

RAMP ED

Director's Message

Spring is full of reasons to celebrate. Students have completed another year of classes. They have made dean's list, secured summer jobs and internships, received scholarships, and have been accepted into various programs including summer experiences, undergraduate research, and graduate school. We celebrate graduating participants and tutors who achieved the ultimate accomplishment of persevering through all the challenges of earning their bachelor's degree.

We congratulate RAMP advisor, Lauren, who recently got married. In April, Lauren and her husband, Christopher, enjoyed a destination wedding in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico with several of their family members and friends in attendance. Lauren's new last name is Ramos.

As we approach the close of the academic year, I want to thank all our campus partners for their assistance in helping us serve our participants. We look forward to partnering with them again next year. A special thank you to Foundation for their commitment to provide snacks during finals week on a quarterly basis.

As a reminder, RAMP is funded as a 10-month program and will be closed July and August.

Wishing you a restful summer so that you return rejuvenated in the fall!

Spring 2016



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"Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it." J.K. Rowling

Spring 16 RAMP Tutors/Peer Mentors

Michelle Alarcon
Anne Isidro
Jasmine Martinez
Wayne Page
Erica Rodriguez

Sara Ramnath
Oscar Rios
Rachel Walker
Tammy Wong
Ramon Yanez

Tutor Spotlight: Ramon Yanez

Ramon joined the RAMP family in fall 2014. Though he did not originally intend to apply to RAMP, he discovered RAMP by a referral from its sister program, ARCHES. "I qualified for a tutoring position for ARCHES, but when they received my resume, they did not have any work for me and instead redirected me to RAMP," stated Ramon. Thus, Ramon researched RAMP and found that similar to ARCHES, RAMP provides individualized support to aid in student achievement and success. And so began the story of Ramon's experience as a RAMP tutor and peer mentor.

Reflecting on his work with RAMP, Ramon comments, "I loved that I was working one on one with students. Even if it was only for one quarter, I usually got to learn a lot about them and how to tailor specific sessions to the students' needs." Ramon also notes the rewarding aspects of being a RAMP tutor/peer mentor by stating, "whether it was helping them develop study skills or learn effective time management, I was helping these students do their best in college, and that is a truly great feeling."

While Ramon is easily recognized by his tall stature, he is also well known for his on- and off-campus involvement. Ramon is involved in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and an off-campus organization at his former charter high school, Alliance Mentor Program (AMP), which matches freshmen with mentors at their college. As a mentor, Ramon is able to share his college experience with others to help both their academic and personal growth.

When asked what he likes most about CPP, he responded, "probably the quarter system, as stressful as it can be, I enjoy it far more than I ever liked semesters in high school. I am more accountable for attaining my learning as there's only a limited time for me to grasp and show how much I've learned within a given class."

When asked where he would go if he could travel anywhere in the world, he said Spain is his top choice and adds, "I've heard that not only is the area beautiful, but also that some of the ruins are almost unreal in how amazing they look. I would love to personally see these." In addition to visiting Spain's ruins, Ramon would also like to try the food.

Ramon graduates this quarter and plans to work for a Boy's and Girl's club in Los Angeles during the summer. In the fall, he plans to work as an after school coordinator for a charter school or USC's Hybrid High School as an alumni coordinator. Despite the uncertainty of the future, Ramon is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

A hearty thank you to Ramon for his two years of service to RAMP and best wishes on his future endeavors.



RAMP tutor/peer mentor, Ramon Yanez

Student Spotlight: Akash Vaidya

Akash Vaidya has been involved in RAMP since his freshman year in 2011 when he attended a workshop hosted by tutors to enhance reading skills. Akash credits RAMP and his tutor at the time, Rebecca, with helping him hone the comprehension and reading skills necessary to become a successful college student. During his tutorial sessions, he utilized *Progressive Reader* to improve his reading skills and reading speed. The skills he learned in RAMP bolstered his preparation for classes and enhanced his understanding of complex material.

According to Akash, his former RAMP advisor, Cindy Greco was probably the most important person that helped him during his formative years of college. In his sophomore year, he was struggling with engineering classes. The constructive advice from tutors and his advisor helped him realize that he should change his major to Hospitality. Without Cindy's advice and support, Akash may have never discovered the field of study in which he could thrive.

