

This Week: Magical Creatures

Book Suggestions - Fiction:

Beowulf: a tale of blood, heat, and ashes retold by Nicky Raven

A modern, illustrated retelling of the Anglo-Saxon epic about the heroic efforts of Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, to save the people of Heorot Hall from the terrible monster, Grendel, its mother, and, in his final battle, the dragon.

Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus, edited by Michael Keefer (a play)

Elizabethan tragedy of Faustus, a learned man who makes a pact with the Devil exchanging his soul for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasures. Dragons draw Faustus' chariot.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children series by Ransom Riggs

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow-impossible though it seems-they may still be alive. A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, this book will delight anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

Orphaned in infancy, Harry Potter is raised by reluctant parents, Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon, an odious couple who would be right at home in a Roald Dahl novel. Until, on his 11th birthday, Harry finds he is a wizard and has been accepted (without even applying) as a student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. A brilliantly imagined and beautifully written fantasy that incorporates elements of traditional British school stories without once violating the magical underpinnings of the plot. In fact, Rowling's wonderful ability to put a fantastic spin on sports, student rivalry, and eccentric faculty contributes to the humor, charm, and, well, delight of her utterly captivating story.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini (The Inheritance series)

This solid, sweeping epic fantasy follows Eragon from anonymous farm hand to sword-wielding icon on whose shoulders may rest the fate of Alagaësia. Dragon

Riders have died out over the years, leaving the Empire under the iron fist of King Galbatorix. But hunting in the forest one day, Eragon finds a blue stone that soon hatches into his very own dragon. Eragon narrowly escapes doom with dragon Saphira's help, but the uncle who raised him is killed, setting up a robust revenge/adventure tale.

Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin (Song of Ice and Fire series)

In the shadow of an oncoming winter likely to last longer than a decade, families ruthlessly vie for power in the Seven Kingdoms. As war threatens to erupt, the last heirs to a fallen dynasty wander the continent, and dragons make their return to the world.

The Fire Within by Chris d'Lacey (Last Dragon Chronicles series)

When college student David Rain moves into a boarding house full of clay dragons, numerous adventures ensue -- from saving squirrels to arctic exploration. On a quest to discover dragon secrets, he also uncovers truths about himself and the mystery of existence. This enchanting series touches on environmental and spiritual themes, becoming darker and more complex as the series progresses.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side - while below the surface, tensions and hostility simmer. The newest member of the royal court, a uniquely gifted musician named Seraphina, holds a deep secret of her own. One that she guards with all of her being. When a member of the royal family is brutally murdered, Seraphina is drawn into the investigation alongside the dangerously perceptive--and dashing--Prince Lucien. But as the two uncover a sinister plot to destroy the wavering peace of the kingdom, Seraphina's struggle to protect her secret becomes increasingly difficult... while its discovery could mean her very life.

Video Suggestions:

Harry Potter series

Eragon

Game of Thrones series

How to Train Your Dragon

Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters