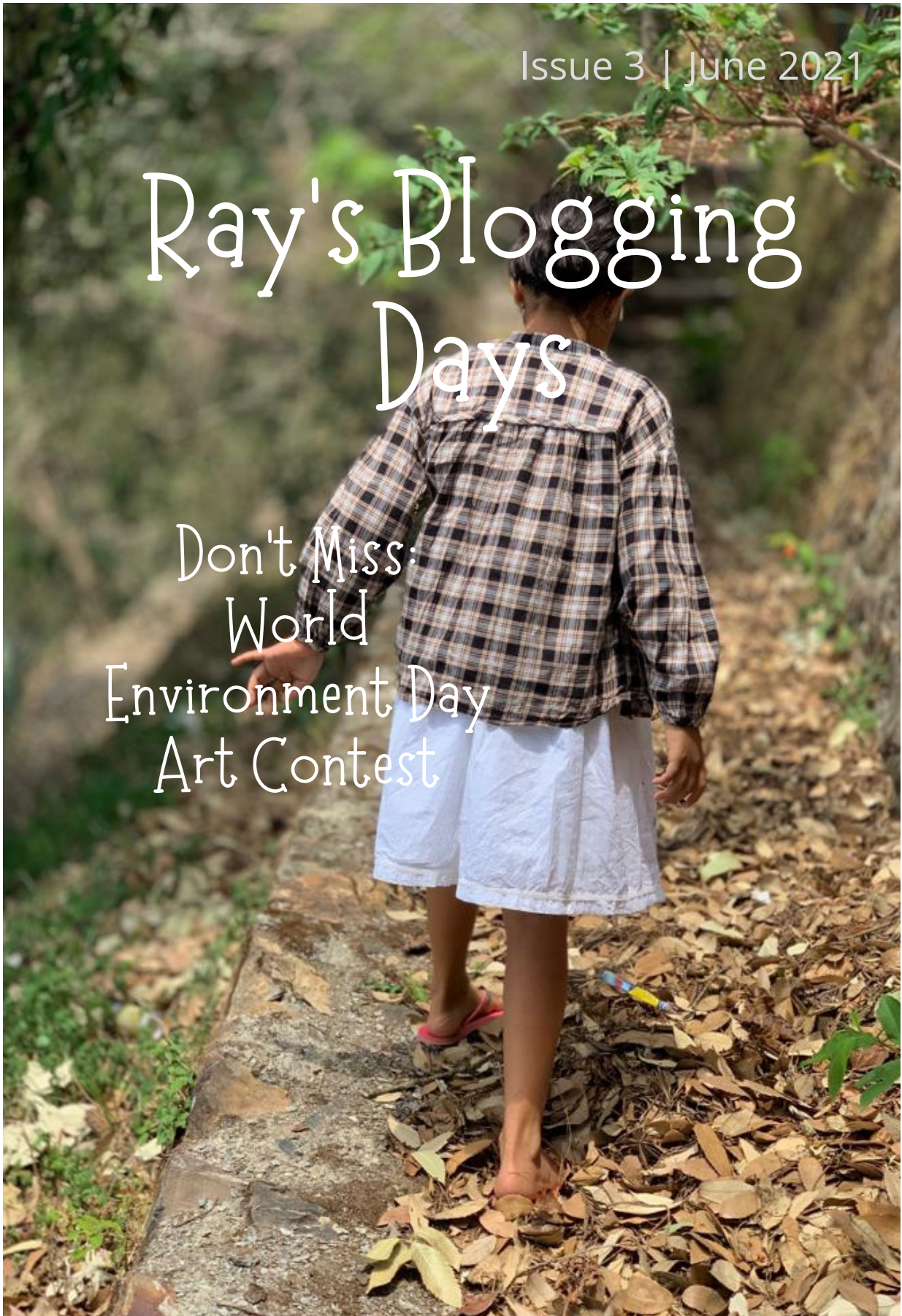


Issue 3 | June 2021

# Ray's Blogging Days

Don't Miss:  
World  
Environment Day  
Art Contest



# About the Author



Hello, there! This is Rayna, the 11-year-old reader, writer, blogger, and artist who runs this "spectacular" magazine.