The RAMP tutors and staff made him comfortable and provided a familial environment in which he could excel. Moreover, he felt comfortable enough with the staff and tutors to be open about his difficulties and was able to find solutions to his problems. For Akash, the tutors provided more than academic assistance. They were also invaluable peer mentors that helped with time management skills and identifying college resources that he used to promote his academic achievement.

RAMP was a comfortable, safe, and quiet environment in which Akash could study, be himself, and make mistakes and learn from them. According to Akash, "The tutors/mentors at RAMP are the best. They always are free to give advice and are always open to discuss issues. Everyone needs a safe space in college where they can grow. If it weren't for this place I would have had difficulty transitioning from high



RAMP Participant, Akash Vaidya

school to college and probably would not have been as successful as I am."

Akash attended several cultural events hosted by RAMP, which helped broaden his perspectives on art and culture. Attending the events also helped him understand the interests and challenges of other RAMP students. He attended the plays *Wicked* and *The Book of Mormon*, and College Night at the Getty Museum of Art.

Throughout his tenure at Cal Poly, Akash has made involvement in organizations a priority. In his sophomore year, he was a board member of the Indian Student Association. In addition to collaborating with other clubs to plan events, Akash helped organize a cultural show that featured Indian dance and culture. As part of the Rose Float Club, he helped with designing and decorating the float, which received recognition from the Tournament of Roses for exceptional design. He was also an active member of CPHA (Cal Poly Hospitality Association). CPHA helped him network with industry and academic contacts at conferences, guest lectures, and workshops. As a result, Akash was able to enhance his career and professional skills by networking with top professionals in his field. CPHA also afforded

him the opportunity to learn from other students within the hospitality department.

When asked what he likes about Cal Poly, Akash responded that he appreciates the access and opportunity that Cal Poly provides as well as the students he meets, many of whom have become life-long friends. According to Akash, college is customizable; it is up to you to make it a great experience. If you join the right organizations, get assistance with your academic work through the multiple tutoring services available, and make substantive connections with professors and students, college can be the greatest, most rewarding experience of your life.

In the future, Akash wants to become a general manager at a hospitality firm and create positive memories of enjoyment for those seeking an escape from the fast pace and stress of the world. Akash was selected for a prestigious lodging management internship at the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida. He envisions this as a great opportunity to help him get started in hospitality industry.

We congratulate Akash on his successes and graduation from Cal Poly. It was truly our honor to be a part of his college experience.

RAMP Attends *The Book of Mormon*

By Dustin Johnson

RAMP and ARCHES collaborated for our spring off-campus cultural event. The programs chartered a bus to the architecturally stunning Segerstrom Theatre in Orange County to witness the critically acclaimed comedic musical, *The Book of Mormon*. As we entered the theatre, it was a magnificent spectacle. The Segerstrom theatre's multi-tiered seating is designed in such a way that there are no bad seats in the house. As the lights dimmed, the stage was illuminated in all of its visual glory.

The play's plot centered around two young Mormon missionaries who were selected to travel the world proselytizing for the Mormon Church. They had dreams of exotic destinations in the Caribbean, but low and behold, they were assigned to Uganda. Despite having never been there before, somehow they knew that Uganda was a less than desirable location. Upon landing, their worst fears of Uganda were realized. They arrived to find the people destitute, their accommodations lacking, and the AIDS epidemic in full swing. This was not what they had imagined their mission to be, and the comedic crux of the musical focused around this contradiction.

