory coming against Lawndale. The boys shared the bittersweet moment with supporters and the rest of the team, since a majority of the team will be graduating in a few weeks. The team is composed mostly of seniors, so it's going to be challenging for the remaining team members to recruit new players; nevertheless, HMSA has bright students eager to try new things, and there's no doubt the team will pick up where it started, in the fall. Neil Graham (12) stated that "the team is united and [they] are all friends." He has no doubt that the underclassmen on the team will improve and recruit new members with ease. He also points out that the remaining team members have improved tremendously over the course of the season, so there is nothing to worry about for next season. There is always room for improvement, and HMSA is full of experts who strive to improve their skills, whether it's in athletics or intellect. The seniors want the remaining team members to be cautious about their grades and eligibility requirements; each year becomes a bit stressful for students, but the seniors assured their team members that they can handle it. Even though the season is over, the team continues to practice, further showing that they "care about each other and respect [everyone's] contribution to the team." The seniors are excited to graduate, but wish the volleyball team good luck next year, and hope they "continue playing no matter what."



Kobe Bryant: CAN HE SHOW US AGAIN?

By Anthuan Cruz

Kobe Bryant, the face of the Lakers for 17 years, may have ended his career with an injury. He has suffered a torn Achilles' tendon, and it may be difficult for him to recover due to his age. Kobe was playing like he was in his early twenties before the injury. It not only frustrated and upset Kobe, but destroyed the fans' morale as well.

It does not matter what team you go for or what city you are from, you should still give this man the respect he deserves. He has spent countless hours improving his game and played with many legends. He has won five championships, an MVP award, gold at the Olympics, and has broken many records. He can make the whole stadium chant MVP for him even though the Lakers aren't playing at home. Michael Jordan himself said that Kobe is the closest player to him. His ability of play is unreal and he is willing to do anything to win. He has played through injuries and illnesses, and continues to be productive despite his condition. Even right after his recent injury, Kobe walked to the free throw line, shot two free throws, and walked off the court. As many fans cried and gasped, Kobe was still able to show how determined he is. Other players in the NBA are often carried off the court for a leg cramp or escorted with a wheelchair for an arm injury (yes you Paul Pierce).

The question many fans are asking: can he do it again? Kobe has showed us countless times that nothing can stop him, but what goes up must come down. The only one who can really determine if he is done is the man himself. Kobe will be able to play again next season and many fans are indecisive whether his return is a smart choice or not. Some argue that Kobe should fight to keep the team alive during the season, while others say it is smarter for him to get a long rest to prevent another injury.

If you say you hate Kobe or say he's a horrible player, then you don't know basketball. You haven't seen the hardships and struggles he has gone through to be where he is today. He is a very inspirational player and has become the face of Los Angeles. It's like describing a book as too long or boring, sounds to me like you didn't really read the book. Before you make an assumption about Kobe, get to know the legend that you are belittling.

For an insight of Kobe's greatest moments, please watch this Nike Commercial: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TXXeONnzs0

Spanish Downfall

By Enrique Ruvalcaba



After disappointing performances from Real Madrid and Barcelona in the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League against German teams, there have been questions about the Spanish dominance in Europe. Madrid and Barcelona's failures have exposed the truth about the Spanish La Liga in general: It's overrated.

In recent years, Barcelona has posted the best defense in Spain and the best offense (The past 4 seasons and current season). In their matchup against the newly crowned German

champions, Bayern Munich, they suffered a 7-0 debacle. Blanked. Massacred. Lionel Messi and company couldn't penetrate a solid Bayern backline. The defense couldn't hold out speedy trio of Thomas Müller, Frank Ribery, and Arjen Robben on the flanks.

Real Madrid, who thrived under manager Jose Mourinho since he took over four years ago, were ousted by Borussia Dortmund 4-3, but were embarrassed in the first leg 4-1. Madrid struggled with the counterattack and speed of Dortmund's offense composed of German wunderkinds Marco Reus and Mario Gotze along with veteran goal scorer Robert Lewandowski. The most underrated squad this year, Borussia Dortmund, boasts one of the youngest squads and surprisingly was able to eliminate an experienced Real Madrid with a similar style to Bayerns'. Both teams rely on their speedy wingers down the flanks and create space for their sole striker in the box. Exposing the Spanish fullbacks' and central midfielders' struggles, it's clear both Spanish teams haven't faced teams of this magnitude.

