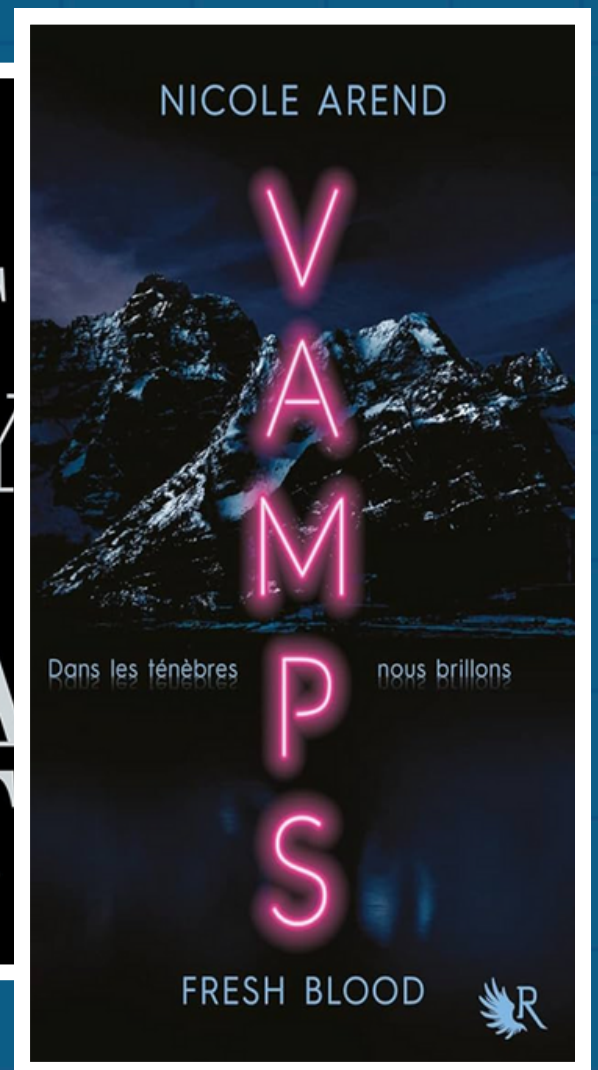
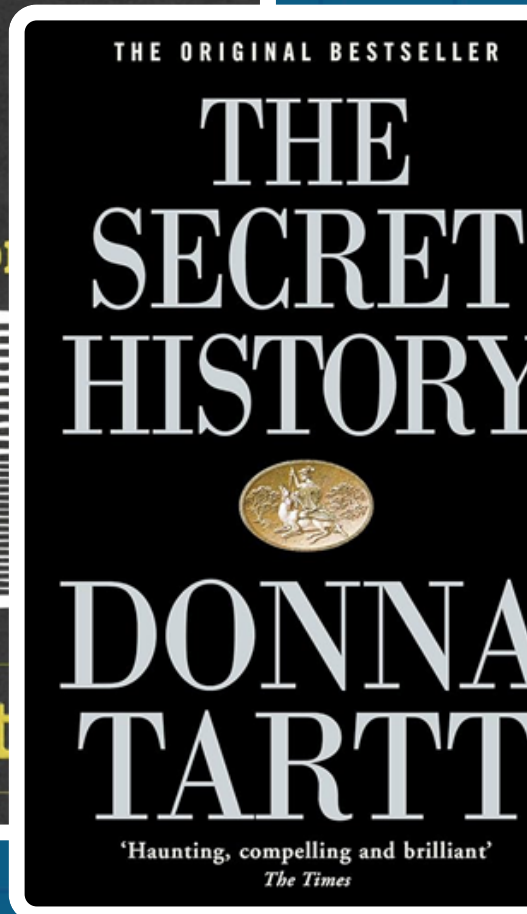
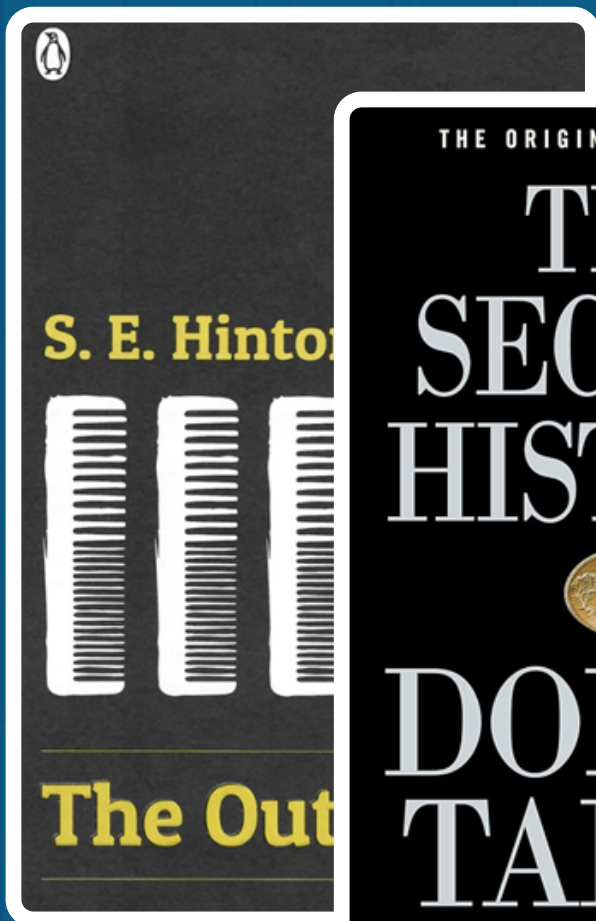