Act II centers around young Mormon Elder Cunningham who is determined to convert native Ugandans to the church. The people are bored by the ancient religious text, so Elder Cunningham takes some creative license and begins integrating stories of popular culture with religious scripture to

The Book of Mormon attendees (front row): Leslie Martinez, Stephanie Contreras, Brianna Villanueva, Jimena Estrada, Elizabeth Herrera, Kimberly Herrera; (back row): Laura Ayon, Beatriz Valencia, Vanessa Ramirez, Natalie Quintero, Wayne Page, Danielle Labrado, Anne Isidro, Elsa Kebede, Jesus Fimbres, Valentina Truong, Suzette Castro, Oscar Rios, Akash Vaidya, Tammy Wong, Ryan Kao, Dustin Johnson.



make the stories more palatable and interesting to his audience. His stories about Darth Vader, Yoda, and Lieutenant Uhura are wildly popular and succeed in converting several Ugandan villagers to the church. His partner Elder Price, (who has temporarily lost his faith), is encouraged by the transformation of the villagers to the church even though it occurred through misrepresentations of the holy text. Elder Price comes to the conclusion that it is not just the devotion to scriptural accuracy that is important, but translating the doctrine to new followers that is the purpose of their mission.

Despite my many reservations about some stereotypical depictions in the play, I nonetheless found myself in a fit of constant, often guilty laughter. I had, in fact mentally prepared myself for the political incorrectness of the play, knowing that the writers were also the creators of the brash comedy series *South Park*. But I was often quite shocked at the off-color brand of humor. This was the type of play where you definitely had to check your hypersensitivity about religion, race, and gender at the door in



Jacqueline Balderrama and Natalie Quintero

order to truly revel in the shocking brand of humor.

Although RAMP participant Elsa Kebede also had some reservations about some portions of the play, she was able to appreciate the powerful spectacle that only live stage plays can produce. According to Elsa, "The entire experience was really great! I have never seen a Broadway play/musical before, so I was really excited. I knew *The Book of Mormon* was popular and funny, but I didn't know much about it going in. I was concerned about not knowing much about it, but it turned out to not be a problem. I understood the play well and I laughed a lot. It was really funny even though there were some offensive bits that I rolled my eyes at. Overall, I had an amazing time. I am really glad that RAMP gave me the chance to go, so thank you very much!"

RAMP participant Valentina Truong echoed Elsa's feelings about the play. For her, "*The Book of Mormon* was an absolutely amazing experience. It was interesting to learn about a different tradition. It was a very educational experience and the performance was excellent. I felt the actors were all very talented and the singing/musical portion of the play was extraordinary."

Another RAMP participant, Ryan Kao, was inspired by the play and expressed his reactions to it in poetic form, *Sound of Reality* after attending *The Book of Mormon*:

Sound of Reality

The drop of water
Echo our discomfort.
Awaken truly,
From the perfect fairy tale.
Once again we dream,
Discovering our home.
Mislaidd and confused,
But we will never give up,
For our freedom.

Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship

The Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship was established by the Learning Resource Center (LRC) after Dawn's sudden death on July 30, 1999. The scholarship honors Dawn, a former LRC writing tutor who was an exceptional employee, a determined and involved student, as well as a good friend. Dawn was involved with Commencement, Rose Float Club, the Disability Resource Center, and University Housing.

On Tuesday, May 31st, the LRC recognized a tutor and a tutee as the recipients of the Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship. The tutor recipient was Bronco Tutor, Emilio Medina and the tutee recipient was RAMP participant, Denise Guevara. The recipients submitted essays that demonstrated that they have persevered through adversity, have qualities similar to Dawn, and have provided service to the campus or the community.

At the ceremony, the recipients heard from Dawn's parents and learned more about her amazing drive to serve others. Emilio and Denise also had an opportunity to address those in attendance and express their gratitude for being selected for the scholarship.

In her essay, Denise wrote, "Dawn was an exceptional young woman, and I am honored to say that I possess some of the same qualities as her. I enjoy working with students and encouraging them to reach their goals. Like Dawn, I seek tutoring for my own benefit because I have had the first hand experience of earning good grades after receiving tutoring. Additionally, I am part of the Reading Advising Mentoring Program (RAMP) where I receive reading tutoring, utilize study space, and have made many great friends. I am determined, goal oriented, and an overall positive person. I believe through good intentions and hard work, anything is possible."



Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship recipients Emilio Medina & Denise Guevara with Dawn's parents

LRC Recognizes Student Staff and Tutors

On Thursday, June 2nd, the LRC recognized many of its student assistants and tutors during the annual LRC Awards Ceremony. Between its three programs (Bronco Tutoring, RAMP, and Writing Center), the LRC employs over 100 student assistants and peer tutors.

