RATE IT and REVIEW IT in our OPALS Catalog!

For this project and for any of your reading, consider rating and reviewing a book you have read that will be included in our OPALS catalog. Other users (teachers, students, parents) will be able to read your review. Please limit your review to 100-250 words and follow the guidelines below.

* 5W’s - Describe the Who- What -When –Where- and Why of the book, briefly and succinctly. What is the setting: time and place? Who is the main character? What are the challenges that character has had to deal with?
* No Spoilers - Don’t give away too much or tell the end of the book.
* What is the pace of the novel? Does this book remind you of another book or another author? How did you feel about the book! Be enthusiastic!
* Once you submit the review, the librarian (Ms. Parker-Hennion) will approve or reject it before it appears in our OPALS catalog. PLEASE PROOF-READ CAREFULLY!

Samples – Short book reviews

May We Be Forgiven by A.M. Homes

Homes channels John Cheever in this acerbic novel of 21st century domestic life. Its narrator, Harold Silver, has spent a lifetime watching his more successful brother acquire a covetable wife, two children, and a beautiful home in the suburbs of New York. But when his brother’s murderous temper gets the better of him, Harold steps in as the unexpected patriarch of a family in turmoil. (65 words) Taylor, Ihsan. "Paperback Row." Rev. of *May We Be Forgiven*. *New York Times Book Review* 3 Nov. 2013: 28. Print.

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

While today we might send a text message to communicate, in Victorian times, people used flowers. Sending someone a daffodil meant "New beginnings" and a red carnation means "My heart breaks." I loved this book. It is a contemporary novel set in the San Francisco area about a girl, Victoria Jones, who is abandoned at birth and spends her entire childhood in foster homes or institutions. When she ages out she becomes homeless but manages to get a job with a florist and eventually enough money for a roof over her head. She learns the language of flowers and also learns how to finally trust and love. I devoured this book in two days! (100 words) Review by Lois Parker-Hennion

The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker

The book is set in motion by the slowing of the earth's rotation, but the focus is not on the scientific aspects or the global catastrophe that ensued. This is mainly a personal account of a girl coming of age during that period of uncertainty. And it wasn't even the tale of young love which captivated me, but the inner turmoils of family life. Just like Julia, the main character, my emotions went upside down all throughout the book, my heart filled alternately with despair and hope. A remarkably enchanting, heartfelt novel.  (92 words) Dini (a reader on Good Reads) "Dini's Reviews “The Age of Miracles." Goodreads. N.p., 13 Dec. 2013. Web. 10 Jan. 2014.