

Total Books: 27  
Holidays:3  
Just Right:19  
Challenging:5

Ok best books of the year: Winger, awesome book, combines an incredible voice, funny sketches, and a great story. Second is a toss up between any of the Lunar Chronicles as this is one of the best series I've read since Harry Potter. But if I had to choose I would do the last book, Winter, because it ties everything together and has an epic finale, fitting for the epic series it is. I also loved the Martian.

To whomever it may concern,

This class was one of the better classes I've taken in my high school career. Hopefully, it will be for you too. Even though this was a relatively writing focussed class, as a hole, I probably learned more about myself as a reader than I did about anything else this year (except for maybe imaginary numbers, but those shouldn't count).

Last year I read one book. That's it! And if that wasn't bad enough it was mandatory and it took me nearly all year. Not particularly because I was a bad reader, but more because I was seeing reading as mandatory during reading break, and not enjoying it at all. Mrs. Kittle has taught me that reading shouldn't be a struggle, and that it books shouldn't have to be forced down your throat, but that it should be something you go to naturally. I read 27 books this year. And not book equivalents either, all full page books, with the biggest book having 12 hundred, and the smallest having no less than 230 pages. However, it's not like I read because my reading break teacher forced me to, it was because once I start reading, I can't put it down, and with Mrs. Kittle there was always something that she was suggesting, so I never was left bookless. That was also something I learned about myself.

So why does reading matter. For one my reading has become much faster, which by the way is very important for the SAT's. Mostly because if you can't read fast, there is a high chance you won't finish the test. Also my writing has become much better. It as not only become much more fluent, but my word choice has become exponentially better. I don't know if reading has done this, but for some reason my typing has become much faster. It might be because my brain is moving faster and is used to thinking through things faster, but whatever the reason, I can type a full essay in ten minutes. (Of course it then takes another ten minutes to fix my spelling mistakes.)

Something,  
Jamie Cole

Difficulty	Book Title	Author	Pages	Month
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1	<b>Moneyball</b>	<b>Michael Lewis</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>Oct.</b>
2	<b>Gone</b>	<b>James Patterson/ Michael Ledwidge</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>Sep.</b>
3	<b>The Marbury Lenz</b>	<b>Andrew Smith</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>Oct.</b>
4	<i>Boys of Blur</i>	N.D. Willson	392	Nov.
5	<i>Winger</i>	Andrew Smith	436	Sep.
6	<i>Stand Off</i>	Andrew Smith	411	Oct.
7	<i>The Martian</i>	Andy Wier	369	Feb.
8	<i>Silenced</i>	<a href="#">Kristina Ohlsson</a>	396	Dec.
9	<i>The 5th Wave</i>	Rick Yancey	457	Jan.
10	<i>The Infinite Sea</i>	Rick Yancey	300	Jan.
11	<i>Stupid Fast</i>	Geoff Herbach	311	Nov.
12	<i>Gym Candy</i>	<a href="#">Carl Deuker</a>	328	Nov.
13	<i>Everyday</i>	David Letterman	376	Jan.
14	<i>Scarlet</i>	Marissa Meyer	478	April
15	<i>Cinder</i>	Marissa Meyer	389	April
16	<i>Cress</i>	marissa mayer	549	may
17	<i>Winter</i>	marissa mayer	826	may
18	<i>Stars Above</i>	marissa mayer	392	June
19	<i>Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian</i>	Sherman Alexie	216	April
20	<i>Apollo</i>	Rick Riordan	374	May
21	<i>Fairest</i>	marissa mayer	288	May
22	<i>Deadline</i>	Chris Cutcher	316	Sep.
23	<i>The Martian</i>	Andy Weir	369	Feb.

24	<i>Passenger</i>	Andrew smith	465	March
25	<i>Dumplin'</i>	Julie Murphy	375	March
26	<i>The Fate of Ten</i>	Pittacus Lore	399	Sep.
27	<i>Percy Jackson: The Battle of the Labyrinth</i>	Rick Riordan	239	Oct.

Okay, the reason I said *Moneyball* was the hardest was because it had a lot of technical stuff about how to *play* the market in sports. It had a lot to do with markets and being able to see how things will play out, and this took me awhile to finish, because I had to really think about what I was reading, in fact I took a break from it a while. Next I said *Gone*, not only because it was complicated, but also because it kept me super intrigued with it. *The Marbury Lens* because it made me think SO much, while at the same time creeped me out and kept me reading. After that it got a little harder to see what books were hardest, but I had to put *Winger* up there because it had such good vocabulary, but also because it talked about some deeper aspects of high school. After that they were all about the same difficulty, but all had different depths to their stories so that's how I rated them. Actually the last two were definitely not flat stories, as I loved Percy Jackson (that's why I re-read it in reading break), but they didn't make you think a much.

**Quarter 2.) Since I read *Moneyball* I haven't read something so technical, however, I put the hardest I've read this quarter was *Boys of Blur* because the author threw you into a world with a very confusing start that really made you question whether this is a book set in the past, a book set in a 3rd world country, or a book from another universe. The next this quarter was *Silenced* because it was set in another country, which checks off one of my goals for reading this quarter, and because it really puzzled you, and unlike most crime books, you knew nothing the characters knew, so you were just as lost and confused in the crime as they were. The nextbook was the 5th wave because it took a lot of effort to get into it, it didn't help that it started off slow, so I was continually choosing other things to do than read. However once I got into it I loved it. That book took me to *The INfinite Sea* which is the sequel, and it's not as difficult because I already knew about the world that she was in so it was easier to get into it. Lastly there's Gym Candy which wasn't that hard to read, the words, but it was difficult because the guy in it seemed like a really nice guy and I didn't want to "watch" him go down that path of steroids.**

*Gone* was a super fast paced, action packed, and exhilarating read. It continues a relatively long series that Patterson and Ledwidge have been writing for a long time. I had never read this series before and yet it made perfect sense to me. Whether you're a fan of the series, or are just now picking it up, it's an amazing read. Five stars for sure.