The LRC receives its tutor certification from the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) through the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA). LRC tutors must complete the tutor training requirements to receive CRLA Level 1 certification within their first year of employment. Tutors who complete additional training receive Level 2 certification, which certifies them as Advanced Tutors. Five RAMP tutors received Level 1 certification and four tutors received Level 2 certification.

Tutors who graduated in winter or spring, or will graduate in fall 2016 were also recognized.

RAMP recognized six graduating tutors: Anne Isidro, Jasmine Martinez, Oscar Rios, Erica Rodriguez, Rachel Walker, and Ramon Yanez. Three of these tutors will continue at Cal Poly as graduate students and as RAMP tutors and mentors. These graduate tutors will focus on providing more assistance to participants interested in preparing for graduate school.

Each program then presented a Tutor Recognition Award and an Outstanding Tutor Award. These awards went to two tutors who demonstrated effective tutoring techniques and care for tutee's academic needs, have regularly participated in tutor trainings and workshops, and have been reliable, prepared, and professional in their work with tutees and staff.

While all RAMP tutors are deserving of special recognition, Oscar Rios received the Tutor Recognition Award and Jasmine Martinez received the Outstanding Tutor Award.



CRLA Level II recipients (front row): Mitchell Moon, William Gallagher, Oscar Rios, Tammy Wong, Wayne Page, Sarayu Ramnath, Pallavi Sinha, Shelly Sposato; (back row): Dustin Johnson, Lauren Ramos, Leonard Vandegrift

2015-16 RAMP Challenge Grant

While spring is often the season associated with the cheer of graduation, RAMP also has the reason to celebrate participants receiving the RAMP Challenge Grant.

This year, RAMP awarded 27 participants with \$626 for completing a series of requirements including attending weekly tutorial sessions, on-campus events, financial aid/literacy workshops, and writing an exceptional essay. This was RAMP's most competitive year, with 50 applicants.

As part of the grant application requirements, students were asked to research the history of TRIO and offer a reflection on how their participation in RAMP has contributed to their overall college experience. Applicants included thoughtful testimonies of their experience with RAMP:

"RAMP has not only helped me academically, but also socially. I have made friends with few of the tutors, and even my roommate. My roommate and I did not really have much to talk about in the beginning, but when we both found we were both in RAMP, we started going to the workshops, plays, and events sponsored by RAMP together. I have made a good amount of friends while being able to pass my classes thanks to this wonderful program."

"Being in these programs in college, I feel more connected to college life, I have a broader view of what it takes to succeed, and despite what degree I graduate with, I also want to help students who are in my position, and aid them in accomplishing their aspirations in higher education."

"My reading comprehension level was far lower than I had expected, which startled me. My vocabulary was futile in comparison to my peers, but this critical observation has driven me to persist expanding my vocabulary. I owe this eye-opening observation to RAMP, which has taught me to not settle, but to work towards improvement."

"I am grateful that Cal Poly Pomona offers a program like RAMP, because without RAMP I feel that I would have dropped out and gone to a community college."

Challenge Grant Recipients

Miriam Alash	Jasmin Ledezma
Evelyn Arce	Alexander Loera
Ciara Bell	Mirtha Lopez
Evelyn Bravo	Jennifer Lopez-Mendez
Jesica Coronado Meza	Esteban Molina
David Flores	Linda Mondaca
Kevin Gonzalez	Natalie Quintanilla
Amy Hernandez	Vanessa Ramirez
Dalia Huerta	Milca Ramos
Polynese Johnson	Vianney Rangel
Jiyong Joung	Lydia Tremino
Elsabete Kebede	Melissa Ugalde
Danielle Labrado	Ivan Vong
Patricia Lagunas-Robles	



RAMP Graduating Tutors, Rachel Walker, Erica Rodriguez, Anne Isidro, Oscar Rios, Jasmine Martinez

RAMP Graduate Recognition Luncheon



(front row): Marilu Romero, Mersedis Benjamin-Jaa, Oscar Rios, Linda Salazar, Daja Kinney;; (middle row): Dr. S. Terri Gomez, Nathaly Aquino, Elizabeth Herrera, Sara Delgado, Teresa Gonzalez, Suzette Castro, Michelle Mayr, William Thao, Ruby Phun, Jasmine Martinez, Anne Isidro, Erica Rodriguez, Abraham Morales, Rachel Walker, Ramiro Montiel, Tom Khy (back row): Ramon Yanez, Mich Hamlin, Johnathan Lopez, Akash Vaidya.

