**You Can’t Judge a Book by Its Title**

Here’s the book list for our cross-schools on-line literacy circles (with the first few lines from the review at Goodreads.com):

*A Discovery of Witches* by Deborah Harkness (SSS – Ms. Cruickshank)

Equal parts history and magic, romance and suspense--a richly inventive novel

about a centuries-old vampire, a spellbound witch, and the mysterious

manuscript that draws them together.

*Essex County* by Jeff Lemire (SJAMSS – Ms. Doleman)

What turns two brothers from an unstoppable team into a pair of bitterly estranged loners? How does the simple-hearted care of one middle-aged nurse reveal the scars of an entire community, and can anything heal the wounds caused by a century of deception?

*Half Blood Blues* by Esi Edugyan (EDSS – Mr. O’Connor)

Berlin, 1939. A young, brilliant trumpet-player, Hieronymus, is arrested in a Paris cafe. The star musician was never heard from again. He was twenty years old. He was a German citizen. And he was black. Fifty years later, Sidney Griffiths, the only witness that day, still refuses to speak of what he saw.

*Hominids* by Robert J. Sawyer (PHS – Mr. Bignell)

*Hominids* examines two unique species of people. We are one of those species; the other is the Neanderthals of a parallel world where they became the dominant intelligence. The Neanderthal civilization has reached heights of culture and science comparable to our own, but with radically different history, society and philosophy.

*I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov (FHCI – Mr. Waldeck)

The three laws of Robotics: 1) A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm 2) A robot must obey orders givein to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law. 3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer (GRCI – Mr. Riche)

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist- mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong.

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (WODSS – Mr. Ball)

*Lord of the Flies* remains as provocative today as when it was first published in 1954, igniting passionate debate with its startling, brutal portrait of human nature.

*Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell (CHCI – Mr. Kemp)

In this provocative and inspiring book, Malcolm Gladwell examines everyone from business giants to scientific geniuses, sports stars to musicians, and reveals what they have in common. He looks behind the spectacular results, the myths and the legends to show what really explains exceptionally successful people.

*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut (KCI – Ms. Snyder)

Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic *Slaughterhouse-Five* introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his shattering experience as an American prisoner of war.

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (HHSS – Mr. Bieronski)

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak’s groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist–books.

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (JHSS – Mr. Lambert)

Walls has written a stunning and life-affirming memoir about surviving a willfully impoverished, eccentric, and severely misguided family.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher (GCI – Ms. Wood)

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers thirteen cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker, his classmate and crush who committed suicide two weeks earlier.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (GPSS – Mr. Quarrie)

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it.

*Wake* by Robert Sawyer (BCI – Ms. Schmuck) – Not Offered

Caitlin Decter is young, pretty, feisty, a genius at math-and blind. Still, she can surf the net with the best of them, following its complex paths clearly in her mind. But Caitlin's brain long ago co-opted her primary visual cortex to help her navigate online.

Then write a blog post with your **top two choices**. Make it clear which of the two you would prefer the most. This blog post MUST be completed by **Monday, February 25th**. You are very likely to get one of your top two picks (we hope).

Consider the following questions when you write about your choices…

Which books are the first you crossed off your list? Why? What is it about those books that made them a bad fit for you?

How did you narrow it down to two? What criteria did you use to get to your final two?

What is it about the books you chose that make you think you’ll enjoy them?