

THE CHAPTER TODAY

VOL 1 EDITION 1

OCTOBER 2026

TWO LEGS BAD, FOUR BOOKS GOOD

THE BOOK CLUB NEWSLETTER



MEETING SUMMARY

PROLOGUE

A SUMMARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BOOKCLUB FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027

The first meeting of the book club brought members together to discuss *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. The discussion focused on the book's themes, its structure and the message Orwell wanted to share with his readers.

Members then looked at key moments from the book. These moments were discussed to understand how they shaped the story and what they revealed about the characters and events on the farm.

After this, an open floor was held. Everyone was given the chance to share controversial takes on the book and on the way its characters develop over the course of the story.

Students also took part in an exciting game of 'hotseat'. Snowball was placed on the hot seat, where he was questioned by the other animals (members of the book club) about his actions and choices.

The meeting ended with a large debate about the future of the animal farm. Members discussed whether moving towards technology would truly be in everyone's best interests.

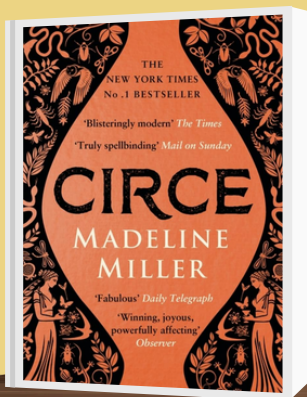
**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE BOOK CLUB BOARD! OUTSIDE
THE LIBRARY, ON THE 1ST FLOOR OF SENIOR SCHOOL.**



FROM THE SHELF

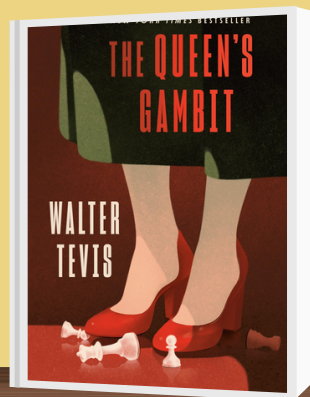
CHAPTER 1

HANDPICKED BY MEMBERS OF THE BOOK CLUB!



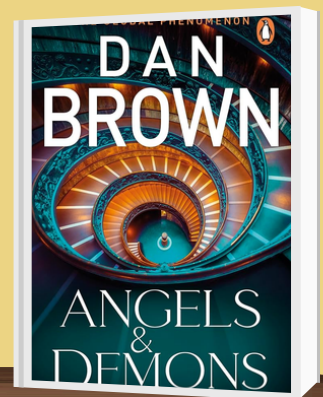
CIRCE

BY MADELINE MILLER



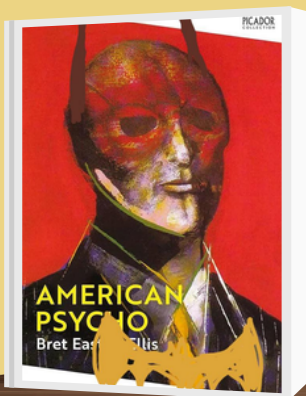
THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT

BY WALTER TEVIS



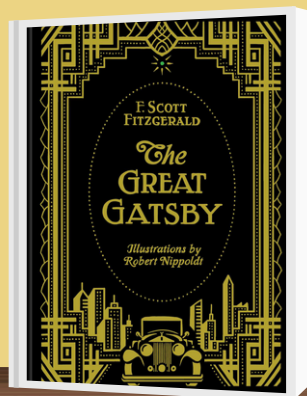
ANGELS & DEMONS

BY DAN BROWN



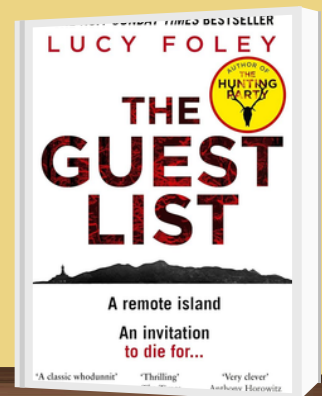
AMERICAN PSYCHO

BY BRET EASTON ELLIS



THE GREAT GATSBY

BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD



THE GUEST LIST

BY LUCY FOLEY

THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 2

HONEST THOUGHTS, RATINGS, AND MEMBER HOT TAKES

Animal Farm BY GEORGE ORWELL

Orwell's animal farm isn't just a fable about animals - it's a mirror reflecting how power, propaganda and blind loyalty shape our world today. Just like Napoleon (the berkshire boar) rewrites history, we see governments and media channels twisting facts to fit their narratives, feeding the masses. Like hens pecking at scattered grain, the masses scramble for scraps of progress, never noticing the hands that keep them caged. The illusion of progress - whether through grand statues or digital revolutions - illustrates the deeper prevalent cuts, running through society's blood, much like how the animals believe they are free while living in worse conditions.