How does this matchup reflect La Liga as a whole? Comparing the players between leagues, it is noticeable there's no players like Müller, Ribery, and Robben in La Liga (With the exception of Barcelona's and Real Madrid's players). Besides Real Madrid, Barcelona doesn't face elite caliber players week in and week out. The lack of competition in recent years of La Liga has led the league and the Spanish Giants to a downfall. The German Bundesliga can boast the high-level competition it delivers as shown by an all German UEFA Champions League Final. Not only that, other German teams such as Schalke 04 and Bayer Leverkusun have stepped it up. This is Bayern Munich's third Champion League final in four years. The German dominance of Europe is slowly overthrowing the Spanish. Outside of Barcelona and Real Madrid, no other Spanish team has stepped it up in the UEFA Champions League.

In the last five Champions League tournaments, only two Spanish teams have made it to the round of 16 and two have made it to the quarterfinals. La Liga's mediocrity has put an end to the dominance of Barcelona and Real Madrid. The Germans have been able to advance further into the Champions League. The competitiveness of the German Bundesliga has placed the Germans into the circle of elite status. Very well deserved and about time. It is the era of the Germans now.



America:
Rich
and
DUMB

by Nengel Torres

BACK PAGE

**Broken Law That
Leads to Breaking
the Law**

by Abdul Zahid and
Michael Castillo

DEAD SPACE 3 GAME REVIEW

by Anthony Rodriguez

The United States of America is known as the world's only superpower. One would expect it to be the leader in education but it's actually seven-teenth. The leader in education is Finland, a nation north of Russia and east of Norway. What's wrong with America's school system? There are several problems that the American school system is facing: budget problems, loss of excellent teachers, violence, etc. How is it that the wealthiest nation is in seventeenth place in education? Surely a wealthy nation would be able to keep its schools in top shape, but it doesn't. Some schools are well maintained while others are in dire need of repair. If one believes sending children to school earlier is the solution then they're wrong. Toddlers aren't mature enough to go to school at age four. Their mind is set on playing rather than focusing on education. In Finland, children do not go to school until they are seven years old. At that age, children aren't as hyper and will focus more on their education. The main problem that needs fixing is the teachers (Not our teachers, of course). Other schools have teachers that are terrible at their job and schools can't get rid of them because of teachers' unions. Unions used to be great when companies were paying workers a couple pennies an hour for sixteen hours a day; but now unions are beating down the companies. In Italy, garbage men protested for higher paychecks and demanded an annual salary of thirty-thousand dollars. This may not seem like a lot until it's compared to a nurse's starting salary of \$40,000. Unions aren't serving their purpose anymore. This is the same for the teachers' union. Schools can't fire terrible teachers because the Union will protest across all of California's (or any other state) schools. Teachers should also be paid more. An intelligent, graduate student straight out of graduate school would almost never choose teaching as their career, unless it's what they wanted to do when they were a kid. Most graduate students go off to other careers that pay well because they want to make money. In Finland, teachers have the same status as a lawyer or a doctor. They are treated with the respect they deserve since they're educating a nation's youth. If teachers were paid more, students could still have terrible teachers, right? There's a chance; but that chance could be narrowed down by looking at Finland's system. People can only become a teacher if they were in the top ten percent of their university. This assures that the brightest are teaching, and not the D students from high school. Another thing that should be noted is the way students are taught. America's students are taught to pass exams. Students study to pass the exam their teacher gives them. After a month or even a week, the students forget it. Teaching focus needs to change from passing exams to remembering for long periods of time. More senior students in HMSA will remember Mr. Jahnke's and Mr. Launius' life lessons than the standards they teach.

