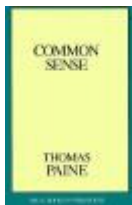




# Happy Independence Day!



## Rethink a Classic:



### *Common Sense* by

Thomas Paine

No, this isn't the thing that your mother wants you

to have. *Common Sense* is the pamphlet that was written by American writer Thomas Paine, to try and convince the American public to support the coming revolution against England. Paine uses the American public's position, and the juxtaposed position of England, to create an argument as to why we should break off from England. The perfect patriotic read - check out *Common Sense* at your library today! ~Alysa



### *A Room With a View* by

E.M. Forster is a classic that examines courtship in the late 1800s.

This book is full of romance and a wonderful summer read. As you read, you will be transported to Italy and go on holiday with Lucy Honeychurch and her overbearing older cousin, Charlotte. It tells of the progressive romance with someone in the same hotel and is a lovely read. It is one of the shorter classics and is fairly easy to read because it was written in 1908. ~Moorea

This month we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the day that our country declared its independence from Britain and formed a new nation. We all know this as a holiday about barbeques, fireworks, and parties, but did we know that that was what the founding fathers meant it to be?

So often people complain that Americans forget what the real meaning of the Fourth of July was, and Americans do seem quick to forget things, but in this case, we're right to celebrate.

When the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, they were proud of themselves, and of the new nation that they were seeking to create. They wanted to celebrate the ideas of freedom and liberty. They believed that those ideas, and the hope that those ideas would perhaps one day be commonplace for mankind, were worth celebrating. Sam Adams mandated that the fourth should be a day of fireworks and celebrations.

The founding fathers were proud of their liberty and they wanted to celebrate it. They had plenty of reasons to party that Fourth of July in 1776, but now, over two hundred years later, we have even more so.

The founding father's dream of liberty and independence has come true for many countries across the world. Liberty and independence are much more widespread now, and more people are liberated every day. Democracy is the most popular form of government in the world, and that alone is reason to celebrate.

So this Fourth of July, eat some barbeque, see some fireworks, and remember all that you, as an American, have to celebrate. ~Alysa N



Teens' Top Ten is a National "teen choice" list! See 2011 nominations at [www.westminsterlibrary.org](http://www.westminsterlibrary.org) (click on teens).

VOTE online Aug 22 – Sep 16

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>



**Mars** by  
Fuyumi Soryo

Summary:  
Mars is the  
story of two  
enormously  
different

individuals, a bad boy and a good girl. Kira is a quiet artist living in her own world and purposely keeps away from company. Rei is a free and very alive boy with a delinquent tendency. A chance encounter resulted in a tangle of engrossing events, in which two strangers found their fates inextricably intermingled and became lovers. A mere summary cannot do this timeless masterpiece any justice. It begins as simply a crazy love story, but adds on even more elements like action, thrill, suspense, and psychology. This epic love story is a must read for anyone and everyone.

Review: Mars amazed me with many of its appealing qualities. One of its strongest was the human connection it forged. Characters were well-developed and 3-dimensional; there were many sides to a person, which made the characters more realistic and relative. The author uses many different devices to build character. The characters had flaws and were imperfect, and the series explores the beauty of imperfection. The art was also very pleasing to look at. At times, Kira was too tearful for my taste, but she was a good, strong character. Once you jump into this manga series, you'll wish it will never end. ~Aarti



**BRILLIANT BY RACHEL VAIL.** Quinn Avery. Brilliant. The oldest of the Avery Sisters who is smart, pretty, and brilliant. When financial hardships enter the family, Quinn is the obligated one; always understanding, always the one to give up her things for the better. Realizing how much this bothers her to being obligated to be the "good girl", Quinn begins to start making her changes.

Continuing her crush on her gorgeous piano teacher, partying, and having adventures are added to her list, including accidentally kissing her sister's boyfriend. Has she gone too far to "save" herself from this old "good girl" characteristic? Vail's third book in the Avery Sisters Trilogy is honestly my favorite in the trilogy. Vail uses very realistic issues that can happen in today's society such as the financial issue, and teen drinking, driving, etc. The only concern I had while reading this one is that it took a while for the book to actually get tense and exciting. Rating: 4/5 ~Rachel



**Ally Carter** scored big in her new novel.

**Uncommon Criminals**, the sequel to *Heist Society*, is everything its predecessor was and more. Funny, fast, and a great read, this book covers casinos, Cleopatra, and ...curses?

The novel starts in Moscow, and stretches on, from New York to Monte Carlo, to Paraguay (or Uruguay). A quick read, *Uncommon Criminals* is easy to get into, and the mark of the great novel, hard to put down. I'm a fan of Carter for just these reasons. She's a talented author, who gives the reader exactly what they want, fun, danger, and perhaps just a little depth. Another hit for Carter, and another must read for YA readers, *Uncommon Criminals* is anything but ordinary. ~Alysa



**FAT CAT BY ROBIN BRANDE.** Meet Cat. She's intelligent, feisty, level-headed, and moving towards the stars. But Cat isn't perfect; she's got two huge problems: 1) her uninvited layers of weight, which she is tired of, and 2) her feelings about a bitter betrayal, courtesy of Matt McKinney. Cat had me hooked with the power of her honest voice and feelings. Her character is well-built, flawed and human, and never hides anything from the audience. Her mission also won not only my sympathy, but also my empathy. I found that I could relate to her situation, and her zealous determination inspired even the helplessly lethargic me to take action. However, I take issue with the relative lack of details and interaction between Cat and Matt. I would have enjoyed a more thorough perspective of their relationship, and getting to know Matt would have added more substance to the story, his character, and her feelings.

