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my reading Log



	Name of Author	Title of Book	finished	I liked the book	checked by teacher
1	Stephanie Meyer	Breaking Dawn	17.10. ⁰⁸	★★★★★	Super (+)
2	Mark Haddon	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	31.10. ⁰⁸	★★★★★	Very well written! (+)
3	John Boyne	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	16.11. ⁰⁸	★★★★★	Brilliant! (+)
4	Laurie R. King	Catalyst	24.11. ⁰⁸	★★★★★	Fantastic! (+)
5	Walter Dean Myers	Monster	25.12. ⁰⁸	★★★★★	Excellent! (+)
	Well done!	Go on reading. There are many more interesting books!			
6	Carol Plum-Ucci	The Body of Christopher Creed	2.1.09	★★★★★	!!! (+)
7	Charlotte Brontë	Jane Eyre	19.2.09	★★★★	Very critical! (+)
8	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Framed	3.3.09	★★★★★	Great! (+)
9	Carol Plum-Ucci	The Night my sister went missing	21.3.09	★★★★★	#1 (+)
10	Lesia Newman	Fat Chance	29.3.09	★★★★	Meat! (+)
	Excellent!	You are a very good reader. You'll certainly find more good books in our library!			
11	Alice Walker	The Color Purple	6.4.09	★★★★★	Way to go! (+)
12	Sue Townsend	The Adrian Mole Diaries	9.4.09	★★★★★	Wow! (+)
13	S.E. Hinton	The Outsiders	9.4.09	★★★★★	Perfect! (+)
14	Markus Zusak	I am the Messenger	22.5.09	★★★★★	Fine (+)
15	Ernest Hemingway	The Old Man and the Sea	27.5.09	★★★★	Very honest! (+)
	Fantastic!	You are a real readoholic!!! You can be proud of yourself!!!			
16	Suzanne Mason	A Trick of Nature	14.6.09	★★★★★	Super (+)
17	William Golding	Lord of the Flies	30.5.09	★★★★★	Very thoughtful! (+)
18	Markus Zusak	The Book Thief	27.6.09	★★★★★	
19	John Steinbeck	The Pearl	1.7.09	★★★★	
20	George Orwell	Animal Farm	22.7.09	★★★★★	
	It's unbelievable!!!	Your teacher's personal comment:			



Johanna Grünwald Sb



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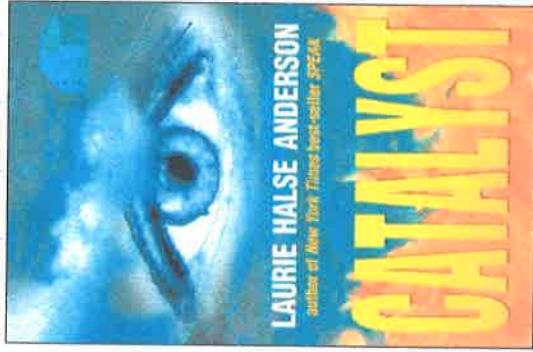
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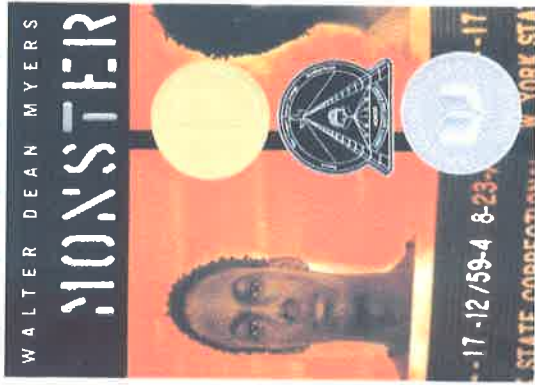
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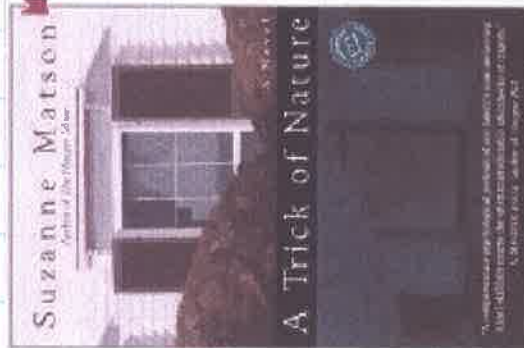
Wonders of the World: From the Nile to the Amazon River

