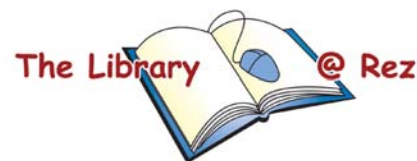


Rez Recommends...

2010-2011



Here are your favourites Rez!

All of these titles received perfect 5 out of 5 rankings on their Rez Recommends forms.

* titles with an asterisk have been on the Rez Recommends list for multiple years!*

Realistic Fiction/Literary Fiction

- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* ~ Jonathan Safran Foer 1
- *Jane Eyre* ~ Charlotte Brontë 1
- *Message in a Bottle* ~ Nicholas Sparks 1
- **My Sister's Keeper* ~ Jodi Picoult 1
- *Push* ~ Sapphire 2
- *Revolutionary Road* ~ Richard Yates 2
- *Sarah's Key* ~ Tatania De Rosnay 2
- *Slumdog Millionaire* ~ Vikas Swarup 2
- *The Summer I Turned Pretty* ~ Jenny Han 3

Fantasy/Supernatural

- *The Forest of Hands and Teeth* (book 1) ~ Carrie Ryan 3
- *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series ~ Rick Riordan 3
- *Prophecy of the Sisters* (book 1) ~ Michelle Zink 4
- *Winter Shadows* ~ Margaret Buffie 4

Dystopia/Mystery/Action/Adventure

- **The Hunger Games* (book 1) ~ Suzanne Collins 4
- **Life as We Knew It* (book 1) ~ Susan Beth Pfeffer 5
- **The Lovely Bones* ~ Alice Sebold 5
- *The Maze Runner* (book 1) ~ James Dashner 5
- *Mockingjay* (Hunger Games book 3) ~ Suzanne Collins 6
- *Scott Pilgrim* series (graphic novel) ~ Bryan Lee O'Malley 6

Non-Fiction (True Stories)

- *The Tyrants: 2500 years of absolute power and corruption* ~ Clive Foss 6

Realistic Fiction/Literary Fiction

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close ~ *Jonathan Safran Foer* (FIC FOE)

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell has embarked on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey.

This book was an amazing find, where I used it for my grade 12 ISU. However, after reading I was very happy I picked a great book for the ISU in addition to such an awesome story...read it. So great! – Julie S.

Jane Eyre ~ *Charlotte Brontë* (FIC BRO)

Jane Eyre is an orphan, penniless and plain, but full of courage and spirit. She has endured incredible hardship to secure her humble status as a governess in the household of her brooding employer, Mr. Rochester. Jane's sharp wit and defiant nature meet with Rochester's sardonic temperament. The two become enmeshed in a deep, intense bond. But Rochester has a terrible secret—a remnant from his past that could threaten any hope of happiness with his only love.

Jane Eyre is a very well written book, the plot is very mysterious and suspenseful...it keeps you on your toes and I couldn't put the novel down. – Nicole Z.

Message in a Bottle ~ *Nicholas Sparks* (FIC SPA)

Thrown to the waves, and to fate, the bottle could have ended up anywhere. Instead, it is found just three weeks after it begins its journey. Theresa Osborne, divorced and the mother of a twelve-year-old son, picks it up during a seaside vacation from her job as a Boston newspaper columnist. Inside is a letter...for "Garrett," the man who signs the letter, the message is the only way he knows to express his undying love for a woman he has lost. For Theresa, wary of romance since her husband shattered her trust, the message raises questions that intrigue her.

Message in a Bottle shows us how no matter what has happened in the past, you can fall in love again if you find the right person. – Natalie O.

***My Sister's Keeper** ~ *Jodi Picoult* (FIC PIC)

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate—a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

Very different from the movie...and way better than the movie. – Stephanie A.

Push ~ *Sapphire* (FIC SAP)

Precious Jones, an illiterate sixteen-year-old, has up until now been invisible: invisible to the father who rapes her and the mother who batters her and to the authorities who dismiss her as just one more of Harlem's casualties. But when Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and highly radical teacher, we follow her on a journey of education and enlightenment as Precious learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it on her own for the first time.

It is inspiring – Patricia P.

Revolutionary Road ~ *Richard Yates* (FIC YAT)

In the hopeful 1950s, Frank and April Wheeler appear to be a model couple: bright, beautiful, talented, with two young children and a starter home in the suburbs. Perhaps they married too young and started a family too early. Maybe Frank's job is dull. And April never saw herself as a housewife. Yet they have always lived on the assumption that greatness is only just around the corner. But now that certainty is about to crumble. With heartbreaking compassion and remorseless clarity, Richard Yates shows how Frank and April mortgage their spiritual birthright, betraying not only each other, but their best selves.