Isaac is back in this third installment of Dead Space with all new equipment, strategies, and weapons to take on the necromorphs! Gameinformer gave Dead Space 3 a 9.5/10 as well as the "Game of the Month" award for March. A quick background on Dead Space: it all started with Isaac Clarke and a group military officers that were sent on a repair mission to the USG Ishimura. They quickly found out that the whole crew on the ship went insane and started killing other members. Survivors of the ship faced a new horror when the dead started coming back and transforming into grotesque creatures called necromorphs. The source of the insanity was from an artifact called the Marker which sent signals to people making them hallucinate. Isaac fought his way out of the nightmare only to find himself succumbing to the same hallucinations the crew fell under. However, the Marker also gave him a mental blueprint to create more Markers.

Isaac is lost in space for 2 years before being recovered by a space station called the Sprawl. Isaac again faces the necromorphs when the government tries to use Isaac to create Markers for unlimited amounts of energy they possess. Isaac destroys the Marker he created and tries to run away from all that he's been through. This is where Dead Space 3 starts off. In Dead Space 3 there are new enemies that make you think twice about how to approach them. If you aren't careful they can sneak up on you, tear you to pieces, and laugh about it afterwards (it's quite demotivating actually). Fear not! Isaac also comes equipped with a few new tools of destruction himself. In the previous Dead Space games purchasing weapons and upgrading them seemed to be the only thing Isaac could do to get stronger. Didn't like the weapons they gave you? Tough luck. But now Isaac can craft new weapons that suit your infected-slaying needs. He also can craft two completely different weapons into one gun; shooting necromorphs with nails while setting them on fire seems pretty fun.

Also, in the previous games there was only one way to go: forward. Dead Space 3 lets you explore more areas and even play optional missions which allow you to collect more items for armor, weapons, and equipment. It can get pretty hectic trying to take on a horde of enemies and for the most part Dead Space tends to really surround you with enemies. Feel like it is too much? Grab a friend and play co-op. The new co-op feature allows players to play as John Carver, a military officer that follows Isaac on his missions. With new ways to play, new enemies trying to kill Isaac, and a new storyline, why didn't it get a 10/10? There was a lot of backtracking in the game from going on optional missions. Other than that the game was intense, thrilling, and awesome. I definitely recommend this game for other gamers looking for a fun, scary challenge.



Michael: "I was reading an article the other day. It was about how an unmarried woman was violated in her sleep and the offender got away with only 3 years in prison. If she was married, he would have gotten a longer sentence."

Abdul: "Ah, that article. Apparently he snuck into her house, impersonated her boyfriend, and did the deed; by the time she realized he wasn't her boyfriend, it was too late. The judge considers it assault but it's not assault according to the judicial system. Some really old law played a part in protecting him. He did not receive a major sentence for the crime, but if she was married, the perpetrator would have faced a greater sentence."

Michael: "Oh right, there is another thing about this whole incident. The criminal applied for an appeal and won. He got away with it."

Abdul: "Alright, so where exactly is the justice? I mean, how does this even happen?"

Michael: "There is no justice. From what I understand, the law originated in the 1870's and was made as a result of similar incidents in England. Why only married woman though? Oh well, at least this whole incident brought this to the attention of the Supreme Court. It might take a while before anything changes though."

Abdul: "Well consider that back in the 1800's, the concept of 'girlfriends' was akin to mistresses. People got married back then, mostly for *gasp* business transactions, rather than 'love.' The law recognized married women as 'proper' and more 'self-righteous' than unmarried women, who were seen as common slatterns. You got to consider, that with that sick mindset, whoever made the law must have thought that if an unmarried woman was violated, she must - in some way- have 'wanted' it."

Michael: "Reminds me of 'The Scarlet Letter.' Oh well, at least things are changing now. Despite that, I still don't think that this whole incident should be left like this. The criminal is free to go while she suffers trauma. I hope this case gets revisited later when the new law is in action...if there is a new law."

Abdul: "Hopefully with the media attention they fix this law, but there are still hundreds of other similar broken laws that need mending, and in every state. The sheer number of these laws coupled with the lack of resources only allow for lawlessness to rise. It's really sad, laws made to protect people are doing their job: they're protecting criminals."