Alice Walker

The Color Purple



11



16

12



17



Lord of the Flies

william golding

14



13



18

15



19



JOHN STEINBECK

The Pearl

20



With a New Preface by Russell Baker

ANIMAL FARM
GEORGE ORWELL

BREAKING DAWN

Written by Stephenie Meyer



CONTENT

Edward and Bella are finally married and Bella is happy to belong to Edward forever now. But on their honeymoon something totally unexpected happens, that changes everything and almost destroys their luck forever...

BOOK REVIEW

Breaking Dawn is definitely my favourite book in the Twilight-Series, because it is really exciting right from the beginning, not like the first three books, where the very exciting parts are in the very end.

My favourite parts are the ones where the special talents of the ^{different} vampires are described. I think if I could choose one, I'd choose Alice's talent, the foreseeing. But there are so many cool supernatural talents, that it is really difficult to decide. Another thing I loved is that Jacob and Edward get along so well with each other now.

I don't know if I should be satisfied that Bella and Edward finally have their happy ending, or if I'm supposed to be sad that the story is finished now.

I only know that if Stephenie Meyer decides to write a 5th book, I will definitely read it!

✓ Super! ⊕

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Written by Mark Haddon



CONTENT

The narrator is Christopher Boone, he has Asperger's Syndrome. He has never gone further than the end of the road alone, he is a genius at doing maths but he knows very little about humans and hates being in crowded places or being touched. (But) when he finds the dog of a neighbor murdered, he decides to find the murderer...

BOOK REVIEW

I think the main reason why I bought the book was the cover and the title. Both made me very curious.

The story is sad, but Christopher tells it in a funny way that sometimes made me laugh out loud because he wrote ^{about} really normal things in such a strange way. (But) many of the things he said, were completely logical, though they are hard to understand. The way he talked about his life, his experiences and his feelings made me realize, how hard it must be to live with Asperger's Syndrome.

The language is really simple, it is easy to read, and though the story sometimes gets close to being boring, I can still recommend it, because it really is an extraordinary story!

Very well written entry! (+)

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Written by John Boyne



CONTENT

Germany, 1943.

When nine-year-old Bruno and his family move to the countryside because of his father's job, he hates it there. Next to his house there is a big area enclosed by a high wire fence and in there are small houses and people and they are all wearing the same striped clothes. And they all look really sad...

BOOK REVIEW

The book is definitely one of the saddest, if not the saddest of all books I've ever read. It is quite difficult to describe the story, because I don't think that everybody feels the same way while reading it.

Some might say it's boring, I just think that it is horribly sad. It starts off as a normal story but the more you read, the clearer it gets that the story won't have a happy ending.

Still, I can really recommend the book, because it is a touching story that gets more exciting, the more you read it.

Brilliant!
⊕

Catalyst

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson



CONTENT

Kate Malone's life is fine. She loves chemistry and ^umaths, is good at running and takes care of her family. She has only applied to one college, and though she hasn't gotten an answer yet, she is still positive, that she will be accepted. But then several incidents change Kate's life and future forever...

BOOK REVIEW

I would have given the book five stars, if I had liked the ending, because I really liked the story.

It started off really nice, funny and ^{was} personally told, like the author always writes. ^{in a personal way} (And) then suddenly something really horrible happens and the story gets really sad but it's still a kind of fun.

One thing I didn't like about the book, is how Kate treats her boyfriend. He is always so nice, friendly and helpful, but she is sometimes really mean, that's unfair!

Though Catalyst didn't, like promised at the back of the book, change the way I look at the world, I can recommend it to anyone who likes Laurie Halse Anderson's books, because it's a really thoughtful story.

Fantastic! And you even felt with Kate's boyfriend. This shows me that you really got into it!



MONSTER

Written by Walter Dean Myers



CONTENT

Steven Harmon is black and on trial for murder. He is 16 years old and loves making movies, so the story is told in diary entries and also like a movie script.

BOOK REVIEW

The way this book is written, is a very unusual, special one and it took me a ^{quite} few pages until I got used to the "movie-script passages". But though, after a while, I started to like them, I was still looking forward to the diary passages, because they were written in a more "normal" way and easier for me to read and understand, because at the movie-script passages you really had to pay attention to who was talking, because otherwise you get lost quickly.

But I can still recommend the book, because the story is catching, the way it is written is extraordinary and you can learn many "law-vocabulary". And it's really a book you can read, even if you don't have so much time.

Excellent!!



The Body of Christopher Creed

Written by Carol Plum-Ucci



CONTENT

Everything is fine in ^{the little town} Steepleton, but then, one day Christopher Creed, a ~~weirdo~~ without friends, disappears without a trace. At first his fellow students still make jokes about it, but then there comes the time when fingers start pointing, because no one wants to ^{take} the responsibility for Creed's miserable life - ^{neither} his annoying mother, ^{nor} the students who beat him up - but everybody points at somebody else...

BOOK REVIEW

I love this book. The story is full of suspense, catching, touching. There is not much more to say, except for "Read it!"

For me, the beginning was a little confusing, but I read the first chapter again ^{at} ^{= when I had finished reading} in the end and everything became clear.

I think it's important to know, that the first chapter actually belongs to the end of story, so the book starts with the end.

But this doesn't spoil the story at all, in fact it makes it even more exciting. I would call it a page-turner.

The book is written from the point of view of Torey Adams which makes it even more touching, because his thoughts in certain situations also make you think. I wouldn't say that this book is my favourite one, but it definitely is one of my favourites. Read it!

I enjoyed it, too!



Jane Eyre

Written by Charlotte Brontë



CONTENT

The book is the story of Jane Eyre's life. From her miserable childhood and her time in the orphanage until her time in Thornfield where she taught the little girl Adèle and finally met ^{Mr Rochester} the man she loved. There is only one problem: Mr Rochester is already married...

BOOK REVIEW

The only thing I liked about the book, was the beginning, because it really "touched" me, when Jane was treated badly or unfairly, but when she finally grew up and started to work as a teacher at Thornfield I didn't care anymore ^{about} what would happen to her.

From this point onwards the story didn't have any good surprises, and the few it had, didn't strike me, sometimes because they were too unrealistic (who keeps his crazy wife on the attic) or because I just didn't care (so, her rich uncle left her 20.000 pounds, great! But she left the man she loved, so what will she do?). I know that sounds a little mean, but it is only my opinion. Anyway, I would only recommend the book to people who like these kinds of stories. ✓

⊕ You are a critical text-reader. This comment shows me that you've thought about Brontë's ideas carefully. J.E. is a typical 19th century novel with Gothic elements (e.g. mad woman). In contrast to this mad woman, Jane can't act out her aggressive feelings. She is a victim abused by her aunt and cousin seeking liberty and freedom.



FRAMED

Written by Frank Cottrell Boyce



CONTENT

Dylan Hughes lives in the little town Manod where he is the only boy. His family owns the Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel. In Manod it's always raining but it has the lowest crime rate. Everything is fine, but then suddenly Dylan's family has financial problems and then his father disappears and he has to think of something to save the Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel...

BOOK REVIEW

The story is just so lovely and because it's told from Dylan's point of view just so incredibly fun. I really love the way it is written, because it is really easy language and Dylan's funny comments always make me smile. I think my favourite character is Dylan's little sister Minnie, because her ideas are so great and I loved the parts where she kept talking about all the fascinating criminals. And I also like Tom who always claims to be honest and that he would never do anything criminal again and then he has the best ideas for the ^{big} out theft! Of course I also love Dylan who would just do anything for a game of football. Actually, I love them all!

Great! Yes, I also loved them all!



The Night my Sister went missing

Written by Carol Plum-Ucci



CONTENT

It starts out like a typical dune party, a group of teenagers hanging out on an abandoned pier, but ^{that night} ~~tonight~~ someone brought a gun. And suddenly there's a little "pop" and Kurt's sister Casey drops off the pier. He calls the police and at the police station he finds himself outside the questioning room together with his best friend Drew where they can listen to the stories of the eye witnesses without being noticed. So many questions have to be answered: Is Casey alive or dead? And was the gun fire accidental? ...