*The Marbury Lens* is another amazing read. Everyday I would feel I would need to read it because the world of Marbury kept sucking me in. It'll keep you at the edge of your seat and once you start reading it you won't want to stop until you read the last line. Not only will it keep you reading, but when you inevitably put it down to return to your daily life, it stays with you, forever in your thoughts. Another easy five stars.

*Winger* was probably the best book I've read all year. Not only is it super funny and interesting, but it also gets you thinking about some of the deeper aspects of high school. It is a great read that will keep you yelling and/or rooting for our main hero, but will also get you thinking about how others see the world. Considering this was the best book I've read all year, if not all my life, this is obviously a ten out of ten.

*Deadline* was also a very good book. It definitely was an amazing read, and even got you thinking about your position in the world however I do feel the ending was cut short and rushed. The further Wolf gets to his scheduled death the more insightful he gets, trying to cram an entire lifetime of information and experiences into a couple short months. I do feel like the ending was a little rushed, but the book makes up for it with the feeling it leaves inside of you long after you read the final moments.

*Stand Off* was a fitting end to the *Winger* series, even though it doesn't quite feel, the same. It's his last year at Pine Mountain, and Ryan Dean should be focused on his future, but instead, he's haunted by his past. His rugby coach expects him to fill the role once played by his lost friend, Joey, as the rugby team's stand-off and new captain. And somehow he's stuck rooming with twelve-year-old freshman Sam Abernathy, a cooking whiz with extreme claustrophobia and a serious crush on Annie Altman... aka Ryan Dean's girlfriend. It flows good and lets you re-enter the world of Pine Mountain for one last time.

- Read 3,278 pgs. / 9 = 257 pgs. per week.
- My reading rate is a lot lower (something like 159)
- Yes, I am challenging myself but not all the time, also I was reading like crazy the first month and a half, but more recently I haven't been reading as much.

This next quarter I would like to read *Martian* because it has been suggested heavily, but I would also like to read more real stories because all I've read this year is fictional(not *Moneyball*), not that that's a bad thing! I would also like to read at least one book set in a different country.

Quarter 2.)

*The 5th Wave*, this book is like a good fisherman, it starts out with a slow pull and then gradually pulls you in faster and faster until by the time it's over, it leaves you craving more. I love the way the author develops the characters, and the way he slowly drops hints at what is actually going on in the world. The only complaint I'd have is with the switching narrators, and how there is no real indicator that the person talking was different, and because of this, whenever the part changed to a new one I wasn't sure who it was that was talking until three chapters later when they say the person's name out loud.

Overall: 9.5/10

*Gym Candy*, Oh my god this book... The author of this book has an incredible voice for all the people, and the beginning is so good that in one chapter I cared deeply about all the characters. What I mean by that is that they were all likable people. And because of where this book goes, the fact that I cared about them didn't help. I found myself not really wanting to read because I didn't want to watch as this poor kid's life crumbled around him. Overall this book tells an important message and will make anyone want to not get anywhere near steroids in their life.

Overall: 7/10

*The Boys of Blur*: This book was something... but I've got to say I really liked it. This is a story about a boy and the ancient secrets that hide deep in the heart of the Florida everglades near a place called Muck City. The boy becomes instant best friends with his second cousin and goes on the adventure of a lifetime, if he survives the animals, fires, and hunters.

Overall: 8.5/10

- Over all pages read: 5,151 Total weeks: 20, Pages per week is about 286
- My reading rate is a lot lower (something like 179)
- Yes, I am challenging myself but not all the time, also I was reading a ton the first month or so but more recently I haven't been reading as much do to being very tired after ski practice. However, even though I have not been reading as "much" I have been reading much more complicated books, such as "Silencer".

Next quarter I'd like to read *Marsian* because it's been recommended to me heavily and I never got around to it this past quarter, also I'd like to read much more non-fiction books because there are some great ones out there and I never seem to pick them up. And possibly try some new genres that I don't usually read, like a romance or something like that.

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Total Pages: 7,603 Divided by 31= **245.25806451** So that's pages per week:  
were as my reading rate is around 120 pages per week. I don't know if I read quicker  
because each book reads differently, however, I feel like I am. And I'm definitely  
reading more than my reading rate every week.

Goals: I'd like to read five books as a minimum this quarter. I definitely want to finish the  
series I'm in (The Lunar Chronicles), which has two more, and then the prequel book,  
which is three right there. I have the mandatory book, and then that leaves me with one  
new book to try, which I think I can easily do, if not surpass. That book I'd like to either  
be non-fiction, because I haven't read that much of that, OR, something to do with war  
and the hardships that come with it, because I also haven't done too much with that.

Part 4: I notice that once I start reading I have trouble stopping, so I read a LOT, but  
then whenever I finish a series or a book, I find it hard to start something new because  
my mind is still with the characters from the last book. I also find it easier to get through  
a slow start or trudge through a book that starts slow if I have had the book  
recommended to me by someone. It makes me know that either it will pick up or keep  
me interested later on, so I'll give it more effort than if I just picked it up myself.

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down your throat, but that it should be something you go to naturally. I read 27 books this year.  
And not book equivalents either, all full page books, with the biggest book having 12 hundred,  
and the smallest having no less than 230 pages. However, it's not like I read