Fear silences dissent, whether through Napoleons bloodthirsty dogs or modern day arrests and media blackouts. intelligence, rather than being used as a weapon for good, fuels corruption - this is seen in how Orwell's pigs manipulate their way to power, just like tech giants, billionaires and politicians exploit systems for personal gain. And Boxer, (the hardworking horse), who believes that "Napoleon is always right", reminds us of those who blindly trust figures of power, and the government. They work the faithful like an old draft horse - whipping them to the bone with promises, then sending them to the butcher the moment they limp.

Orwell's warning reverberates loud and clear: revolutions may overthrow rulers, but without real unfiltered change, new oppressors will rise wearing different masks.



THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

HONEST THOUGHTS, RATINGS, AND MEMBER HOT TAKES

About the Author **GEORGE ORWELL**

George Orwell, born Eric Arthur Blair in 1903, was an English writer and journalist best known for his sharp criticism of political oppression and inequality. Although *Animal Farm* appears to be a simple story about farm animals, Orwell used it to explore some of the most serious political issues of his time. His experiences with poverty, imperialism, war and political extremism shaped the way he viewed power and society.

Orwell's political ideas were strongly influenced by his experiences during the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, he travelled to Spain to fight against Francisco Franco's fascist forces. While there, he witnessed how political groups that were supposedly fighting for the same cause could turn against each other. He also saw propaganda being used to manipulate people and

witnessed the suppression of political opposition. These experiences made Orwell deeply suspicious of governments that claimed to act in the name of equality while actually controlling and silencing their people.



This context is central to *Animal Farm*, which was published in 1945. The novel is an allegory of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Joseph Stalin. The animals overthrow their human owner, hoping to create a society where everyone is equal. However, the pigs gradually take control, with Napoleon becoming an increasingly powerful and authoritarian leader. The original ideals of the revolution are slowly distorted, while propaganda, fear and manipulation

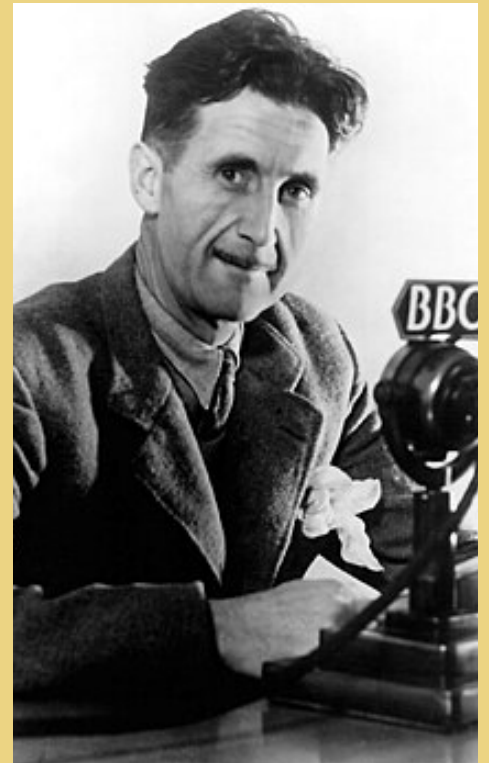
THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

HONEST THOUGHTS, RATINGS, AND MEMBER HOT TAKES

are used to keep the other animals under control.

Orwell's criticism was not simply aimed at one political system. He was particularly concerned with totalitarianism, the concentration of power in the hands of a government that suppresses individual freedom. The pigs' changing version of history, the sheep's repeated slogans and the gradual rewriting of the Seven Commandments all show how those in power can manipulate truth itself. The famous transformation of the principle of equality reflects Orwell's warning that political ideals can become meaningless when people surrender their ability to question authority.