On the whole I savored this engaging story, which was clearly told from the heart. I must add that the advocacy of vegetarianism and veganism certainly helped gain my approval, along with the corresponding delicious recipes. Fat Cat earns an 8 out of 10 stars on my super-hardcore scale! ~Aarti



**NANCY DREW BY CAROLYN KEENE.** What do you get when you mix mystery and a blond teenage girl? Nancy Drew. She loves mysteries and sleuthing. She's witty and smart. I love mysteries. I like how the books keep you guessing about what is going to happen next and how Nancy is always finding herself in danger. Whether the books take you to a haunted house or a century's old castle, you get the best out of the mystery. ~Reanna

## TAB Recommends...

### IN THEATERS

#### Coming July



#### Coming August



## Book Review



The novel *ENTWINED* BY HEATHER DIXON is a lovely contribution to the fantasy genre. It is a beautifully crafted retelling of the fairy tale *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*, with a new, exciting twist. Azalea and her eleven younger sisters are trapped in their own home by the rules of mourning. Color is dyed black and worst of all, dancing is band. Azalea finds a passage way that leads her into the world of Keeper, a mysterious magical man who invites the sisters to dance in his pavilion. The only problem is - Keeper likes to 'keep' things... A wonderful read for any fantasy lover. 4/5 ~Moorea



*H.I.V.E.* BY MARK WALDEN is a good read. The book wasn't the most exciting or the most action filled book I have ever read. Nevertheless I found it to be thoroughly enjoyable. The book follows the adventures of Otto Malpenese a criminal mastermind. It's like *Artemis Fowl* except without the fantasy element. Otto does some outrageous thing- Hypnotizing the Prime Minister. After that incident he is sent to H.I.V.E. a school for evil geniuses. Here he makes new friends and what follows is comical adventure. Overall this book was good. It was engaging and interesting. ~Soham

## Movie Review



For a film about changing things, *The Adjustment Bureau* could use a few tweaks. First of all, the concept of the film was amazing, the effects so smooth I forgot that they were there. But I still walked away disappointed. The problem, I think was the story. The idea is great, but the execution seems rocky and stalled. There are too many changes in the plot, and the end is nothing if not anticlimactic. It's a bit of a let down in the end. They've built up the action, left you on the edge of your seat, and then they just stop. It's not a recipe for a good film, or a good story, and when all is said and done, it could have used some extra work in editing. ~Alysa



**On Stranger Tides, Pirates of the Caribbean 4**  
It definitely wasn't as good as the third one, but it was very enjoyable anyways. The plot is pretty good, though there are a few things that you wonder why they put it in there. Captain Jack is as funny as ever and for once he and Captain Barbossa don't disagree on everything. I wasn't that fond of Serena the Mermaid, I think they over played her helplessness when she's out of water. There are also several jokes/references aimed at adults that, though they'll go over the heads of younger kids, older kids will probably understand most of them. All in all I thought it a good movie worth seeing. ~Jessica M

I loved all of the previous movies, so this one was a bit of a disappointment. It was good, really, but it lacked some of the previous adventure and urgency. I still suggest that fans watch it, because it was very well done and has Johnny Depp (always an asset), but do not expect the fun of the previous movies. There was more Jack and Barbossa, however, and that made me happy. 4/5 ~Moorea

**TAB says...try a  
Superhero Movie  
this summer**



**Dark Knight  
Batman Begins  
Batman  
Batman Returns  
Batman: Mask of the  
Phantasm**

**Spider-man  
Spider-man 2  
Spider-man 3**

**Superman: the Movie  
Superman 2**

**Iron Man (2008)**

**X-Men  
X2: X-Men United**

**Green Lantern**

**Green Hornet**

**Fantastic Four  
Fantastic Four: Rise of  
the Silver Surfer**

**Hulk  
The Incredible Hulk**

**Rocketeer**

**Teenage Mutant Ninja  
Turtles**

**Daredevil  
Elektra**

**Hellboy  
Hellboy II**

**Incredibles**

**Megamind**



## Poetry by Aarti

### When It's Summer

the Sun likes to stay out longer.  
the trees Grow even Stronger.  
shades of green, yellow, white, blue  
cordially Accompany every Other hue.  
flowers show off their Beauty.  
the bees and the birds do their Duty.  
and I feel like running Away,  
so i can Make the Best of the Day  
waking up to the Beams of the Sunrise,  
or staying up till the tired Night dies.  
i want to take Time,  
hold it in my Hands,  
make it listen to my Rhyme,  
and Conform to my Demands,  
but Time Controls Me.  
Summer is Slipping by.  
it wants to Flee.  
Summer,  
when i can take a Deep Breath  
avoid school, or Living Death.  
when i can Sleep in the Clouds.  
or just Watch the Crowds  
don't leave too Fast;  
just let it Last.

### Resonate

I often wonder  
What it is that echoes  
Between our longing hearts.  
I think it is some magic  
That had befallen us some time ago.  
The time when eyes were first set upon eyes,  
And the fire was ignited.

### Morning Indolence

I feel the warmth of golden morning light  
Bright upon my face, as it begins to alight  
Cool, crisp morning air surrounds me  
And the sweet chatter of early birds  
And music flowing out of my iPod dock  
Allows the rush of being awake  
To pulse throughout my being  
And the smell of pancakes sweet  
Infiltrates me, urges me to eat  
But it's much too soon to open my eyes  
What if these feelings are all just lies?