This spring, RAMP celebrated its 8th annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon to honor graduating participants receiving their bachelor's degree. The event took place at Kellogg West and the luncheon consisted of delicious, tender tri-tip and richly stuffed cheese shells.

While guests enjoyed their meal, Dr. S. Terri Gomez, Interim Vice President of Student Success, gave an inspiring keynote address, which reflected on the importance of education and the value of being a first-generation college student. As a daughter of two migrant farm laborers, Dr. Gomez shared her undergraduate college experience and some changes she made concerning her post-baccalaureate pursuits. She praised the graduating class for their tremendous efforts and congratulated their accomplishments.

As the main event of the program, RAMP honored each graduating participant with a certificate and red cord. Some students took the opportunity to reflect on their college experience and offered thanks to support programs, such as RAMP and EOP, for helping them achieve their goals. Other participants took a more creative approach. Mersedis offered poetic advice sharing that "YES means Your Efforts Showed and NO means Next Opportunity." RAMP offered a special thanks to campus partners that made this event possible, and more importantly, through collaboration, make the RAMP program an effective and successful support service to Cal Poly students.



Mersedis Benjamin-Jaa & Anne Isidro

RA/MIP 2016 Graduates



Michelle Mayr



Mich Hamlin & EOP Tutor Specialist, Art Covarrubias



Suzette Castro



Elizabeth Herrera

Lessons in Financial Aid & Literacy

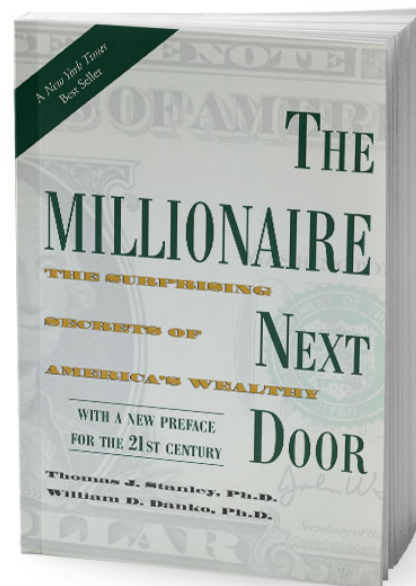
On a quarterly basis, RAMP collaborates with ARCHES and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) to offer several financial aid and literacy workshops. During weeks 3, 6, and 8 EOP advisor Mireya Martinez helped students navigate the often difficult and confusing bureaucracy of financial aid as it relates to satisfactory academic progress in *How to Keep Your Financial Aid*. Students were told how to locate their financial aid advisors on the financial aid website, how to calculate their grade point balance to see if they met satisfactory academic progress, and the process of appealing to get your financial aid back if it was rescinded due to low academic performance.

During week 5, the scholarship advisors from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships discussed various strategies to increase the likelihood of getting scholarships. In *Exploring Scholarships* actual scholarship essays were analyzed to give students examples of essays that were exceptional, as well as to display essays that were ineffective in persuading readers.

In addition to financial aid workshops, a workshop intended to enhance the financial literacy of students was also offered. In the workshop *How to Get Financially Ahead When You Graduate*, Executive in Residence, John Tush explored ways that students could implement financial planning into their lives even at such a young age. Mr. Tush stressed the importance of making long-term savings and investment plans, keeping track of your weekly expenditures, and the importance of beginning investing early on in life to maximize the amount of money saved. He discussed the particular character traits that most influential and financially independent people have such as: integrity, work ethic, the

ability to make connections with people, as well as, believe it or not, physical fitness.