Interestingly, *Animal Farm* was not immediately welcomed by everyone. During the Second World War, Britain was allied with the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany, making criticism of Stalin politically sensitive. Orwell struggled to find a publisher willing to take the book. When it was eventually published, however, it became one of his most famous works.

Orwell died in 1950, only a few years after *Animal Farm* was published, but his concerns about propaganda, political power and the manipulation of truth remain relevant. What makes *Animal Farm* so powerful is that beneath its deceptively simple story lies a much larger question: what happens when the people who promise equality become the very people who control and exploit everyone else?

THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

Lord of the Flies

BY WILLIAM GOLDING

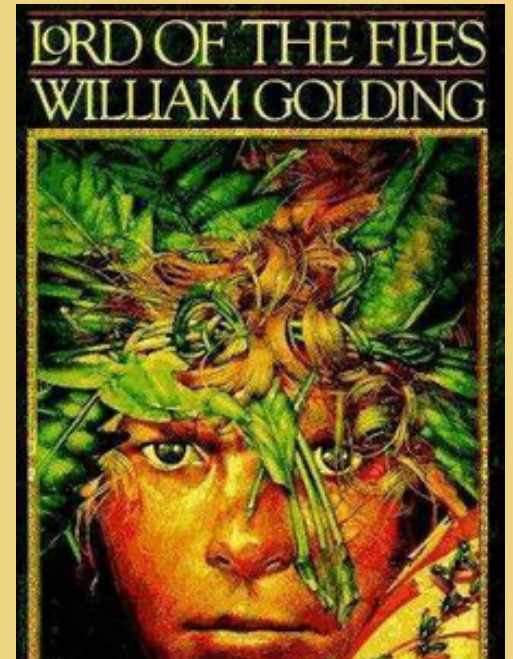
William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* follows a group of schoolboys stranded on an uninhabited island who initially attempt to create their own organised society. As fear and conflict grow, however, their civilisation begins to collapse.

The novel's biggest strength is its exploration of human nature. Golding raises uncomfortable questions about whether people are naturally cooperative or whether violence and selfishness emerge when social rules disappear. The island also works effectively as a setting because its beautiful surroundings contrast with the increasingly disturbing behaviour of the boys.

That said, the novel can sometimes feel frustrating. Some of the characters, particularly the boys representing different ideas, can seem more like symbols than fully developed people. The story is also fairly bleak, and the violence becomes increasingly difficult to read. Certain parts may feel slow, especially when the focus shifts away from the main conflict.

Still, *Lord of the Flies* is a powerful examination of power, fear and civilisation. Its ideas are more important than its plot, making it particularly interesting for discussions about society and human behaviour.

Rating: 4/5



THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

1984

BY GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell's 1984 is a disturbing and thought-provoking novel about a society where the government has almost complete control over its citizens. Following Winston Smith, who secretly questions the Party's authority, the novel explores surveillance, propaganda, censorship and the manipulation of truth.

One of the strongest aspects of the novel is how Orwell makes political control feel personal. Winston's fear and gradual rebellion make the consequences of living under constant surveillance easy to understand. Concepts such as "doublethink" and "thoughtcrime" are also memorable and give the novel plenty to discuss even after finishing it.

However, 1984 can be quite difficult to get through. The pacing is slow in places, particularly when Orwell spends long sections explaining the political ideas behind the society. Some of these sections feel more like political essays than parts of a novel. The bleakness of the story can also make it an emotionally heavy read.

Despite these weaknesses, 1984 remains an effective warning about what can happen when governments gain unchecked power. It is not necessarily an easy or entertaining read, but its ideas about truth, freedom and surveillance make it a book that stays with you.

Rating: 4/5



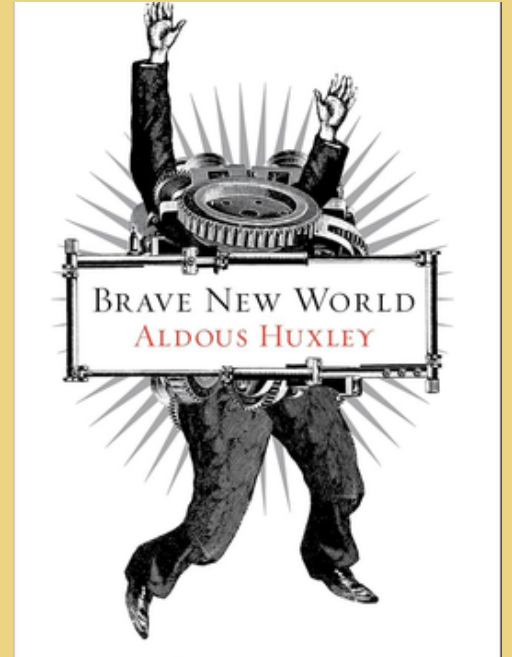
THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

Brave New World

BY ALDOUS HUXLEY

Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* presents a futuristic society where people are genetically engineered, conditioned from birth and kept happy through entertainment, consumerism and a drug called soma. Rather than controlling people through violence, the government maintains order by making sure nobody wants to challenge the system.



The novel's most interesting idea is arguably this contrast between freedom and happiness. Huxley questions whether a society can truly be considered successful if its citizens are comfortable but have no real freedom or individuality. His criticism of consumer culture and conformity also feels surprisingly relevant today.

However, the book is not without its weaknesses. The world-building is fascinating but can be difficult to understand at first, and some of the explanations feel overly detailed. The characters can also feel less emotionally developed than the ideas they represent. The pacing becomes uneven towards the middle of the novel, making parts of it feel slow.

Even so, *Brave New World* is an intelligent and unusual dystopian novel. Instead of asking whether people can survive oppression, it asks whether they would even recognise oppression if it made them happy.

Rating: 4/5

THE FINAL REVIEW

CHAPTER 3

The Handmaid's Tale

BY MARGARET ATWOOD

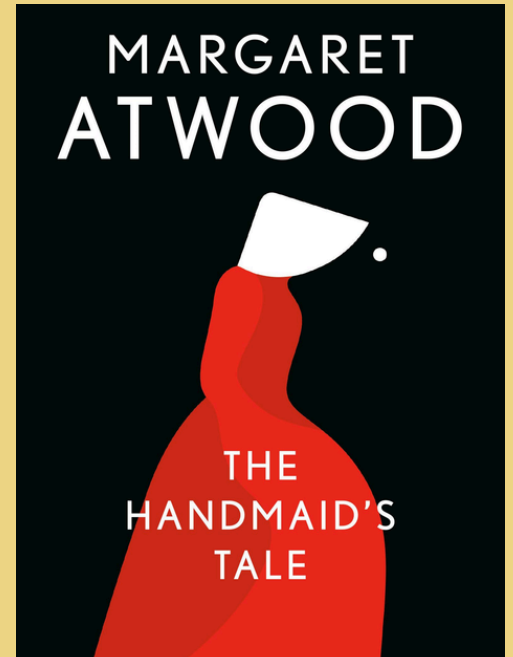
Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is set in Gilead, an authoritarian society where women have almost all their rights taken away. The story follows Offred, a woman forced into becoming a Handmaid whose purpose is to have children for powerful men.

The novel's greatest strength is its portrayal of oppression through Offred's personal experiences. Rather than simply describing Gilead's political system, Atwood shows how authoritarianism affects ordinary parts of life, including relationships, language and personal identity. The unreliable and fragmented nature of Offred's narration also makes the reader question what is happening and what can be trusted.

However, the novel can be slow and deliberately confusing. Its fragmented structure means that readers do not always receive clear explanations, which can sometimes make the story frustrating. Some characters also feel underdeveloped compared to the main idea.

Despite this, *The Handmaid's Tale* is a powerful and unsettling novel. Atwood avoids presenting oppression as something that appears overnight, instead showing how freedoms can gradually disappear. It is a difficult read at times, but its themes of power, identity and control make it particularly worth discussing.