I love reading fantasy and slice-of-life books, with my favorite being Keeper of The Lost Cities. And I've written 50+ novels... in my head. I have a sketchbook filled with drawings copied from books! And a couple other artworks that I did.

This isn't making me sound good. Hmm. I promise I'm more creative than this may make it seem.

Oh, and my favorite colour is blue. Always a good thing to know.

# Acknowledgements

*A huge thank you to everyone who helped out, no matter how big or small. Even to YOU right now for actually taking some time out of the busy hum of life to read this. It's very much appreciated, and I can't tell you guys how happy I am to have so many people willing to do this for me! Below, I've listed everyone who wrote or contributed something for the magazine. THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING WORKS!!!!*



Issabelle Perry

Writing Heir to His Crown - My Experience - pg 19-22

Check out her blog [here](#).



Ervin

Provided pictures of her dog Oreo for pg 24-25

Check out her blog [here](#).



## Reese Salonen

Five Fantastic Book Recommendations

- pg 30-34

Check out her blog [here](#).



## Zoe Nightshade

Author of poems: Flowers, Drama,

Bad Day - pg

Check out her blog [here](#).

# World Environment Day



# World Environment Day Art and Writing Contest



*Everyone has an artist within them. But some people prefer different things. If you love drawing, painting, or writing, this is perfect for you!*

Somewhat recently, I hosted a writing contest. It was incredibly fun to host, especially since I got to read so many awesome poems and stories! This time, I'll be doing another contest, but this time, you can enter a story/poem, OR a drawing/painting!

Sounds good, right? Here's everything you need to know (if you're entering, please read all of the rules carefully. I hate having to send back a submission because it doesn't follow the guidelines):

- **You can submit it anytime to the email ID: [rayna@causebecause.com](mailto:rayna@causebecause.com), as long as**

**it's before June 31st.** And yes, that's your deadline, and I won't be accepting anything after that.

- **You can submit a picture of any artwork that you've done (a sketch, a painting, etc.), or the document (Google docs, Word, or just in the email itself) which has your story/poem as long as it fits the theme (which is given in the next point).**
- In light of World Environment Day, which is June 5th (today), **the theme for the competition is “the earth”.** Anything relating to nature, saving the earth, world environment day, is allowed.
- **One person can send in one entry.** For example, you can't pick a story AND a drawing, nor two stories.
- **Make sure to add your name and blog link** (if you have a blog. If not, that's okay. You can still enter. Just skip this step) in the email.
- Everything **must be kid-appropriate**, or else you will be disqualified immediately.
- **Any work sent in must be your own.** You will be disqualified otherwise. It would be

good if you include your signature on the artwork (if you are sending in a drawing/painting)

- **You can email me if you have any queries/doubts.** I'd be happy to clear it up! The email given above will work, or my personal one if I have given it to you.
- **If there was a specific idea/story behind the piece, I'll be delighted to hear (well, read) it!** You can send it along!
- **By sending something in, you will automatically be agreeing to email it to me, hence showing your email ID, as well as allowing your artwork to be featured in my magazine with full credit to you.**
- **Have fun!** Please, if you have schoolwork piling up, or you're on vacation, or you're busy with other things: don't add this to your list. I want this contest to be fun, and fun only. If it's going to cause stress, um, hello? Click off **RIGHT NOW** and never come back. Okay, a little too dramatic there. But seriously, please have fun, guys. Don't do this if you don't want to. I don't care if it means I only get one entry. It would be



embarrassing, but I'd be completely okay with it if it means you're okay.

- And finally: keep it friendly! Think of this as a challenge, not a contest, with prizes given to some people as a bonus. If I choose someone else as the winner, it does not mean I don't like your art/writing or that your art/writing is bad. There is no bad art or writing! It just means there are certain things you can work on. I'll be judging the entries based on how closely they relate to the theme, the grammar (in writings), the colours, etc.

Now, onto prizes.

Runners-up all get certificates! Your work will also be shown in the magazine, with credit to you of course.

If you win third place, you will win a certificate, a shoutout on my blog as well as my blog magazine, AS WELL as a feature in the CauseBecause magazine (with full credit to you) who is so very kindly "sponsoring" this contest! And yes, it is run by my parents. We



don't talk about that.