One strategy discussed involved staying with your parents for a few years after college in order to accumulate savings and start investing. Mr. Tush pointed out that this would be one of the few times in life students would have a substantial income without the biggest payment of housing cutting into their savings. Mr. Tush was gracious enough to give all participants in the workshop a copy of the book, *The Millionaire Next Door* to increase their financial literacy. The book chronicles the lives of millionaires and draws some seemingly contradictory conclusions. According to the book, millionaires often do not live lives of conspicuous consumption, showing off the latest cars and symbols of wealth. In fact, millionaires are much more likely to drive used cars and spend modestly, shunning many of the stereotypical markers of prosperity traditionally associated with affluence.



Book Club Reads

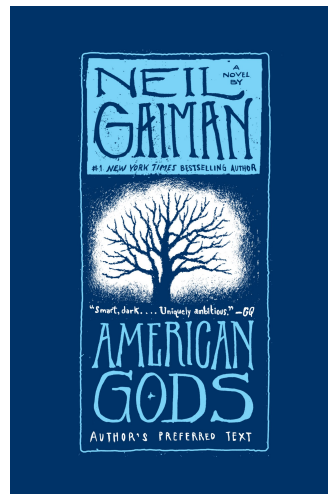
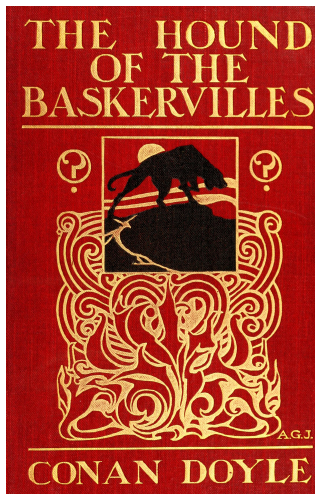
The Hound of the Baskervilles

Spring Book Club read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Book club members were intrigued by how incredibly entertaining the book was despite being written in 1902. Moreover, according to the members, the Sherlock Holmes novels definitely have functioned as a template for many modern detective books, television shows, and movies. The book explores the tension between rationality and logic on the one hand, and the power of superstition and mythology on the other. Holmes is characterized as the ultimate symbol of reason, eschewing any lead that lends itself to the supernatural, preferring to rely on logical deductions to inform his investigations. For centuries, a diabolical hound has wreaked havoc on the Baskerville progeny who inhabit the manor. Holmes and his partner, Dr. Watson are tasked with getting to the bottom of this intergenerational mystery. The novel is written at a fast pace, making the book hard to put down. Participants were often conflicted, trying to reconcile the fast pace at which the book was written with the numerous minute details that would often reappear later on as significant to the plot. At the second meeting, we tried to ascertain whom each participant thought was the guilty culprit. Surprisingly, each member felt that a different character was responsible for the crime, a testament to the incredible writing of the author, who crafted an unpredictable plot that was incredibly hard to solve.

For fall book club, members will be reading *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman. Below is a brief description of the book courtesy of Good Reads.

Days before his release from prison, Shadow's wife, Laura, dies in a mysterious car crash. Numbly, he makes his way back home. On the plane, he encounters the enigmatic Mr. Wednesday, who claims to be a refugee from a distant war, a former god and the king of America. Together they embark on a profoundly strange journey across the heart of the USA, whilst all around them a storm of preternatural and epic proportions threatens to break. Scary, gripping and deeply unsettling, American Gods takes a long, hard look into the soul of America. You'll be surprised by what - and who - it finds there.

As usual, Book Club plans on meeting on Thursdays at U-hour during weeks 3, 5, & 7. We hope to see you there!



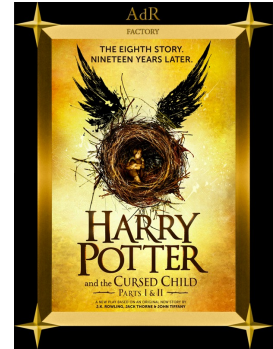
RAMP Summer Reading Picks

Compiled by Rachel Lynn Walker

If you liked Harry Potter, then you might like...

***Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts 1 & 2* by J.K. Rowling (Release Date July 30, 2016)**

Written in play form this story takes place nineteen years after Harry defeated the Dark Lord and the play tells the story of Harry's now difficult adult life and the struggles his son Albus goes through by bearing the family name of Potter.



