

<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u># of Pages</u>
1. Also Known As Harper	Ann Haywood Leal	272
2. Life as we Knew it	Susan Pfeffer	352
3. The Penderwicks	Jeanne Birdsall	288
4. The Giver	Lois Lowry	192
5. If I Stay	Gayle Forman	210
6. Finding Family	Tonya Bolden	192
7. The Maze Runner	James Dashner	378
8. Someone Like You	Sarah Dessen	281
9. Falling to Pieces	Vannetta Chapman	336
10. The Cellar	Natasha Preston	368
11. The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	550

**Total:** 3419 / 18 weeks = approximately 189.94 pages per week.

### **Reading rate reflection:**

My reading rate is a little bit below what I was hoping for. I am apart of a book club that challenges me to read books, outside of my comfort zone. It is difficult for me to get into the books that we have been reading in our group. I love being in the club, but we read a lot of heavy books where you have to stop and think. I'm actually really happy that I was able to stretch my reading skills. I hope to find harder books for next semester.

### **Also Known as Harper:**

Harper is a girl who loves to write poetry. Her mom struggles with finances while their dad is an alcoholic who decides to leave the family. Harper's brother, Hemingway, is only six years old, still waiting for his daddy to come back home. Although adventures and new friendships are a quite lovely, Harper must find a way to help her family and still find time to enter the poetry contest. This book is an easy-read and the words are understandable.

### **Life as we Knew It:**

Though they don't know what to expect of an asteroid hitting, Miranda, her family, and probably the entire side of her world waits outside for "the next big thing" to happen. Miranda is a normal sixteen year old who attends High School. This book is written in the form of her diary, letting us get a glimpse of how she is feeling. Soon, the asteroid hits Earth, but not in the way everyone expects. The moon shifts closer to Earth, causing violent storms such as tsunamis and earthquakes. Everyone thinks the world is coming to an end, including her mother. Miranda and her little brother, Johnny, are taken out of school to buy as much food as possible to survive. Later, Matt, an older brother in college, comes home and helps the family. Miranda and her family must battle the urge to eat a lot, they must be on guard in case electricity comes on for the smallest amount of time, and they must all stay strong in sickness and when loved ones die.

Life as we knew it was a page turner for me. It's not a big word book, yet it draws you in. It's more in-depth, but simple to understand.

### **The Penderwicks:**

A family of six, father, Jane, Skye, Rosalind, Batty, and their trusty dog (in this book, everyone is family), decide to go on an adventure to Arundel. Their rented cottage was close to mean ol' Mrs. Tifton, who loved everything orderly and perfect. This is a book of understanding family, meeting new friends, yet trying to satisfy everyone and still have a wonderful vacation. When trouble comes the MOOPS (Meeting Of Older Penderwick Sisters) gather information to try and fix everything. Batty, the only one who isn't in the MOOPS, is the youngest. She is obedient, but finds herself in sudden situations.

As we go through their fun travels, it is easy to process, with moments of laughter and problems, there is nothing the Penderwicks can't handle.

### **The Giver:**

Jonas is anxious about having the ceremony of the twelve, where he is finally assigned a job, but also desires to keep his friends. In a utopian society like this, everything is made to be perfect and orderly. No differences were allowed. When society skips Jonas's number at the ceremony, he stands alone on the platform while the audience is in shock. Though Jonas was chosen to have a "special job," he worries about the ability to break society rules. While Jonas learns what it means to be a receiver, he also recognizes the fault in his society. He wants more than to lie in a world of lies. As Jonas begins to piece together what was missing, he knows that he must bring difference back into the world.

I have read this book so many times. Somehow, I manage to learn something new every time. This is a deeper book, where it makes me start to wonder what it would be like if we lived in that world. It has good thoughts and makes you think.

### **If I stay:**

Seventeen year old Mia, starts out having a normal snow day with her family. They decide to go on an outing and Mia finds herself in the hospital. As she struggles with loved ones wanting her to heal, her mind starts going through back flashes of good feelings and bad. Mia begins to realize that what if life wasn't worth living? What would Mia's fate be if she decided to live? And now, she must make the choice to let go and die, or push through and heal.

This book was more of a struggle for me because it wasn't the type of book I would read. I had a hard time getting into the book and having the interest to read her flashbacks. Soon I began to realize that flashbacks would make her decision to live or not, so I pushed myself to read it. For me, it was hard reading about someone hurt, but it was worth it.

### **Finding Family:**

Delana grew up being raised by her Grandpa and her Aunt Tilly. She has never known her actual parents, but when Aunt Tilly suddenly dies, her world also changed. She had questions like: Who am I? Who is my mom and dad? What happened to them? On her quest to answer these questions, she meets people who will help her.

I had a hard time getting into this book. I didn't like it that much because it was so slow and things seemed to drag on til' the end.

### **The Maze Runner:**

Thomas, a regular teenage boy, finds himself trapped with other boys in a unsolvable maze. A day after, a girl is also found by the elevator with a note saying that this would be the last one. Everyone is a bit confused at this odd appearance, but they got more to worry about than a girl. The sun goes away, the food deliveries stop, and the door stays open, allowing grievers (some destructive machine) to come. Thomas finds out that he somehow met the girl already, but he also thinks that the maze shifting is a code.

I really liked this book, but it was hard for me to get into since I don't read these kinds of books. I had harder words, but it was also filled with adventure.

### **Someone Like You:**

Scarlett and Halley are best friends.

Halley goes off to camp for two-weeks, but when an emergency comes, she has to be there and support her friend.

Scarlett's boyfriend died in a motorcycle accident, and finds out that she was pregnant. She struggles with what others will think of her. Scarlett must decide if she wants to keep the baby or aborted the baby.

I liked this book, but it was long. There were some words that I didn't know, but it was also deeper than I thought.

### **Falling to Pieces:**

A while ago, there was a shooting that changed the whole town. Now Deborah works on a quilt store, and a new girl, Callie, comes to town and changes thing. They find themselves in an unexpected friendship, and team up to solve the murderer history.

I really did not like this book. It was so hard to get into. The language was easy to understand, but kind of boring.

### **The Cellar:**

Summer walks alone in the dark, while a man comes out of a bush saying that her name is Lily. She is kidnapped and brought to a cellar, but finds herself with three other girls (Rose, Violet, and Poppy). Rose explains that Colin wants a perfect family (which is why he named them after flowers) and that they depend on him for everything. The cellar is really nice with a bathroom, an eating area with kitchen, a room with bunkbeds, and a place with a couch and a huge tv. As "Lily" learns the schedule that each flower must follow, she still has hope that her boyfriend will find her. When a flower does something wrong (too much make-up, not smiling, ect), Colin kills them, and finds someone to replace that flower.

This book is pretty intense. It is filled with lots of deaths. The language is harder. It took me a day to finish it because I couldn't put it down. The chapters are on different people's perspective.

My goal for next semester is to read more books that stretch my limits. I would like to double my book list for next semester. Also, I have a list of books that my friend gave me, and I would like to finish them. I would like to read more mysteries and finish them because I always end up reading the ending first, or I put the book down because I don't like mysteries. I also want to read more at home.