**Second place:** If you win second place, you will win the second place certificate, shoutouts, and a feature in the CauseBecause magazine (read above).

**First place:**

If you win first place, you will get the first place certificate, shoutouts, a feature in the CauseBecause magazine (read above), and a plant (yes, a physical, live, plant) will be shipped to you. If you aren't quite comfortable with giving out your address, we'll work out something else.

Also, a few honourable mentions will be chosen to also be featured in both my magazine and the CauseBecause magazine.

So have fun, and Happy Environment Day! Make sure to read "In honour of World Environment Day" on the next page for some ideas on acknowledging this important day.

Thank you!



# Ideas for honoring World Environment Day

World Environment Day is not important.

I'm not saying you shouldn't do anything for it. However, why isn't everyday World Environment Day? We should be environment-friendly every day. We should be saving the world every day. I should not be sitting here writing this. You should not be sitting wherever you are reading this. We should be out there, saving the world!!!!

But as we aren't, here are a few ideas for things you can do in honour of World Environment day.

- 1. Cut yourself off from electricity for half of the day.** While half a day may seem extreme, it actually isn't. If you do it in the daytime, then even with all the lights off, you can do something like reading, writing (in a notebook), drawing, etc.

**2. Write down everything you love about nature and the earth.** Any writers out there? I'm sure there are, as so many readers love to write. Plus, a lot of my blog readers love to write.

The point is, write down what you love about the earth! If you don't love something, how the heck will you save it? You can write a poem, or a story, just list everything you love, write about your experiences, etc.! If you have a blog, your write-up would make for an amazing post!

**3. Get a new plant.** As weird as I sound right now: a new sapling is always so adorable! Well, not as cute as a puppy or a kitten, but still - saplings are awesome. Any type of plant is awesome, really! If you can still get stuff from out and about (unlike me....), you absolutely **MUST** get a new plant! Bonus points if you use a mud pot. What's the point if it's plastic?!

Even more bonus points if you make a potholder. We recently made one for school, and it looks pretty aesthetic, so it's a good idea. Totally not relevant, however.

**4. Spread awareness.** Not everyone knows that today is World Environment Day! Make sure to text everyone you know, or call them to make sure they don't leave you on read. You can send them this article (copy-pasted, of course, so you don't accidentally promote my magazine. Ha! Just kidding. Don't steal my content, please), or you can just jot down a few quick words.

If you're close to someone, you can gift them a little plant.

#### **5. Enter my World Environment Day Art**

**Contest!** You don't have to be good at art to enter my contest! Entering it looks really good when you do your monthly wrap-up and talk about what you did for World Environment Day. Of course, I'm kidding. However, do enter! It's not about the entries and self-promo here; I really would love to see your artwork/writing on World Environment Day. And guess what: if you win, you get a plant as a prize! Two birds with one stone (this is in reference to point 3)! Actually, I hate that phrase, as it's talking about killing birds. We can't have that kind of talk on Environment day, of all days. I

thought about an alternative recently... what was it, now? Ah, “two bull's eyes with one arrow.” It’s not the most correct thing in the world, but it works. Better than talking about killing birds.

You will find the contest details on page 4.

And that’s a wrap! I hope you will do something for World Environment Day, whether it’s big or small, and spread the word. You and your friends/family could even work on a project together!

Do tell me how you spent the day.

~Rayna

# Common Things We Do Which Are Not Environment-Friendly

Let's face it. We can't be perfect, especially when it comes to helping or saving the environment. As much as you or I may be trying, it isn't possible that we are not contributing to destroying the environment in some small or big way. Of course, 'destroying the environment' sounds really very dramatic when written in that way, but it is the truth, and as we all know, the truth often does hurt.

You mostly harm the environment in only a small number of small ways, but when all of 7 billion people of the earth's population do those things, well, it does not look good. And while some of these people do care, and try to cut down on all that they can, it's a minor number of people who actually do that.

There are several things people can do which are terrible, and ruin the earth. Right now, we're talking about the everyday things a lot of people do that

harm the environment.

What are these common things that we do that actually are harmful to the environment? Well, let's find out.

