



MICKEY & MINNIE WITH A BLUE PEACOCK



Reading Diary
Johanna
Guirwald

My Reading Log

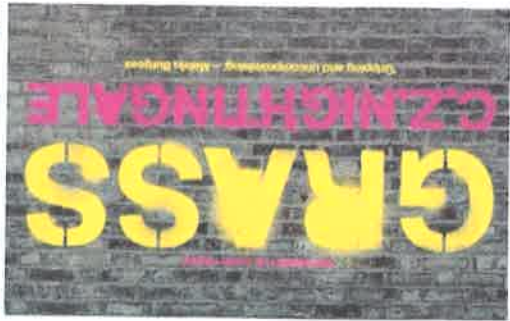
	Name of Author	Title of Book	finished	I liked the book	checked by teacher
1	Joyce Carol Oates	Sexy	28.4.08	☆☆☆	Lots of great answers
2	C.Z. Lightingale	Grass	6.5.08	☆☆☆☆☆	
3	Louis Sachar	Holes	6.5.08	☆☆☆	
4	Louis Sachar	Stanley Yelnats' survival guide to Camp Green Lake	7.5.08	☆☆☆	
5	Lois Lowry	The Giver	12.5.08	☆☆☆	
	Well done!	Go on reading. There are many more interesting books!			
6	Kevin Brooks	Kissing the Rain	16.5.08	☆☆☆☆	
7	Todd Strasser	Give a Boy a Gun	17.5.08	☆☆☆☆	
8	Joyce Carol Oates	After the wreck, I picked myself up, spread my wings, and flew away	21.5.08	☆☆☆	
9	Laurie R. King	Speak	21.5.08	☆☆☆☆☆	
10	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Millions	36.08	☆☆☆☆	Wow!
	Excellent!	You are a very good reader. You'll certainly find more good books in our library!			
11	Kevin Brooks	Candy	29.6.08	☆☆☆☆	FANTASTIC
12	Judy Blume	Double Fudge	23.7.08	☆☆☆☆	
13	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes	23.7.08	☆☆☆☆	
14	Laurie R. King	Prom	30.7.08	☆☆☆☆☆	
15	Mary Hooper	Witch House	3.8.08	☆☆☆	
	Fantastic!	You are a real readoholic!!! You can be proud of yourself!!!			
16	Mary Hooper	Horror House	4.8.08	☆☆☆	
17	Stephenie Meyer	New Moon	9.8.08	☆☆☆☆	
18	Stephenie Meyer	Eclipse	25.8.08	☆☆☆☆	
18	Stephenie Meyer	The Host	28.9.08	☆☆☆☆	
20	Jules Verne	Round the World in eighty days	29.9.08	☆☆☆	
	It's unbelievable!!!	Your teacher's personal comment:			



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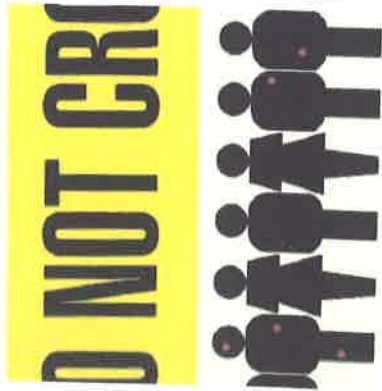


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TODD STRASSER

Give a Boy a Gun

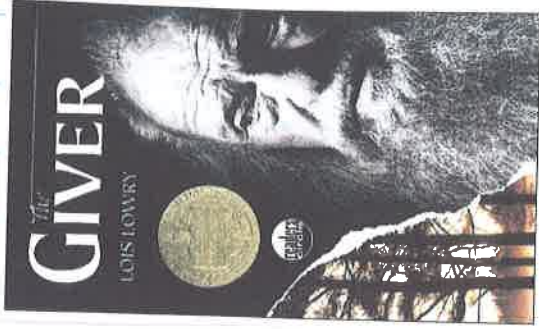


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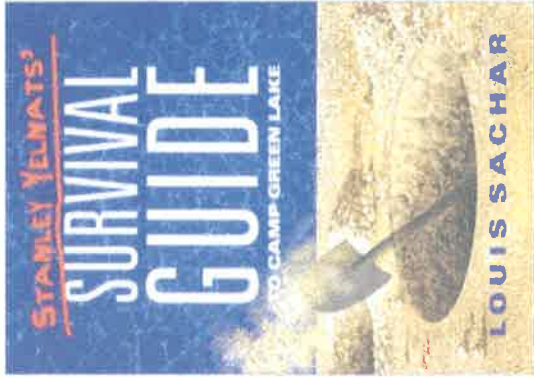
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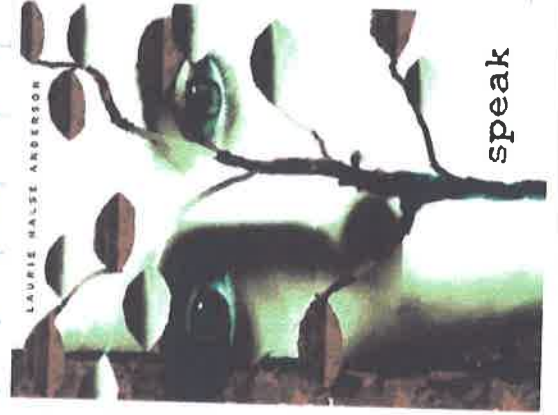
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speak

NATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR
JOYCE CAROL OATES



10



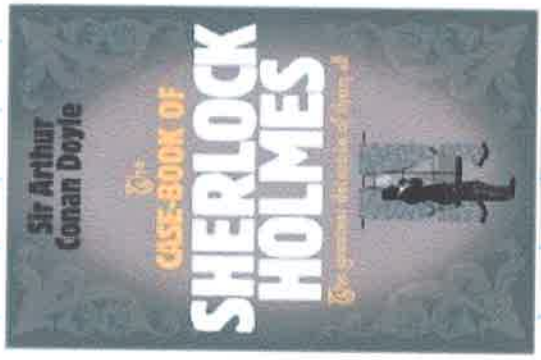
← that's a nice idea! ☺



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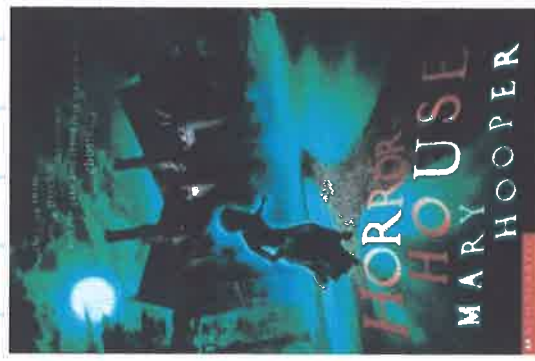
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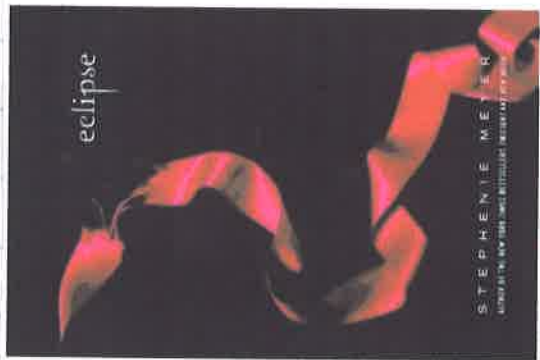
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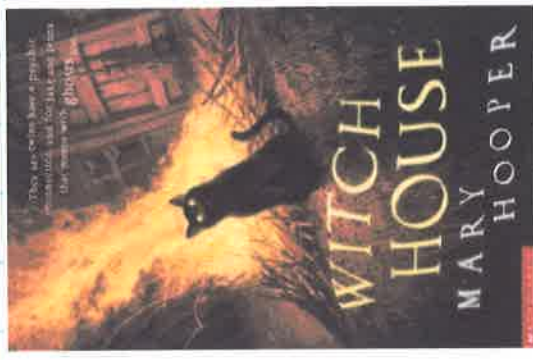
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20



15

Sexy

Written by Joyce Carol Oates



Book Review

I think the basic topic of the book is a really good and interesting one, because it is also one that fits into today's life.

But I don't really like the way it is told.

Though the topic is very gripping, it seemed to me like there were many ^{useless} and unimportant things told, not connected to the topic itself, but to the story. And in the

beginning it was also quite confusing to figure out the difference between the normal writing and the text written like ^{in italics} this.

I also didn't really like the beginning ~~content~~ and the ending was also a bit strange, for me it felt like, it hasn't got anything to do with the "basic story".

But because the basic topic was a good one, I still gave the book three stars.



You've made me curious. What is the book about?

Grass

Written by C.Z. Nightingale



Book Review

I started liking the story from page two onwards. What I really liked about it was, that there were no long, boring introductions, but that the story started right away on an exciting point.

I agree

The story also kept up my interest till the final pages and I never really felt bored or annoyed by the content.

The content is really gripping, but the message behind it is shocking. It's also horrible, that something like this could happen any time, because it was told in a very realistic way.

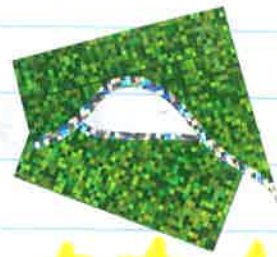
I can also proudly say, that I suspected Craig already three chapters before Caryn did, but still the story was a gripping read that caught my attention and interest from the first page onwards.

I really liked the way it was told, because it feels much more personal to you, if you read "I saw someone being kicked..."





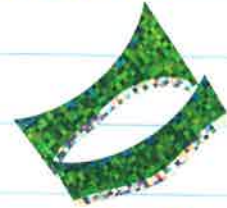
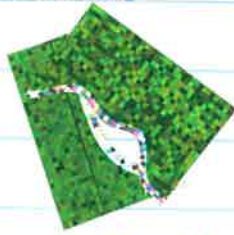
holes



Written by Louis Sachar



Book Review



I liked the beginning of the story, but later it got a bit too weird with all the onions and Kate Barlow's treasure.

But still there were many little things in the story, or ideas, I liked. For example that STANLEY is YELNATIS written backwards.

I also liked the first part of page where Sachar described the cloud that got near to the sun, but not close enough to give any shadow. Another funny idea was that Zero was in reality Hector Zeroni, great-great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni. What a coincidence 😊

In the beginning I also liked that in short parts, Stanley's story before Camp Green lake was told, including the history of his family.

So, the book made me smile very often, but for my taste the story is a bit too weird. If a story starts ^{in a} realistic way I want it to end realistically too.

Stanley Yelnats' Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake

Written by Louis Sachar



Book Review



A lot of facts, dialogs and strange, funny stories you can read in "Stanley Yelnats' Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake".

There is a lot of extra information about Stanley's friends, like Zigzag, Ampit, Squid, Magnet, X-Ray and all the other important persons living at Camp Green Lake, like Mr. Pendanski and Mr. Sir.

If you want to find out where yellow-spotted lizards like to live, how to dig the perfect hole and what you should do if there is a hole in the bottom of your canteen, read this book and test yourself, to see what you have learned.

(I must admit, I completely failed, I answered all the questions wrong, but I really had to smile when I read the correct results.) I'll do by that too 😊

For all fans of "holes" this book will be really fun to read!

Thanks for the tip!



The Giver

Written by Lois Lowry



Book Review

I didn't really like the book. It contained some very good ideas, but most of them were a bit too weird for my taste.

Birthmothers, precision of language and being watched by the Chief Elder.

A pill against stirrings. A world without colours, music, snow, animals! A world without feelings (at least "deep" ones)!

What really shocked me was the "releasing people". I mean, even if they didn't know what they were doing, it is very unrealistic that nobody would realize what really happened! I didn't really understand this. Another thing I didn't get, was the ending. I really didn't get, what was going on.

It was also quite exhausting to read the book, sometimes because it was boring, sometimes because it was printed so small. Although it only has 180 pages it took me much longer to read than Holes, which was much longer.



That's a very good, clear
comment. Now I see why
you didn't like the book that much.

KISSING THE RAIN

Written by Kevin Brooks



6

Book Review

Like in many other books I've recently read, I didn't like the ending. But this time not because it was a bad ending because I didn't get it, but because it came much too early. The book stopped in the middle of the story. To make me satisfied the book would have needed at least one more chapter.

I liked the content and also the way it was told (by Moo himself) so it seems very 'real' to you. Sometimes it was a bit confusing because he ^{uses} colloquial ^{language} like 'I donna' or 'I gotta go'. But you can nearly always figure out what it means.

The book was quite long, and sometimes a bit boring in between when he was always repeating the same thought one hundred times but I liked the story, because it really improved and got more and more exciting till the end!

⊕

Could you please include some mini plot & info for us? Jun 23

GIVE A BOY A GUN

Written by Todd Strasser



Book Review

Though the story was invented, it seemed very real. It was a very good idea to let different people tell the story from their point of view, because this also made you feel like it really happened. It is really horrible, that things like this do happen so often.

It's hard to believe, that anybody would do this. I know that they have been teased and harassed, but this happens to many others too and they do not steal guns, take their classmates hostage and want revenge. Like Allison said, "how did they get to the point where he just didn't care?" I hope that this book will make many other people think about guns at school, like I did.



After the wreck, I picked myself up,
spread my wings, AND FLEW AWAY

Written by Joyce Carol Oates ★★ ★

Book Review

I liked the book much better than 'Sexy',
written by the same author. It is a really
soul but also nice story very ^{full of sympathy} sympathetically
told. At least I thought so at the beginning,
when it looked like Jenna's life would
become quite normal again.

But then she met Trina and everything
got quite complicated and 'wild'.
Sometimes I felt sorry for Jenna,
because of the wreck and that she ^{had} lost
her mother, but sometimes I was also
angry with her because she did
things I could not understand and
thought they were mean.

I am really glad for the Happy Ending!
The story wasn't very exciting, sometimes
a bit boring, but it was a nice
story.



Speak

Written by Laurie Ralse Anderson ★★★★★

Book Review

I love this book! I started reading and I couldn't put it down. I always thought, 'only this one more chapter', but I could ^{had} simply not stop and suddenly I finished the story.

I think it is amazing how great the story was (told). It was a serious topic, but never boring, always told in a kind of ^{light-hearted} fun way, but never too ^{superficial} fun, the really serious topic was always there.

It was a gripping read. I laughed with Melinda and suffered with her.

I really like her.

It is amazing how cool she stayed, when all the others teased her or (like Heather) said that they were friends no more, because she is too depressed.

I am glad I chose 'Speak' for the reading project.

+

Written by Frank Cottrell Boyce ★★★★★

Book Review

I liked the story, it is really nice. So nice that it ~~wasn't~~ ^{didn't} even annoy me, when Damian was talking about saints all the time (I didn't understand most of this, anyway). I think the comment of 'The Times' points it out really well: "MILLIONS is fresh, funny, touching and wise".

I agree with this, though I didn't experience it as very "touching". But it is a really nice story, easy to read and hardly ever boring.

I wouldn't call it a page turner, because it isn't very exciting, but it has this special spirit that just keeps you from putting it away, even if you read the rather boring parts. Like 'The Times' wrote: The story has "all the classic ingredients to delight".

What is the story about?

+

READING PROJECT

[SPEAK]

Movie Tag Line #4 / Character

The main character is confronted with her own rape and discovers that she can deal with it, if she talks about it with someone.

Creating Mood #25 / Personal Connections

The mood is rather depressed, so I chose black.

Heart-to-Heart #1 / Character

I think that she could have solved the problem much earlier, if she talked about it earlier, but I really admire her for bringing up the courage to talk about it at last.

Cues about time #15 / Setting

One school year passes during the story.

Actions speak louder #31 / Making inferences

Mr. Freeman: creative, warm hearted, motivating, helpful, supportive

Hint, Hint #20 / Structure

We discussed it.

↳ sum up your main points, please



VOCABULARY

to wheeze - vorbeisausen

The school bus wheezes to my corner.

to take attendance - Anwesenheit eintragen

She wastes ten minutes taking attendance.

to kick up - auffrischen (Wind)

The wind kicked up.

to get hosed - mit dem Schlauch angespritzt werden

I got hosed in Spanish.

to squabble - sich zanken

The squabbled about who would answer the phone.

to blurt something out - herausbrüllen

to bloom - blühen

The rose needs to bloom to produce more seeds.

vulnerable - verletzlich

crusty - "krustig"

vulnerable moment

crusty mud

to graft (a tree) - einen Baum veredeln

+!

Dear Johanna,

You're the greatest readaholic I've met
in recent years - just perfect.

I really like to read your comments -
they show how critically you read and
appreciate the books.

Sometimes (if I don't know the stories)
I wish you'd give me a super short
(2-3 sentence) summary about the plot of the
main theme.

100 +++

Summer tip : Try The Host
and the new 4th volume
of the Twilight series (I forgot
the title)





CANDY

Written by Kevin Brooks



CONTENT

Joe, a doctor's son, has a nice life and for a few exceptions, he is a "good" kid. But then, he meets Candy. She is the most fascinating girl he has ever met and falls for her immediately. But Candy's life is very, very different from Joe's and violence and drugs are only parts of it...

BOOK REVIEW

I liked the story. It includes many elements of the typical love story, but not too many and there is a lot of suspense added, so it hardly ever gets bored. I also liked the way the story is told, from the point of view of Joe, so it all seems quite realistic.

The ending is not really happy, but I liked it because it isn't, so it seems a lot more realistic! I don't think I would read the book again, but I can still recommend it to others.

Double Fudge

Written by Judy Blume



BOOK CONTENT

Fudge is back! Poor Peter, 5-years old Fudge is obsessed with money, Uncle Kather stops talking and then Cousin Howie visits them, together with his family. Shoes lost on the subway are only the beginning of all the trouble...

BOOK REVIEW

I like the Fudge-Series. The stories are easy to read, hardly ever boring and they always make me smile.

Judy Blume has so many great ideas, that always keep you away from putting the book down.

If it's true that Judy Blume got the idea for this book after ^{having eaten} eating pancakes, I can only say: "Please eat more pancakes, Mrs Blume!"

The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes

Written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ★★★★★

CONTENT

This book is a collection of twelve Sherlock Holmes' short-stories. Some are told from his point of view, some are told by Watson.

BOOK REVIEW

The book is written in a rather difficult language, so I collected many ^{new words} vocabulary.

VOCABULARY

to grant (an interview)

a false scent

a mellow voice

to be dragged into the matter

to dote upon someone

to fidget (he fidgeted in his chair)

to be a horse fancier

briskly (he came briskly back to earth)

to arouse (he aroused himself from his reverie)

to examine (he examined it closely)

leaden (his face was leaden)

eagerness, lunacy, the queerest will,
varnished shoes

PROM

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson



CONTENT

Ashley Hannigan is the only person who doesn't care about the prom. But then her maths teacher steals the prom money and Ashley has to help her best friend, Natalia, who is head of the committee and is a real prom fanatic with putting up the prom out of nothing...

BOOK REVIEW

I think I have new favourite author. 'Prom' is the second book by L.H. Anderson I've read and I really love it. I love the way she writes, the way she describes what's going on in Ashley's head and also simply what the story is about. Though the story is not really exciting or full of suspense you can't put the book down because so many little funny things happen that you just can't stop reading. I also like that the chapters are so short, that makes it easier to read. Now, to everybody who hasn't read the book yet → READ it! And to those who've read it already → I didn't like TJS from the first page onwards! (if you don't know what this means → READ "Prom"!)

WITCH house

Written by Mary Hooper



CONTENT

The twins Jake and Jenna have the gift to "communicate" with ghosts. A few days before Halloween, a strange old woman, Mrs Wychwood moves to their village and strange things start to happen. All the neighbors' cats disappear and flies ^{harass} everyone. Is Mrs Wychwood the reincarnation of the witch that was living here 400 years ago?

BOOK REVIEW

The book is very short, easy to read, but still contains many good ^{words} vocabulary. So if you have a free afternoon this book is perfect, because you can easily finish it in one day.

VOCABULARY

bulky shape, slurry yard, scatty, orickety and ramshackle house
to stride (the cat strode into view)

to frown (she frowned at the interruption)

to chuck (I chucked the cat out)

to gape at something (I just gaped at it)

a hefty kick, a huge fuss, a homely place

to laugh heartily

to skulk around the place

to blaze

to squirm (I squirmed a bit)



HORROR HOUSE

Written by Mary Hooper



CONTENT

Jake and Jenna are ghost-hunting again. This time they look for them in an old mansion that used to be a school and is always strangely damp.

And then there is that mysterious Victorian woman Jenna has seen in one of her "visions", that had an accident, but doesn't seem to have existed...

BOOK REVIEW

I don't know if it is only due to the fact that I read it in the middle of the night, but to me the "Horror House" is the most "spooky" one.

Especially the fact that Jake tells the story (which he does in the other two books too, by the way), makes it a completely different experience to read, than if the book was told by a neutral narrator. Jake's (funny) thoughts always make you smile and his (spooky) experiences make you shiver...at least when you read the book when it's dark outside, which you actually should, because it gives you a nice scary feeling at night!

New Moon

Written by Stephenie Meyer

★★★★

Book Review

New Moon ^{had} been standing in my bookshelf for nearly a year before I could find the time to start it. I must admit that I can't truly say whether I like it better than Twilight because I ~~have~~ read Twilight so long ago I hardly remember all the details of the content.

Anyway, I liked New Moon, though it wasn't as good as I ^{had} expected.

I really liked the way Bella tells the story, because she describes her feelings ^{in a} very realistic way. She includes happiness and anger the same way as also sadness and humor. I also liked the detail when Edward called and Jacob said that Charly was at "the funeral". I only realized later what this could mean in the special situation they were in, I really liked this idea. I'm looking forward to Eclipse, because the ending of the story was too open for me!

Eclipse

Written by Stephenie Meyer



BOOK REVIEW

I liked "Eclipse" better than "Twilight" and "New Moon", because it ^{has been} is the most exciting book so far. I ^{feel} am really sorry about ^{for} Jacob, but I think if I was in Bella's place, I had chosen Edward too.

But still, I wished that Jake would come back and that they could talk about it all before Bella leaves and becomes a vampire. I am really looking forward to "Breaking Dawn", because though Bella says she is sure that she wants to be a vampire, I think that she still could change her mind. What I really liked about "Eclipse" is that Jacob and Edward started to respect each other, though they do not really like each other. I really liked the scene when they were ^{at} talking about Bella, while she was still half awake.

I really hope that Jake finds another girl!

The host

Written by Stephanie Meyer



CONTENT

The earth has been invaded by 'souls' which take over ^{the} human minds. But Wanderer's 'host', Melanie Stryder doesn't fade away and after some time they become friends and start to search for other humans ^{things} living in hiding...

BOOK REVIEW

I read 'the host' because I ^{have} read the 'Twilight-series' by the same author and really liked it. And I really wasn't disappointed. Everybody who has read and liked the 'Twilight-series' should also read 'the host'. It is quite long and there is a lot of text on one page, but ^{when} you once ^{get} started (the book) the story "catches" you, like in all of ^{Stephanie Meyer's} other books. And it also gets better with every page. It took me four weeks to read the first 450 pages, but I finished the last 150 pages within two days! And I liked the ending. (Which is a rather rare case :-!)

Round the World in Eighty Days

Written by Jules Verne



CONTENT

The English gentleman Phileas Fogg bets, that he can go around the world in 80 days. If he wins the bet, he gets 20,000 pounds, if he loses, he has to pay the same amount. Of course, his journey doesn't work out without any difficulties...

BOOK REVIEW

I really like the story. Jules Verne really has a great fantasy. I don't know whether he has seen all the things he describes in his books himself, or if he just imagines them, either way it's great.

I have also seen a movie of the story, which is quite different from the original, so it was fun to read and see what the story is really like.

VOCAB.

- bail
- voyage
- delay
- warrant