

# MIDDLE SCHOOL critics

Reviews you can trust. Books. Movies. Games. Anime. and more...

Vol. 2, Issue 1

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Dark Yamanaki	Sadie McMurrin or you may also call her Skippy McPearl
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Kynan Welsh	

Learn more on page 6

## The Thumbs



Excellent

Good



OK

Horrible



## Join the Club

### Do you want to be a critic?

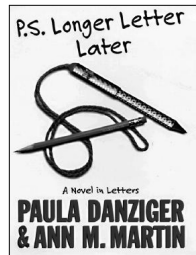
Contact Amy Kaplan, Children and Teens Librarian at Briarcliff Manor Public Library. 733-3612 or [abgkaplan@gmail.com](mailto:abgkaplan@gmail.com)

The opinions expressed in the reviews are not necessarily the opinion of the Library. The appropriateness of the materials reviewed is not for the Public Library to determine and the students are encouraged to review whatever they'd like—therefore, we encourage parents to be involved in and be aware of their children's book, movie, television, gaming, and music choices.

## PS Longer Letter Later

By Ann M. Martin & Paula Danziger

Critic: Allison Tilles

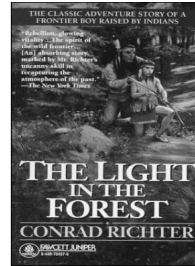


The story is about 2 friends who keep on being friends through letters because one moves away. The book is in letter form. These girls try to help each other solve serious problems. This book was fun to read and I suggest it to all girls between ages 11 and 16.

## Light in the Forest

By Conrad Richter

Critic: Kynan Welsh



I did not like this book very much. I think a boy captured and raised by Indians is not much of an interesting topic. He has to go back to his white family because of the peace treaty that was created between them. He is so reluctant to go back to the whites, he runs away from them. I don't recommend this book.

## Death Note

By Tsugumi Ohba

Critic: -L-

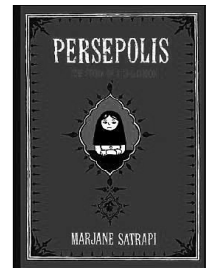


Death Note is the amazing story of ace student Light Yagami, who finds a strange notebook that kills anybody who has their name written into it. Light uses this book to start cleaning the world by removing all criminals from society. Not far after he starts killing people off, Light meets a Sinigami (Japanese God of Death) named Ryuk. Ryuk is only there to watch Light kill people off, but things get dangerous when a mysterious detective who is rumored to be able to solve any case steps into the ring. Now Light must avoid police while managing to kill the criminals secretly. This animated story is perfect for long trips and will last anybody for a while. Death Note Volume Seven is currently out, and the eighth isn't too far off. Death Note can be bought at a bookstore near you, perfect for all mystery lovers.

## Persepolis

By Marjane Satrapi

Critic: Rachel Isaac



This book is a graphic novel based on Marjane Satrapi, the author's, life. The book starts with her as a little girl in her homeland, Iran. The book takes you through the early years of her life. I really loved this book. It packs wit, humor, and all sorts of facts about Iran that I had never known before I read this book. I also really enjoyed reading the graphic novel format. It made the story even more interesting. I recommend this book for boys and girls who are looking for a challenging read. The book can be challenging at times because of the format and all of the history included about Iran. Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi is an amazing book that everyone must read.





## The Mediator series



By Meg Cabot

Critic: Shannon Louie

Susannah Simon, better known as Suze, is a mediator. She can speak to the souls of those who died that remain on earth rather than going on. Suze is supposed to tell these souls to move on. The only person who knows about Suze's secret is her best friend Gina since they went to a fortuneteller that said Suze was a mediator. She tried telling her mom, but all she did was send her to a therapist. Suze just moved to sunny California from New York City since her mother is remarrying. It's been a couple of years since Suze's dad passed away. Therefore, Suze has to leave everything that she knew behind, including Gina her one and only best friend (Suze wasn't the most popular in her school, she's never been asked on a date) and go live with her stepdad and three stepbrothers.

This is Suze's time to start fresh. Things are easier said than done since she discovers that there is a ghost living in her bedroom. Not just any ghost - a male ghost - who just happens to be a nineteenth century hottie who goes by the name of Jesse. She tries to work things out with him, but he just won't leave. On top of that, there's a ghost haunting Suze's new locker and Heather, the ghost, is seeking revenge on her ex-boyfriend and hottest boy in school, Bryce Martinson. The principle of the school, Father Dominic, is also a mediator and is the first mediator Suze has met in her life.