- **Shopping**

While doing shopping for your groceries may seem totally innocent, let me assure you that it is not.

Most shops give out plastic or paper bags. Plastic is the absolute worst, but even paper bags are little devils. So what can you do now? You will hardly find a store giving cloth bags. Well, there is always the option of taking your own cloth bag. They are cheap and reusable, and you can easily get one that suits your style.

- **Eating Chinese food**

Don't worry, you need not stop eating your favourite Chinese foods. All you need to stop doing is using disposable chopsticks. You can get reusable chopsticks at a very affordable price, so why not? Reusable chopsticks are mostly sturdier than disposable ones, and you can even get a customised one to go all out, so it's really a win-win.

- **Getting a new pair of jeans**

Jeans is something everyone knows about. It's a 14



classic clothing item, and you probably can't imagine them not being there. However, something you might not know about jeans is the amount of chemicals and water used to make one single pair. A pair of jeans takes almost 3,000 gallons of water to make, which is more than 70 bathtubs full! Water is something most people take for granted; but not everyone has the luxury of it. Whenever you get a new pair, try upcycling your old jeans, donating them, or giving them away.

- **Boiling too much water**

While boiling water for a nice cup of tea, or perhaps just some hot water in the chilly winters, you have got to admit you often take way too much, and are left with unnecessary water. Ahh, it's pretty obvious now, isn't it? Whenever you're doing that, you're wasting water, so it's best to first measure out the amount you need.

- **Shopping online**

Online shopping is such an easy way to get your stuff, but because of that, it has become very common. You can buy things online everywhere in the world now, but because it's actually terrible for the environment, it's becoming something

awfully serious. The problem is the transport. Hundreds of trucks are sent out every single day to deliver something or the other. Trucks are a big way of contributing to pollution. Online shopping isn't something anyone will cut down on completely, but we can be careful with how we choose what to buy. Check in the local shops first.

- **Leaving appliances plugged in**

Whether you've left your phone charging overnight, or your laptop, or even your modem, these all use a ton of energy. Every day, before bed, it's recommended to always go around the house unplugging everything. While tedious, it doesn't take quite as long as it may sound.

- **Your morning rituals**

Morning rituals are called rituals for a reason; they don't change. However, it is time to bring a change to your routine. 1. First and more importantly, flushing the toilet. Every time you flush, approximately one bucket of water gets used. You probably flush around 4 to 5 times in a day, and overall a lot of water is consumed. But while not flushing at all would be ideal, this one is definitely way harder to stop, and I

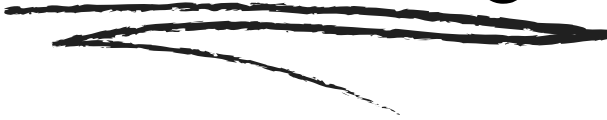
understand. I mean, you wouldn't want to do your business and then not flush.

One efficient way around this is to switch to compost toilets. Compost toilets are like dry toilets; instead of using water to flush the 'waste' away, they turn it into a compost-like material. However, this is not very suitable for everyone, so the second solution is to control how much you flush.

Technology comes in handy there – have you heard of low-flush toilets?2. As for the second thing, it's brushing your teeth. A lot of people let the tap run while brushing. While this seems like a small thing, it definitely adds up. One option is obviously to be careful about closing the tap. Another option is using a brushing method that doesn't include using water at all: there are several herb shoots and leaves that offset the foul breath while also providing protection against germs.

While removing all of these things from your lifestyle will definitely be difficult, remember how well it will suit the environment if all of these things are eliminated. Do your bit for the environment, so we can soon see the change!

Writing



# Writing Heir to His Crown - My experience by Issabelle Perry



On May 4th, 2021, I typed the words, THE END, on my latest medieval fantasy novel, Heir to His Crown, making it the fourth novel I had ever completed. It had been a full four months of writing and drafting (with the occasional edits) to get to this point. It was an emotional rollercoaster with the highs and lows. Just a brief bit about my novel before getting into this article: Heir to His Crown is a YA high fantasy novel about a teenage prince who has to save his kingdom from a tyrannical ruler, reclaim the throne, and find the courage inside himself to do the right thing.