BOOK REVIEW

This book is one of the most exciting ones I've recently read. The beginning was a little boring and confusing for me to read because you had to remember so many names and because the story is told from Kurt's point of view he also thought about other things or unimportant details a lot which was sometimes hard to follow. But later the story got better and more gripping, I could hardly put it down. A lot about the plot reminded me of "The Body of Christopher Creed" because also this book is about a person of whom you don't know whether he is alive or dead and there is also the "supernatural touch" because of the fortuneteller. I really loved this book and I can totally recommend it to anyone who liked "The Body of Christopher Creed".



FAT CHANGE

Written by Lesléa Newman



CONTENT

Judi Liebowitz is a girl in eighth grade and she writes a diary for English class. She has two secret desires: to become thin, because she thinks she is fat and to go out with Richard Weiss. At first these are only typical teenage problems but when her ^{former} best friend ^{Monica} steals her almost boyfriend Richard, Judi becomes best friends with pencil-thin Nancy Pratt and because she desperately wants to be like her she also starts to suffer from bulimia, like Nancy Pratt does. There's nobody she can talk to, so is there a way out of this?

BOOK REVIEW

What really impressed me was the way the book could really express Judi's feelings but it still stayed realistic. There wasn't too much drama or too much fun but the story was just told as it was without any unnecessary details. Sometimes, while reading, I thought that if I wrote a diary I would also write some of the things Judi wrote, but not in such an extreme way.

Details that I loved were the short parts where Judi always writes down what her Mom would say about it, like "time will tell" or "that's the price of beauty" or "to err is human, to forgive is divine". She really has something to say for every situation you can imagine! That was really fun to read. "Fat Chance" is a nice book, easy and quick to read but not too exciting.



It's good to read light-hearted books in between, isn't it?

The Color Purple

Written by Alice Walker



CONTENT

The Color Purple is a story about the lives of several Afro-American Women, told in diary entries and letters. The main character is Celie. She was raped by her stepfather when she was 14 years old and then married to a man who actually wanted her sister Nettie. Nettie visits Celie but is then soon forced to leave by Celie's husband. She promises to write to Celie, but Celie never gets any letters, so she thinks Nettie is dead...

BOOK REVIEW

At first I was annoyed by the language but I soon got used to it and after a few pages this language ^{is} also ^{seemed} more authentic, because an uneducated girl would most likely not write perfect English. What I really liked was how the difference ^{between} of Celie and Nettie was also showed ^{*} in the language they used in their letters because this really showed how different their education had been. ~~But~~ ^N not only the language, ^{but} also the content of Celie's letters caught my attention, because they were really touching due to the honest and the emotional way they were written (in). I was so glad that the story had a happy ending, because Celie really, really deserved it!

So was I. I see that you've entered Celie's world!



* only rarely used. Usually 'shown'!

The Adrian Mole Diaries

Written by Sue Townsend



CONTENT

"The Adrian Mole Diaries" include the two stories "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 3/4" and "The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole". Adrian Mole faces the same problems like most other teenagers, but he keeps a diary in which he writes about his love Pandora, his parents' divorce, his problems with his dog and many more ...

BOOK REVIEW

At first I wasn't really impressed by the story, but the more I read, the funnier the story got. The fun, naive way Adrian wrote down all his experiences is just hilarious. And I learned a new word: "berserk". It was used quite often, because many people got berserk within the story. The character I really feel pity for is Adrian's dog. He wasn't treated incredibly badly but he got ill and hurt so often that I was really sorry for him. Another person I was a little sorry for was Adrian's dad's new girlfriend Doreen, because she seemed quite nice to me. So I was a little sad when she had to leave because Adrian's mother came back though this was definitely better for Adrian. Adrian Mole's Diaries are really fun and easy to read and you can laugh about his life and be happy with yours.

* Usually, it's "to go berserk".

I totally agree with you!



The Outsiders


Written by S.E. Hinton



CONTENT

The two groups of teenagers, Socs and Greasers, don't like each other and there have been fights before, but nobody got seriously hurt. But one night, when Socs attack the Greaser Ponyboy and one of his friends, somebody is killed because one of them brought a knife and suddenly Ponyboy is ^{plees/had to flee} fleeing from the police and nothing is like it used to be anymore ...