With the help of Father Dominic, Suze now has to protect Bryce from any harm that comes his way and try to find a



way to live with the ghost haunting her bedroom. Each of the six books revolve around Suze attempting to live through her final 3 1/2 years of high school and trying to assist the lost souls to their next life.



## Young Frankenstein

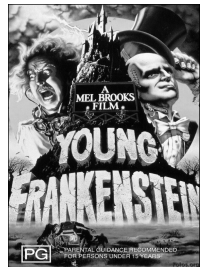
Rated: PG

Critic: Sadie McMurrin or you may also call her Skippy McPearl

Sometimes strange things happen in Transylvania, but next to Dracula, Frankenstein has gone to the top! The story starts when Dr. Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) is working at his medical college. He's just learned that his grandfather, the great Frankenstein, has died and has destined young Frank to go to Transylvania and do something. But Frank doesn't know what.

This movie is set in the country of Transylvania. It seems like it is in the early 1900s — most of the buildings there are long gone by now. What I liked about this movie is that it was really scary and funny. The monster sure did send a rise up my spine. But, the actors in the movie did really funny and silly things like when Dr. Frankenstein and his monster did a kind of tap dancing routine and Inga made up a game about rolling in the hay. Also, the actors were really into their characters. The DVD also really had a lot of cool special features and effects.

Types of people that would like this family film would be people who can take really scary movies and remember that they're just scary with a lot of funny stuff inside. This would be a really good show to show if you feel bored and need some Gene Wilder with a little twist. One very good Halloween flick!





## Bleach

Cartoon Network, Adult Swim  
1:00 am on Sundays

Critic: -L-



All anime lovers please read this review. Bleach, a Japanese anime on Adult Swim (1:00 am on Sundays), is the story of a boy named Ichigo Kuraski. Ichigo is an amazing fighter just like everyone else in his life, but he's just the slightest bit different. Ichigo has the ability to see the dearly departed. He has gotten used to it, but his entire life changes when a young female Shinigami (Japanese Death God) appears in his room one night. The girl's name is Rukia and she is looking to save souls. She tells Ichigo all about the fight against the hallows, and how to stop them, but when a hollow tries to attack them, Rukia's powers get transferred to Ichigo, and now he has to use them to save the world from hallows. Watch this show to see all the crazy happenings of these people, and all of those who like action and mayhem, this is the show for you!

*We need more Reviewers!*  
Review GAMES \* Review MANGA \* Review ANIME  
Review TV SHOWS \* Review MOVIES \* Review MUSIC \*  
REVIEW BOOKS!!

Email all reviews to Amy at:  
abgkaplan@gmail.com



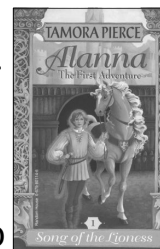
## Songs of the Lioness series

By Tamora Pierce

Critic: Jenna Taylor



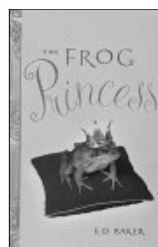
I think that everyone, girl or boy, should read books by Tamora Pierce. Her amazing way to write many series about one place is amazing. Her first books, and her best, are the Songs of the Lioness series. These books take place in a world of magic and sorcery. A young eleven-year-old girl by the name of Alanna wants to become a knight, but girls can't become knights. So she switches places with her twin brother and has to hide her secret from her friend Jonathon, the prince - George, the king of thieves, and the rest of the crew. While riding around in armor she crosses paths with Jon's cousin, who wants the throne. The cousin goes to great extremes to get it but Alanna has to thwart him or watch her friend Jon die. Now I don't want to tell you too much, but read the books. I recommend them to everyone. My brother Jim has read the books and enjoyed them just as much as I did. So read them, and enjoy.



## Frog Prince

By E.D. Baker

Critic: Aaron Choi



The book is about a young princess who kisses the frog prince and turns herself into a frog. In order to turn the princess and the prince back into humans, the couple visited an evil witch who they believed could help them. As it turns out, she was just a fake, so they searched for someone else who could help them. Read E.D. Baker's modern-day fairy tale to find out how they solved the problem and lived happily ever after.

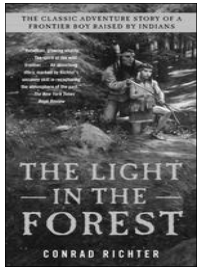
## Light in the Forest

By Conrad Richter



Critic: -L-

Light in the Forest is probably one of the dullest books I have ever read. It's about a boy who had been kidnapped when he was four, and has been raised as an Indian ever since. Now, he's fifteen, and just learning of his white past. The boy must return to his white life knowing he has to escape if he wants to live. I recommend that you do NOT under ANY circumstances buy this book. You could never possibly enjoy it unless you like reading books similar to dictionaries. Please, for your own safety, don't buy this book, you will definitely regret it.