I wouldn't be a true author if writing novels didn't take a huge amount of emotional energy and a lotta

perseverance for me. However, unlike my previous novels, *Heir to His Crown* just required more. More energy, more time, more love, more faith. This story took a level of emotional depth that I wasn't expecting. After even a couple hours of writing, I sometimes found myself drained creatively. Keenum (the main character) demanded so much attention and love, sometimes I'd just spend hours in his head, trying to understand him, his desires, and how I would breathe life to his story in words on a page. And then, I began to realize something... Keenum was almost taking the form of myself. Now, of course, we have our differences. (I'm much more optimistic than him. XD) But we had so much more in common than I had with any of my other characters. And sometimes, I'd lose myself in the midst of my story and just began expressing my own thoughts—about the world and life. Keenum's words, thoughts, conclusions, oftentimes, they were my own.

Aside from that, the actual process of writing the novel turned out to be a lot crazier of a ride than I anticipated. I began the novel during a week-long

writing competition, and let's just say I didn't come prepared. Before I typed the opening line, the only things I knew about the story was a couple of names iting competition and well, let's say I didn't coof the characters and that Keenum was a prince who had to save his country. But being in that competition, I had to learn to just roll with the story and let Keenum shape it. During that first week, Keenum had taken my mere skeleton of a plot and turned it 180 degrees. The story that I have finally completed, wasn't the one I originally set out to write. It is one filled with so much depth, love, and grace...

So much brokenness, hurting, and healing...

So much darkness, light, and the battle between the two...

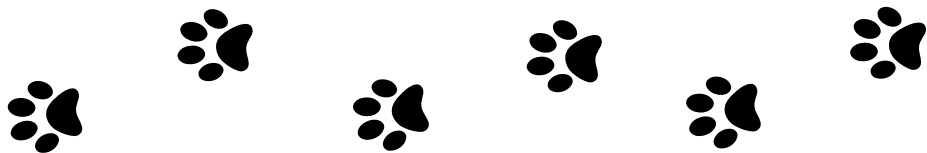
So much hope, pain, and freedom...

So much of myself and my own journey in this life. I hope one day this tale will fill the bookstores and will bear the imprint on people's hearts that it has on my own. However, at this moment, I'm going

through writing the second draft, editing, sending to my beta reading team, editing again, and then hopefully publishing. I still have a long journey ahead and so does Heir to His Crown, but the first step has been completed. And now onto the next one!!!