BOOK REVIEW

The book was really easy to read, I finished it on one day and again I learned a new word: "tuff" = !
 What I really liked about the book was that in the first chapter all characters were described ^{in detail} very detailed and if you had forgotten who was who you could always go back again and read through it. (I had to do it quite often but now I'm an expert! :)) I bet you are!

Another thing I liked was that Johnny died because, though I really liked him and though it was sad, this was better than ^{being} (if he was) sent to jail. Now he could die as a hero which he really deserved, because otherwise he would have been crippled for the rest of his life! ✓

perfect

Dear Johanna,

That's great "work" - but I see that you're enjoying the books.

I AM THE MESSENGER



Written by Markus Zusak



CONTENT

After Ed Kennedy stops a bank robbery, he receives ^{ei} a card in the mail, an ace, with three addresses on it. He goes there and soon figures out that he was sent there for a special purpose - to deliver a message. These messages are not always easy to deliver, but with the help of his friends and two strange men Ed manages to - until one day he receives a card with his own address ...

BOOK REVIEW

At first I didn't really get into the story, I liked it because it was written in a fun, easy way, but especially the last messages really touched me. I think my favourite message was Marv's because it really shocked me and I felt for him a lot. It was amazing to watch how Ed changed within the story and how he developed from the underage cab driver without future to "the messenger".

What really shocked me was the way Ed's mother treated him. I can't think of any reason she had to be so mean to him, so this made me a little sad and I was relieved when he once told her what he was thinking. My favourite character was definitely the Doorman, he is just fabulous. "I am the Messenger" isn't my favourite book, but it was definitely worth reading it!



for this very honest comment!
Very well done!

The Old Man and the Sea

Written by Ernest Hemingway

★ ★ ★



CONTENT

The old fisherman hasn't caught a fish for 84 days and even his apprentice had to leave him because of so much "bad luck". So when he sails out on the sea on the 85th day he has to catch a big fish. He manages to do so, but the fish pulls him out into the open sea and then some sharks appear...

BOOK REVIEW

I don't know why I didn't like the book so much. Maybe I didn't like the way it was written because the story is actually good but unfortunately there was something about it that annoyed me. I'm not sure what it was but it kept me from reading more than 10 pages at once.

It took me almost a week to finish the book and that's no good sign, because it had only 33 pages. I usually finish a book in a few days.

I liked the story but the old man thought about too many things at a time and so he didn't really stay focused on the exciting part of the story, the catching of the fish. I think the story was a little too "philosophical" for me because right now I like stories where a lot happens and you don't only think about it!

👇 I see what you mean. I'm glad you also read about the Ties and didn't force yourself to work on *The Old Man*.

A Trick of Nature

Written by Suzanne Matson



CONTENT

Greg Goodman is a not very ambitious schoolteacher who takes his comfortable life for granted, he doesn't really think about his wife ^{Patty}, his daughters or his house in the suburbs.

But then one day, one of his football team players gets struck by a lightning ^{during} while a practice outside and Greg's life changes a lot ...

BOOK REVIEW

What I really liked was that the story was told from different points of view, so you didn't only find out about Greg's view but also about the feelings and thoughts of Patty. The story was told in a way that I could easily identify myself with the characters but often not only with one, sometimes even with more at the same time who had a very different point of view.

At the end I really started to feel with Greg and I also thought about whether all the things would also have happened if Tim hadn't died.

I wouldn't call the book a page-turner but it had many unexpected changes and I could really identify myself with the characters.



That's a very thoughtful comment.

Reading Project:

Lord of the Flies

1. Entry: What was difficult for me to read in the first chapter were the long descriptions of the island because a lot of difficult vocabulary was used and I had to read some passages twice before I understood them. I was also really shocked that all of the other boys, including Ralph, were so mean to Piggy because he hadn't done anything wrong and still they treated him so badly. I was a little surprised that everybody appeared when Ralph blew the conch, but I'm not sure whether this is unrealistic or not, because I don't know how a conch sounds. The beginning definitely made me curious and I wanted to know what happens next.