If you liked The Fault in Our Stars by John Greene...

***Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes**

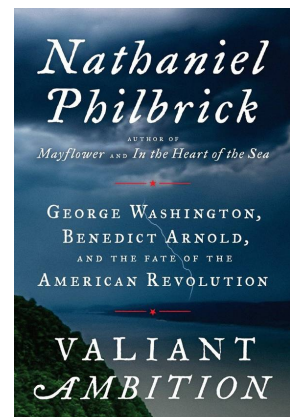
Lou Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has never been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe, Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. The characters are intriguing the plot compelling and this love story will leave you breathless.



If you like historical biographies...

***Valiant Ambition* by Nathaniel Philbrick**

This story covers the relationship between George Washington and Benedict Arnold and the real issues that many dealt with during the Revolutionary War and displays a side modern readers rarely see--how America nearly lost the war. *Valiant Ambition* is a complex, controversial, and dramatic portrait of a people in crisis and the war that gave birth to a nation. The focus is on loyalty and personal integrity, evoking a Shakespearean tragedy that unfolds in the key relationship of Washington and Arnold, who is an impulsive but sympathetic hero whose misfortunes at the hands of self-serving politicians fatally destroy his faith in the legitimacy of the rebellion.

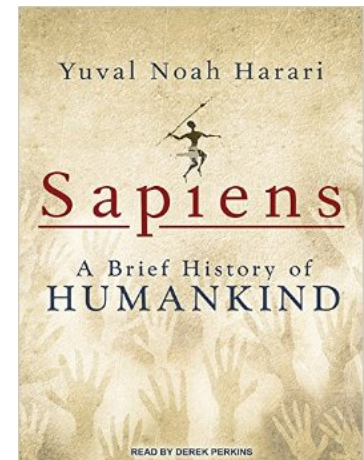


If you like the book Undeniable by Bill Nye, then you might like...

***Sapiens: A Brief History of Human Kind* by Yuval Noah Harari**

One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one—

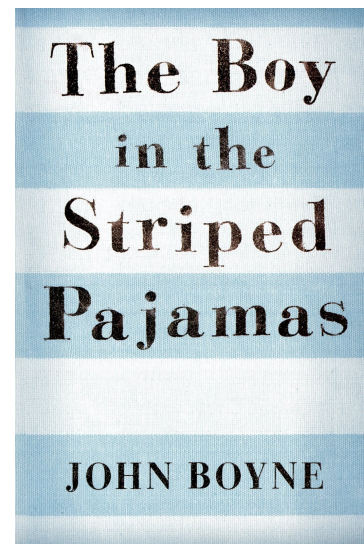
homosapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us? In examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas. Dr. Harari also compels us to look ahead because over the last few decades humans have begun to bend laws of natural selection that have governed life for the past four billion years. We are acquiring the ability to design not only the world around us, but also ourselves. Where is this leading us and what do we want to become?



If you liked The Book Thief, then you might like...

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne**

Simply written in a context to help modern readers better understand a story of hardship, this book often gets mixed reviews. The story is about a boy named Bruno who returns home from school one day and discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance.

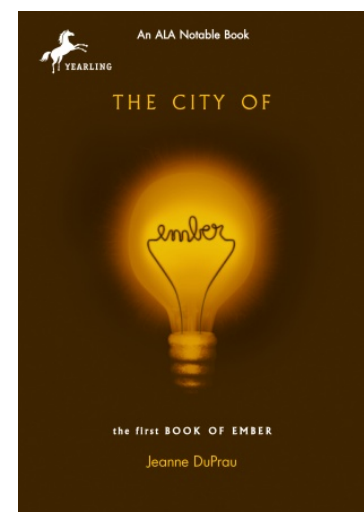


Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

If you like dystopian novels, then you might like...

***The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau**

Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked...but now the storerooms are almost out of food, crops are blighted, corruption is spreading through the city and worst of all – the lights are failing. Soon Ember could be engulfed by darkness... But when two children, Lina and Doon, discover fragments of an ancient parchment, they begin to wonder if there could be a way out of Ember. Can they decipher the words from long ago and find a new future for everyone? Will the people of Ember listen to them?



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