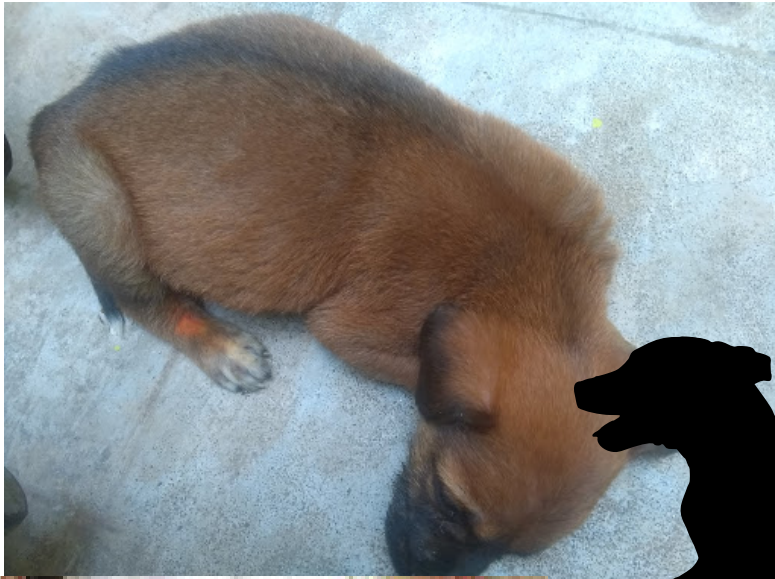
# A Doggy Distraction





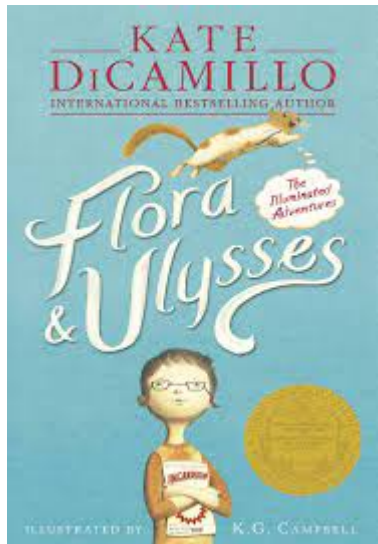
Oreo







# Book of the Month: *Flora and Ulysses*



*Flora Belle Buckman, a natural-born cynic with a penchant for comic books and a skill for avoiding her mother's idiotic high jinks, looks out of the window one day to see her neighbour vacuuming up a squirrel...*

*Holy bagumba!*

*But that is just the beginning.*

*With the help of Ulysses - the squirrel superhero - William Spiver – her new, temporarily blind neighbour - and more, Flora Belle will face many new adventures and mishaps.*

I recently reread this book (mostly because I wanted to compare it to the new movie adaptation – yes, this book really is awesome enough to get – and deserve – a Disney movie adaptation), and it <sup>27</sup>

didn't disappoint me!

I like the fun style, which is in third person limited. Maybe I'm biased however, because I do love first person and third person limited the most. There are a few illustrations here and there, as well, which are really well-drawn! Ulysses looks incredibly adorable; it makes you want to cuddle him to death. Well, perhaps not death, but you know what I mean.

Honestly, though, Ulysses is a really sweet little character with or without the illustrations. We get a quick chapter every so often with his thoughts, and while most of the time it's about how hungry he is, I do like the addition.

Now, about Flora. Really, she's a well-written character. She's a strange, weird little (well, maybe not all that little) cynic, and you can see that!

All the characters are pretty well-written, actually, and do mostly stay in character. The plot.. well, while I'm not so sure how I feel about the plot, you fly through the book, and there are several humorous moments that more than make up for that.

So, have you read this book? If yes, what are your thoughts on it? Have you seen the movie adaptation?

If you've neither read, nor watched either, then are you going to? What did you think of my review? Make sure to tell me!

~Rayna

# Five Fantastic Book Recommendations

by Reese Salonen

Do you love reading but are running out of books to read? Are you getting tired of rereading the same old books? Here are five book recommendations to add to your TBR!

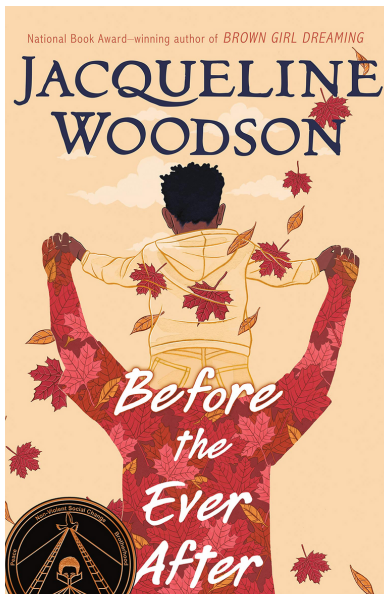
(Side note: all of these books are books that I think are great for all audiences, no matter how old or young you are)



*The book follows the main character Aru Shah, as she realizes that she is a reincarnation of one of the Pandavas and a son of a god in her previous birth. Along with her Pandava sister Mini, she sets to correct a wrong she committed to save the world from destruction in nine days.*



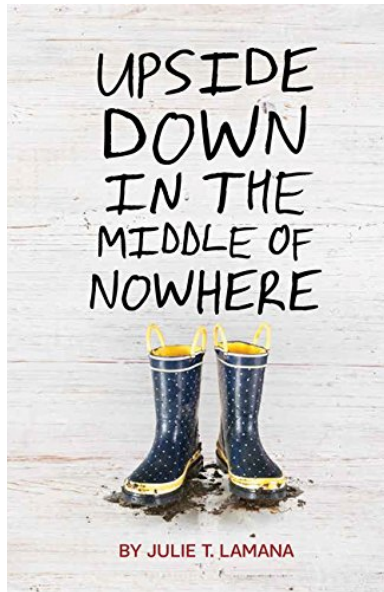
Aru Shah and the End of Time is a really great book I read a while ago! It's the first book in the Pandava quartet, and the following books in the series are good too!