2. Entry: I think that to ^{making} ~~make~~ fire was a good idea because I'm sure that you can see smoke from very far away. It really shocked me when the little boy with the mark on the face disappeared because this showed for the first time how dangerous it is to be alone on an island with things you can't control (fire). What made me really angry was when the ship passed and the fire wasn't burning because that way they missed the first and best chance of being rescued.

When I first read about the beast I was a little confused because I didn't know whether they were talking about something real or just made up something. I didn't ^{also} get the part with the parachutist ^{either} immediately, I was a little confused and only much later I realized what role

he played in the story. What I really liked was that Ralph took his "job" as leader very seriously and immediately put up rules and organised many things like the building of the huts, the hunting or the fire. I am sure that with some body more careless as a leader, like Jack, it would have been much more difficult for the boys to survive.

3. Entry: The way the story developed was really shocking and ^{at} ^{it} the ending it was really scary too but I liked it because it got more exciting ^{with} every page.

Especially Simon's death stunned me though actually Piggy's death was even worse because he was killed on purpose. Still, Simon's death shocked me a little more because he never had done anything wrong! I couldn't understand how they could kill the only person who knew about the dead parachutist because this almost made it impossible to find out the truth.

I was a little disappointed of Samneric's behaviour though I think I would also have joined Jack's hunters. Still, I would never have told him where Ralph planned to hide! I don't know if I like the ending. I don't like it because I would have loved to find out what happened to Ralph, Jack and the others after they have ^d been rescued and especially what they told the adults about Piggy and Simon. I liked the ending because it makes you think about what could happen next and you don't just put the book down and forget about it.



Your comments are very thoughtful and show me that you've noticed all kinds of interesting features of the novel.

The Book Thief

Written by Markus Zusak



CONTENT

This novel is narrated by Death. It is the story about nine-year-old Liesel who is living with her foster parents on Himmel Street in Nazi Germany. Her life is really hard until she and her best friend Rudy Steiner discover a new exciting hobby: stealing...

BOOK REVIEW

I love this book! The way it is told is unique and the different pictures make it even more interesting and fun to read. Still, this book is definitely one of the saddest books I have ever read, because the story really touched me and for the last 50 pages I prayed for a happy ending but then it got even worse. The ending was the only thing I didn't like about the book because it was far too sad!

Though the whole atmosphere in the story is rather sad, it was not always told in a sad way and there were also some happy moments for which I was really glad. If I had the chance to change something about the book I would definitely change the ending but I would leave everything else the way it is, because the story is great!

THE PEARL

Written by John Steinbeck



CONTENT

Kino is a poor diver who is looking for pearls in the Gulf beach to provide food for his wife and his infant son Coyotito. But then Coyotito is stung by a scorpion and Kino can't pay for a doctor until he finds the perfect pearl, the "Pearl of the World". But ^{sudden} wealth does not only have good effects...

BOOK REVIEW

The book is written in an easy language but I didn't like that at the beginning of every chapter very long descriptions were included because sometimes they were a little too long and you couldn't concentrate on the story any more.

I think that the plot is good because it shows quite realistically what could happen if a once poor man became suddenly rich and wealthy.

Of course what happened in "The Pearl" is a little extreme but I think that Kino's reaction is quite authentic.

The ending was sad and unexpected, but I liked it because it fitted into the way the story developed and a happy ending wouldn't have been realistic.

Though I like the plot "The Pearl" isn't one of my favorite books because of the way it is written.



ANIMAL FARM



Written by George Orwell



CONTENT

After years of hard work for their lazy farmer Mr. Jones the animals on his farm stage a successful revolution and kick him out. They defeat the men who come back to take the place over again and name the farm "Animal Farm", with the commandment, "All animals are equal". At first everything seems to be fine and the animals are happy about their new freedom, but then the pig Napoleon starts a rule that's quite similar to Mr. Jones'...

BOOK REVIEW

I was really disappointed of the ending because I had hoped that the other animals would maybe start a new revolution but instead they only watched the pigs and didn't do anything!

After I had finished the book, I read a little about the background on the internet and I was really impressed that almost every character and incident somehow referred to the real ^{world} life.

I think it is important to read something about the symbolism of the book, because otherwise you don't like it that much because it is hard to understand without ^{any} background information.