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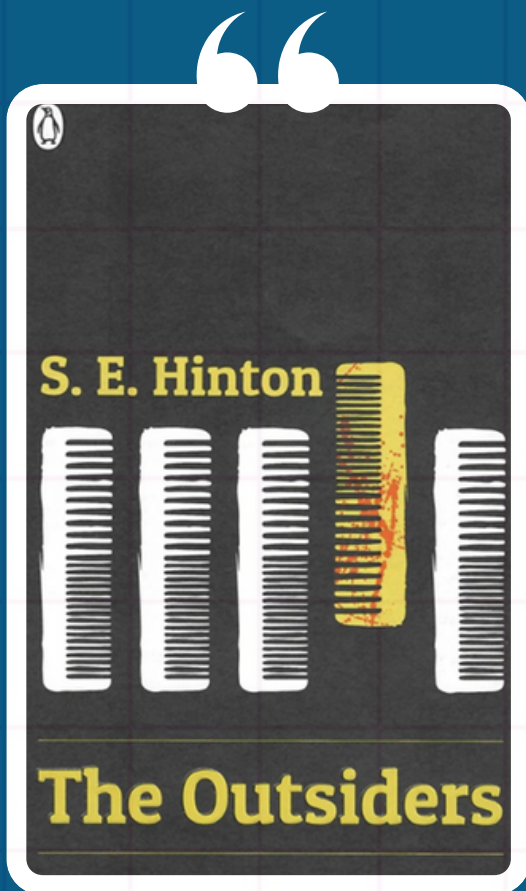
Book Reviews



written by **Sofia Hidayah, Year 10**

The Outsiders

by S. E. Hinton

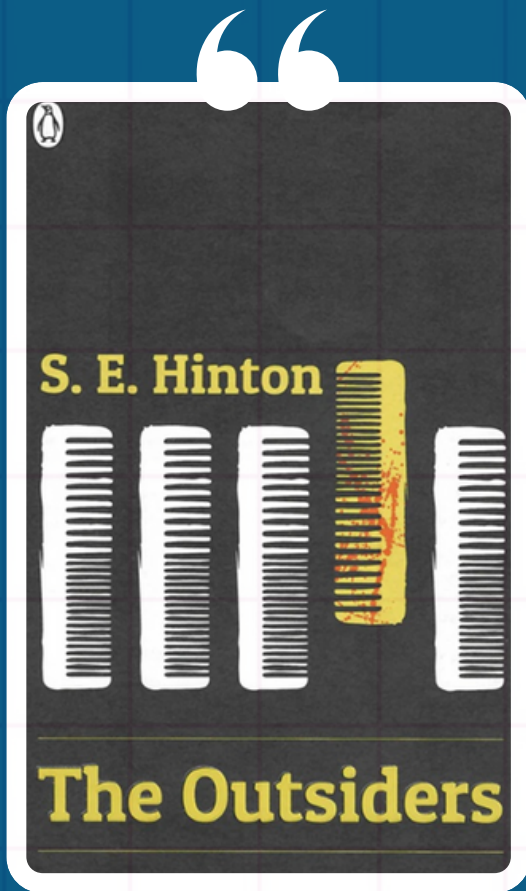


A classic coming of age novel, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton was a fairly short yet meaningful read to me. The book, narrated by 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis, is set on the Tulsa streets and around its neighbourhood, dwelling on the topics of class divide and the differences between them as well as other teenage troubles, such as life at home or deep feelings and friends. The main character, Ponyboy, is a strong dreamer, a loyal Greaser.

