

Let a Book Take You Away

By: Grace Perry-sophomore- Reporter for Headlight

“Grace, you’re a nerd” says my best friend Sophia Capalbo, a sophomore at MHS, as I sit at the lunch room table, reading a book. Since when did reading become so un-cool? Since when was reading categorized as “nerdy”? According to *National Endowment for the Arts* in 2004, “On average, Americans ages 15 to 24 spend almost two hours a day watching TV, and only seven minutes of their daily leisure time on reading.”

“The last time I read a book on my own was last year,” Says Eliza Fitzgerald, a sophomore at MHS, “I read about two books per year.” Most students do not enjoy books that they have to read during the school year and simply do not have the time to read leisure books. Unfortunately, because students do not enjoy school-assigned books, they are less likely willing to read during their free time. “I used to be such a big reader, I just lost interest,” says Hannah Verrette, also a sophomore at MHS, “My vocabulary and my grades have been affected because I lost an interest in reading.” Many students’ grades 9-12 do not choose to read in their daily leisure time.

According to *The Best Damn Writing Blog*, “A status update on Facebook is the new bestselling novel. At least, that’s how teenagers see it.” Hannah McLaughlin, a busy sophomore at MHS notes: “I read in the summer, and on vacations. I can’t read during the school week because I have so much to do. It’s hard to find the time.”

A few weeks ago, I started to be Shoshannah Turgel’s (Marblehead High School’s librarian) assistant. After spending most of my time in the library, Turgel asked if I was interested in becoming her helper. During my H-block study, I help our wonderful librarian make the library more appealing to students. I am a total bookworm. I find myself constantly encouraging my friends and fellow classmates to read. In a world constantly moving, I often find my head emerged into a novel. I enjoy reading because of the books I choose. I have a weakness for cheesy romantic novels and novels that I simply cannot put down. I read reviews, listen to recommendations and try to not judge books by their covers.

I have started a display in the library called, “Let a Book Take You Away”. The point of the display is to draw students in and encourage people to read books that interest them. I have placed some of my favorite books on the display, such as “Night Road” by Kirstin Hannah, in hopes that others will eventually add their own favorites. The display is located in the MHS Library to the right of the computer lab.

Turgel and I, hope students will take out books that appeal to them, (found either on the display or throughout the library) and write a review after completing the book. Students can write reviews in the white binder located on the display. The review binder will be helpful to other students who are curious about a certain book(s), and want to know what others thought about it. I hope my display will eventually start a chain reaction and get people to enjoy reading! Come

check it out! Have any questions/comments or fantastic books that you would like to add to the display? Contact Shoshannah Turgel or Grace Perry.

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