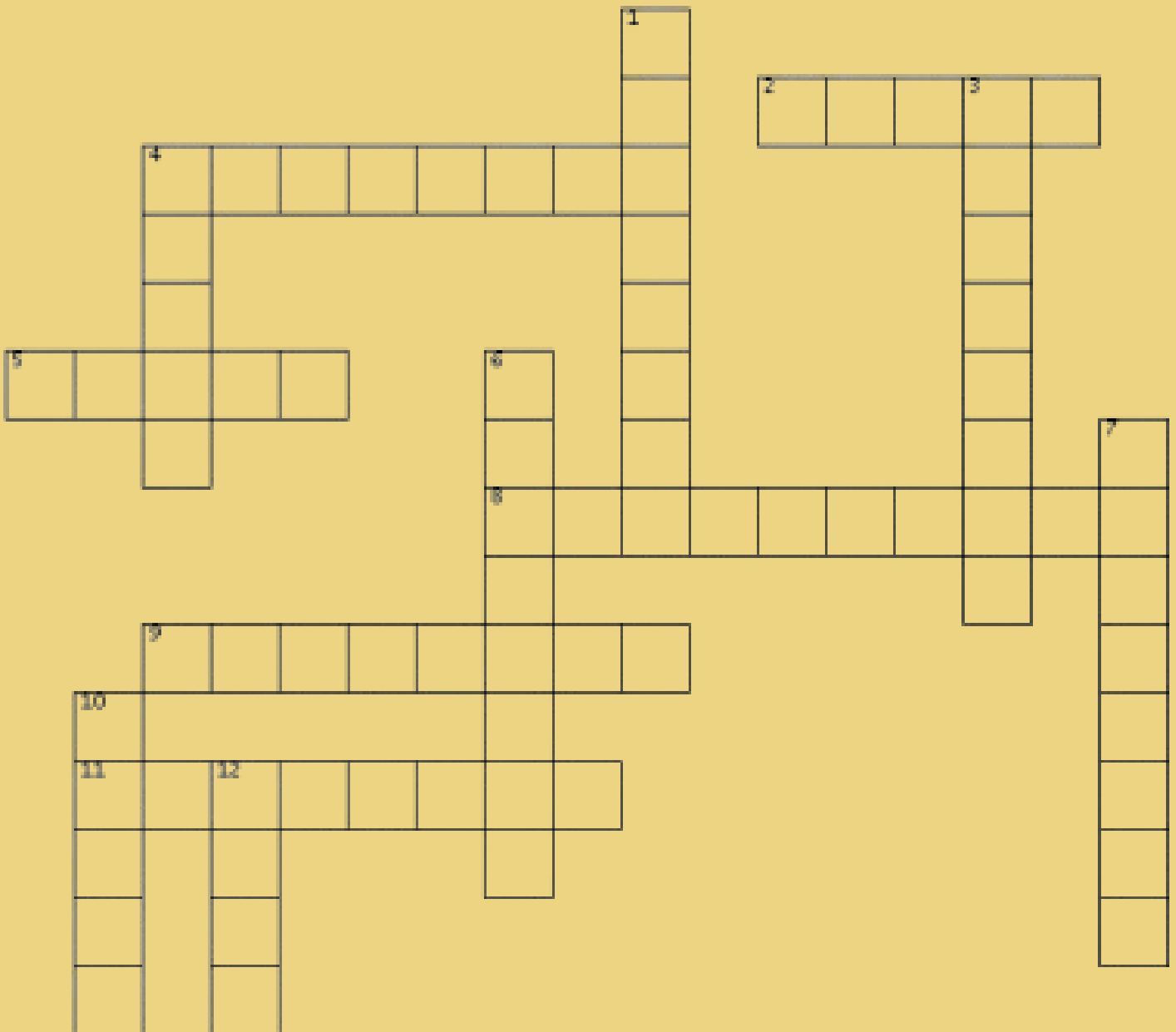
Rating: 4.5/5



BRAIN BREAK

CHAPTER 4

THE ANIMAL FARM CROSSWORD



BRAIN BREAK

CHAPTER 4

CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

2. The hardworking horse whose motto is “I will work harder.”
4. The horse who is known for being cynical and able to read.
5. The animal who spreads rumors and repeats Napoleon’s slogans.
8. The human farmer who later trades with the pigs.
9. The pig who uses persuasive speeches and propaganda to defend Napoleon.
11. The elderly pig whose speech inspires the rebellion.

DOWN

1. The structure Snowball proposes building to improve life on the farm.
3. The principle written in the commandments that is eventually corrupted.
4. The animal who represents the working class.
6. The pig who becomes the farm’s dictator.
7. The pig who is chased off the farm by Napoleon’s dogs.
10. The original owner of Manor Farm.
12. The group of animals Napoleon uses as his private force.