It has great social commentary, well written and not an average "high school student" novel; was written for adults...the relationship between the two main characters is quite compelling and easily relatable". – Alison B.

Sarah's Key ~ *Tatania De Rosnay* (FIC ROS)

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door-to-door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard—their secret hiding place—and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released. Sixty years later: Sarah's story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the roundup. In her research, Julia stumbles onto a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her own romantic future.

Very interesting, its story is very historical and mysterious enough to keep the readers reading...I am waiting for the author's next book. – Amy S.

Slumdog Millionaire ~ *Vikas Swarup* (FIC SWA)

Ram Mohammad Thomas has been arrested. Because how can a poor orphan who has never read a newspaper or gone to school correctly answer all twelve questions on the television game show *Who Will Win a Billion?*—unless he has cheated? As the story unfolds, Ram explains to his lawyer how he knew the answer to each question by telling a chapter of his amazing life—from the day he was salvaged from a dustbin to his meeting with a security-crazed Australian army colonel while performing as an overly creative tour guide at the Taj Majal. Stunning a television audience of millions, Ram draws on a store of street wisdom and accidental encounters that provides him with the essential keys not only to the quiz but also to life itself.

I loved this book! Some books that are turned into movies have bad movies—but when it has an award winning movie...you wonder how the book will measure. But I found the book much easier to follow and deeper into the stories that allowed him to win – Maggie B.

The Summer I Turned Pretty ~ Jenny Han (FIC HAN)

When each summer begins, Belly leaves her school life behind and escapes to Cousins Beach, the place she has spent every summer of her life. Not only does the beach house mean home away from home, but her favorite people are there: Susannah, her mother's best friend, and her sons, Conrad and Jeremiah. Belly has been chasing Conrad for as long as she can remember, and more than anything, she hopes this summer will be different. Despite lingering looks from Conrad's brother, Jeremiah, Belly's heart belongs to Conrad. Will he offer his to her? Will this be the summer that changes everything?

This book is awesome! It is very realistic and believable; everyone can relate to at least one of the main characters – Monique B.

Fantasy/Supernatural

The Forest of Hands and Teeth (book 1) ~ Carrie Ryan (FIC RYA)

In Mary's world, there are simple truths. The Sisterhood always knows best. The Guardians will protect and serve. The Unconsecrated will never relent. And you must always mind the fence that surrounds the village. The fence that protects the village from the Forest of Hands and Teeth. But slowly, Mary's truths are failing her. She's learning things she never wanted to know about the Sisterhood and its secrets, and the Guardians and their power. And, when the fence is breached and her world is thrown into chaos, about the Unconsecrated and their relentlessness. Now she must choose between her village and her future, between the one she loves and the one who loves her. And she must face the truth about the Forest of Hands and Teeth. Could there be life outside a world surrounded by so much death?

This book is filled with suspense, romance and heartbreak. This book is impossible to put down when you start reading. – Katie B.

Series order:

1. The Forest of Hands and Teeth
2. The Dead-Tossed Waves
3. The Dark and Hollow Places

Percy Jackson & the Olympians series ~ Rick Riordan (FIC RIO)

The Lightning Thief (book 1): Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

[re: book 3, The Titan's Curse] ...gripping, fun, fast...it builds up the events and leads up to a fantastic ending – Joshua N.

Series order:

1. The Lightning Thief
2. The Sea of Monsters
3. The Titan's Curse
4. The Battle of the Labyrinth
5. The Last Olympian

Prophecy of the Sisters (book 1) ~ *Michelle Zink* (FIC ZIN)

Twin sisters Lia and Alice Milthorpe have just become orphans. They have also become enemies. As they discover their roles in a prophecy that has turned generations of sisters against each other, the girls find themselves entangled in a mystery that involves a tattoo-like mark, their parents' deaths, a boy, a book, and a lifetime of secrets. Lia and Alice don't know whom they can trust. They just know they can't trust each other.

I kept wanting to know what happens next. It was so enthralling! – Monique B.

Series order:

1. Prophecy of the Sisters
2. Guardian of the Gate
3. Circle of Fire

Winter Shadows ~ *Margaret Buffie* (FIC BUF)

Cass feels the long winter shadows on her heart. Her mother died of cancer and her father has remarried a woman who has moved into their old Manitoba house with her nasty, babyish daughter and an attitude that's very hard to take. Christmas promises to be a miserable time. More than a century earlier, Christmas is proving to be difficult for Beatrice, too, for she has shadows of her own. Some are cast by her circumstances. She sees the growing prejudice against people like her who are of mixed Cree and Scottish backgrounds. And like Cass, she has a stepmother. Her father's new wife is threatened by Beatrice and is driving a wedge into the family. Beatrice can only be sure of her beloved Cree grandmother, relegated to a room upstairs. When a way of escape presents itself to Beatrice by way of an eligible bachelor, she is torn by the choice it offers her. Should she settle for a man she doesn't love or address the problems at home? Through her journal, she explores the answer and, at the same time, inspires Cass to find the strength she needs to face her own situation.