*An African American preteen finds his world upended when his father, a retired professional football player, displays symptoms of traumatic brain injury. Twelve-year-old Zachariah “ZJ” Johnson Jr. loves his dad but wonders who he would be if his dad was not a*

*famous athlete*

Some of my favourite books are written in verse, and this is one of them. It's an amazing book and I recommend you go read it right now!



*Lamana, Armani Curtis, a young African-American girl living in the Ninth Ward district of New Orleans, is completely uprooted from her world when Hurricane Katrina rips through her neighborhood. In her search to be reunited with family members, she discovers personal strengths*

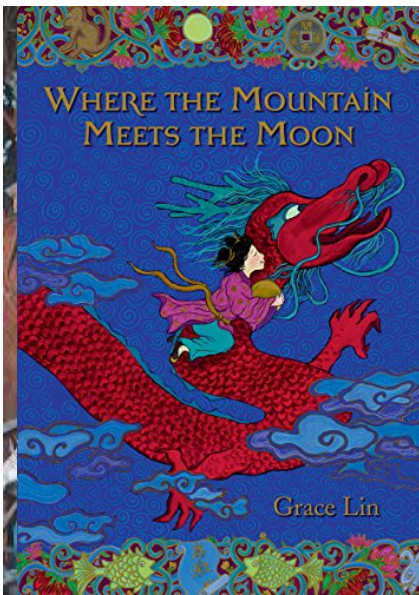
*and the real meaning of community.*

This is another great book that I read some time ago that I really enjoyed! It's very heartfelt, and the characters have great personalities.



*Meursault, the narrator, is a young man living in Algiers. After receiving a telegram informing him of his mother's death, he takes a bus to Marengo, where his mother had been living in an old persons' home. He sleeps for almost the entire trip. When he arrives, he speaks to the director of the home.*

The Strangers is a really interesting book that I would say is part mystery, part fantasy. It's very intriguing and the mystery just kept getting better and better. I haven't read the following two books, so I don't know how they are, but The Strangers is really good!



*By a bare mountain, where the Jade River runs through, lies a poor, mud-covered village known as the Village of Fruitless Mountain, where the protagonist, Minli lives. Minli is a young ten-year-old girl with a fast and eager spirit, and is constantly ready for adventure.*

This book is so beautifully written and put together! It's an amazing book and one I'll probably be thinking about for a long time to come! It's fun to read and is very earnest.

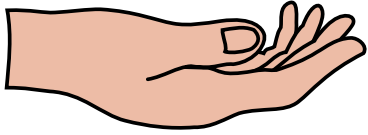
I hope you enjoyed reading these book recommendations and that you discovered at least a few new books to read!

Happy reading!

~Reese



# Make a Difference



*Rayna*

I'm a small dot  
Doused in the distance  
I'm a little blur  
Hidden in the large painting  
You can't help but wonder  
Will I ever make a difference?

I'm a tiny thought  
In a bigger mind  
The world is moving and shifting  
Will I get  
Left behind?

I'm only a reader,  
A writer, an artist  
Nothing world-changing

Right?

But I can rock somebody's life

I can see them through strife

I can change

Somebody's world.



# Flowers

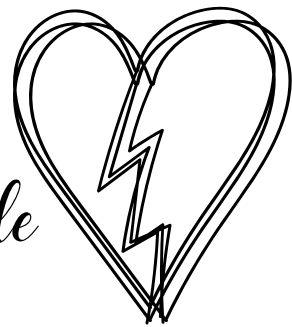
Loë Nightshade

Wilting and growing  
Dying, it's flowing  
Into my soul: the hurt for  
The flowers at my grandma's  
funeral showing.



# Drama

Loë Nightshade



Some people live for it  
Some people would kill if only  
it would stop,  
And others are dying for the  
sake of drama.

# Bad Day

Loë Nightshade



*I smile and grin and laugh  
Because I'm having a good  
day! but  
Inside I'm a crying,  
screaming, angry mess that  
only wanted to  
Stay in bed.*



*Thank you*