ANSWER KEY

napoleon, boxer, squaler, windmill, jones, snowball, oldmajor,
benjamin, dogs, equality, sheep, pilkington

BRAIN BREAK

CHAPTER 4

WORDSEARCH

M	F	Z	O	Y	F	R	U	K	V	K	K
F	P	W	C	S	F	W	D	W	A	L	G
S	Q	U	E	A	L	E	R	E	R	Z	Z
J	C	O	M	R	A	D	E	T	M	N	W
M	Z	H	S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	I
F	N	J	I	C	Z	J	B	M	C	S	N
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N	A	T	O	D
O	N	A	P	O	L	E	O	N	F	R	M
X	P	V	P	I	G	S	D	O	L	W	I
E	L	M	O	S	E	S	T	R	K	E	L
R	L	H	E	P	I	A	X	L	H	L	L
M	D	C	L	O	V	E	R	G	M	L	A

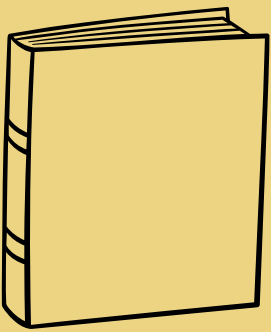
FIND THESE WORDS

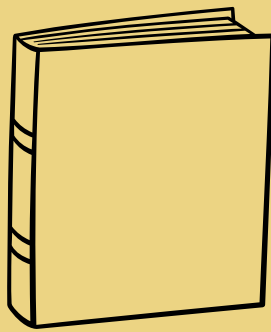
- BENJAMIN
- BOXER
- CLOVER
- WINDMILL
- COMRADE
- MANOR
- MOSES
- NAPOLEON
- ORWELL
- PIGS
- SNOWBALL
- SQUEALER

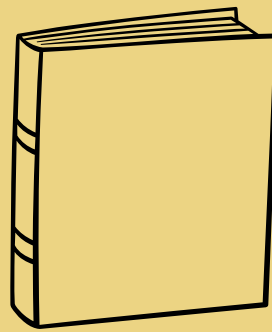
PERSONAL BOOK LOG

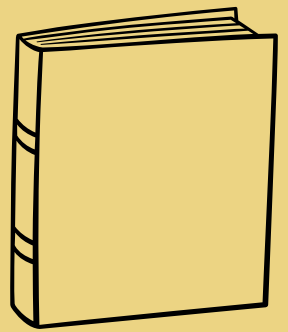
CHAPTER 5

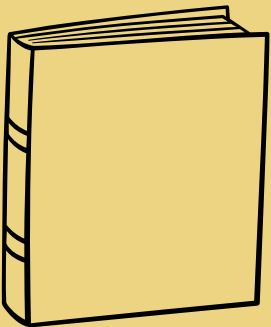
KEEP TRACK OF THE BOOKS YOU READ, AND RATE IT AS YOU GO! SEND US YOUR THE RESULTS, AND THE MOST CREATIVE LOG GETS A SHOUTOUT!

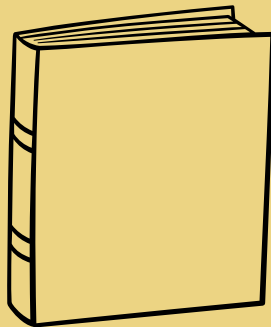


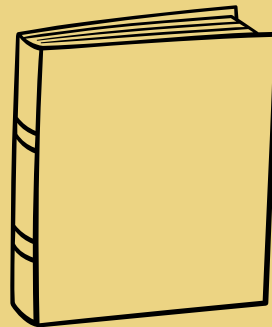


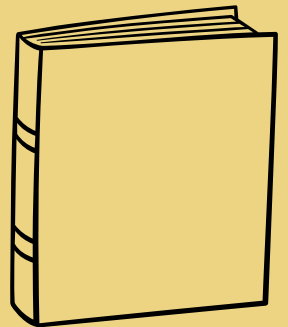














YOUR BOOKSHELF

CHAPTER 6

**FILL IT IN WITH THE BOOKS YOU READ - THE GOAL IS TO FILL IT UP ENTIRELY!
IF YOU RUN OUT OF ROOM IN YOUR BOOK LOG, THIS IS WHERE YOU GO!**



ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL*

*BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS

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