The link between the two girls, a connection across time and space, as well as their sisterly bond to one another against all odds allows the reader to experience a world of mystery, intrigue, compassion, and strength. – Raluca T.

Dystopia/Mystery/Action/Adventure

*The Hunger Games (book 1) ~ *Suzanne Collins* (FIC COL)

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes action and a good story! I also can't wait to read the rest of the series, and I hope the books are as good as the first one – Jasmine T.

Series order:

1. The Hunger Games
2. Catching Fire
3. Mockingjay (see page 6!)

***Life as We Knew It (book 1) ~ Susan Beth Pfeffer (FIC PFE)**

When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it closer in orbit to the earth, nothing will ever be the same. Worldwide tidal waves. Earthquakes. Volcanic eruptions. And that's just the beginning.

I wanted to know what was going to happen next, what trouble would Miranda's family have to overcome. — Raquel A.

Series order:

1. Life as We Knew It
2. The Dead and the Gone
3. This World We Live In
4. The Shade of the Moon—*currently being written...hopefully to be released in 2012!!*

The Lovely Bones ~ Alice Sebold (FIC SEB)

"My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973." So begins the story of Susie Salmon, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her—her friends trading rumours about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unravelling. Out of unspeakable tragedy and loss, *The Lovely Bones* succeeds, miraculously, in building a tale filled with hope, humour, suspense, even joy.

The book progressed at a very good pace and the characters were very well developed — Victoria.

The Maze Runner (book 1) ~ James Dashner (FIC DAS)

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind.

The series is right up there with the Hunger Games trilogy...awesome!— Ms. Martin

Series order:

1. The Maze Runner
2. The Scorch Trials
3. The Death Cure—*to be released in October!*

Mockingjay (Hunger Games book 3) ~ *Suzanne Collins* (FIC COL)

Katniss Everdeen, girl on fire, has survived, even though her home has been destroyed. Gale has escaped. Katniss's family is safe. Peeta has been captured by the Capitol. District 13 really does exist. There are rebels. There are new leaders. A revolution is unfolding. It is by design that Katniss was rescued from the arena in the cruel and haunting Quarter Quell, and it is by design that she has long been part of the of the revolution without knowing it. District 13 has come out of the shadows and is plotting to overthrow the Capitol. Everyone, it seems, has had a hand in the carefully laid plans - except Katniss. The success of the rebellion hinges on Katniss's willingness to be a pawn, to accept responsibility for countless lives, and to change the course of the future of Panem. To do this, she must put aside her feelings of anger and distrust. She must become the rebels' Mockingjay - no matter what the personal cost.

This book really evokes emotion and it's easy to relate with the characters and feel their pain – Luisa V.

Series order:

1. The Hunger Games (see page 4!)
2. Catching Fire
3. Mockingjay

Scott Pilgrim series (graphic novel) ~ *Bryan Lee O'Malley* (GN FIC OMA)

Precious Little Life (book 1): Scott Pilgrim's life is so awesome. He's 23 years old, in a rock band, "between jobs," and dating a cute high school girl. Everything's fantastic until a seriously mind-blowing, dangerously fashionable, roller blading delivery girl named Ramona Flowers starts cruising through his dreams and sailing by him at parties. But the path to Ms. Flowers isn't covered in rose petals. Ramona's seven evil exes stand between Scott and true happiness. Can Scott beat the bad guys and get the girl without turning his precious little life upside-down?

Pick up the first volume of Scott Pilgrim and prepare for a wicked ride! – Jennifer T.

Series order:

1. Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life
2. Scott Pilgrim vs. the World
3. Scott Pilgrim and the Infinite Sadness
4. Scott Pilgrim Gets it Together
5. Scott Pilgrim vs. the Universe
6. Scott Pilgrim's Finest Hour

Non-Fiction (True Stories)

The Tyrants: 2500 years of absolute power and corruption ~ *Clive Foss* (909.82509 FOS)

From Caesar and Nero to Stalin and Hitler, and from Genghis Khan and Vlad the Impaler to Pol Pot and Saddam Hussein, here are 50 chilling portraits of the despots whose iron-fisted rule has left an indelible, usually bloody mark on the history of the world.

This book really shows people how bad the past was. It gave me a new appreciation for being in Canada today – Sidney M.

**What are YOUR favourites?
Fill out a Rez Recommends form to have your favourite books
considered for the 2011-2012 Rez Recommends list!**