## Shonen Jump

Published Monthly by Viz Communications

Critic: -L-



If you like reading anime, but never can find something you like, then take a look at Shonen Jump. Shonen Jump is a large collection of several anime piled into one large book. Shonen Jump currently shows Naruto, Shamam King, Yu Yu Hakasho, Dragon Ball Z, Hikaro No Go, and Yu-Gi-Oh. Shonen Jump also includes previews of several new anime coming out. It's cheap and there's always a new one each month. Anybody who can read anime needs to get this



book. This book is great because all that it contains is anime, no boring lines of text, and best of all, it's anime!



## Megadeth

Band, Critic: -L-



Everybody says that Metallica is either amazing or sucks, but does anybody know about their arch rival Megadeth? Instead of hardcore music that always sounds the same, Megadeth goes for a more melodic, original touch for their music. Several of their best are *Symphony of Destruction*, *Die Dead Enough*, and *Dread & the Fugitive Mind*. If you aren't quite into metal, but don't like things that are too classical for rock, then Megadeth is probably the best band for you.



### Do you like to create Puzzles?

Can you create  
**Crossword Puzzles?** MAZES?  
Word Searches? **Sudoku?**

Do you know any good  
**riddles?** **jokes?**

Would you like to see it printed here???

All you have to do is email them to Amy at [abgkaplan@gmail.com](mailto:abgkaplan@gmail.com) or drop them off at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library and they will be in the next issue of this newsletter!

**Include your Name, Grade, Contact Info & PLEASE NOTE:**

*If you get the puzzle, riddle, joke, etc. from anywhere other than your own mind you must tell us where you heard it/saw it/read it for it to be included.*



## Aaron Choi

Aaron Choi is 13 years old turning 14. She lives with her mother, father and brother. Her favorite authors are Kate Brian and E. Lockhart.

## Allison Tilles

She likes adventure books, and fantasy and realistic fiction. She loves books and she hates homework; and she likes movies and comic books.

## Lont Evoll

Lont Evoll is a 12 year old student attending Briarcliff Middle School. He loves to draw and crack logical codes. He loves to play mind-benders and mind exercisers such as Sudoku. He likes to read murder mystery novels and he likes to fiddle with the computer and t.v. He LOVES ANIME. He LOVES SNOWBOARDING. HE LOVES RAMEN!!



## Kynan Welsh

**Age:** 13, 7th grader

**Favorite Genres:** Adventure, Realistic Fiction, and Fantasy

**Disliked Genres:** Mystery, and Non-Fiction

**Favorite Book Topics:** Animals, and Fictional Creatures

**Disliked Book Topics:** Sports

**Some Favorite Books:**

Artemis Fowl series    Chicken Boy  
Spy Cat                      Kite Fighters

## Jenna Taylor

Jenna Taylor is a twelve-year-old seventh grader in BMS who loves to read and play soccer. She has two brothers, Jim and Henry, snails, and a dog, named Shannon. Jenna enjoys walking with her friends and writing stories and poems.

-L-

Mysterious detective able to solve the case. His true identity is unknown, but he goes under the name Hideki Ryuga at TO-HO University. Currently working on the Kira case, he has two other identities. Penevue and Eraide Coil. At age 19, -L- is a genius, and the only person able to contact him is another mysterious man named Watari. Hopefully -L- will stop Kira soon so he can do more reviews.

## Rachel Isaac

Rachel Isaac is 13 years old and lives in Briarcliff Manor. She lives with her mother, father, brother, and dog, Archie. Her favorite author of all time is Roald Dahl. She plays the saxophone and loves running street races.

## Sadie McMurrin or you may call her Skippy McPearl

She lives in Briarcliff Manor, New York in the middle of America. She was born at 8:30 pm in Vermont in Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. When she was eight years old, she moved to New York with her mom, dad, and younger adopted sister, Grace. She is now 12 years old, and goes to Briarcliff Manor Middle School and is in the 6th grade. Her sister scares her sometimes.

## Shannon Louie

Shannon Louie is 13 and currently lives in Briarcliff Manor, NY. She lives with her mom, dad, and younger brother. Shannon has a pet bird, Happy. She plays a saxophone and plans on going to a good college.