He thinks the Greasers are often misjudged and blamed for problems they don't cause. Blaming the Greasers are the Socs, short for 'Socials', wealthy students from the West Side. He meets one of these Socs, who incidentally has the same views as him, that all of it is very unfair. Cherry Valance and her friend Marcia are Socs who meet Ponyboy and his friends at a movie-drive in. However, a little later into our book, a single night changes his life, pulling him away from routine and changing his perspective on life

The Outsiders

by S. E. Hinton

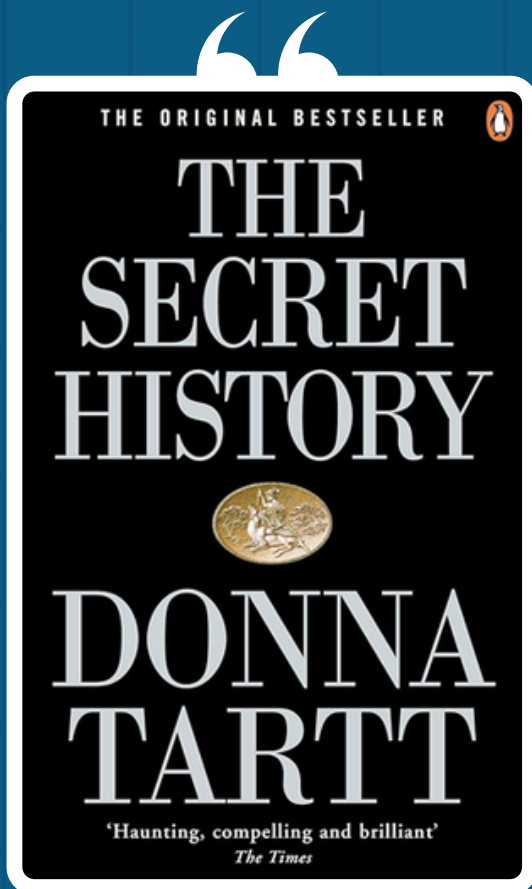


... Everything he thinks he knows is doubted at some point. After his talk with Cherry, Ponyboy thinks more, ponders more. I quite enjoyed this book because it shone the light on many diverse characters with opposite views and interests, as well as their contrasting opinions, each with perfectly valid reasons. Since debuting in the late-60s, *The Outsiders* has been named a teenage epic, a must-read, which I entirely agree with, and it should be read by

people of all ages ranging from the teens to later life. Ponyboy lives through this tale of comradery, sorrow, and change, becoming all the wiser, and even through his struggles, he stays gold. If you know, you know. 'Stay gold, Ponyboy!'

The Secret History

by Donna Tartt

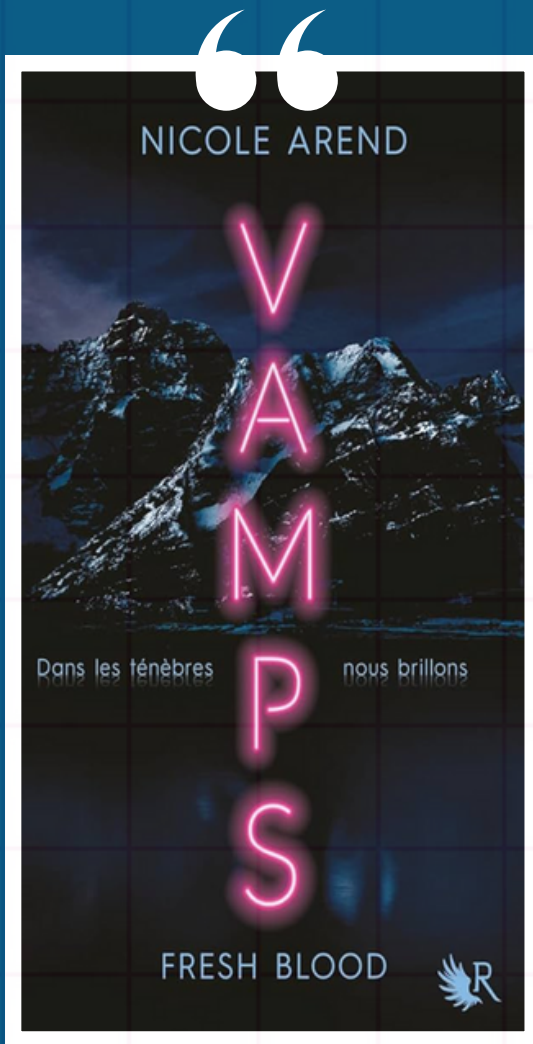


‘The Secret History’ by Donna Tartt is one of my favourite books, deserving 5 stars, because of how Tartt expressed a story of sacrifices and insecurities. The book follows the account of Richard Papen, a student in Hampden College, Vermont. When he joins the college, he is taken in by a group of Greek students, and how their interesting friendship and perspective on life changes Richard, the teen who claims to be from sunny California. He spends an icy winter in someone’s rented flat, and forms strong bonds with the other 5 students

along their escapades and adventures. Many readers have said that after reading ‘The Secret History’, it altered their brain chemistry, which I agree with, and it showed how unpredictable life can be sometimes, even when you’ve given a schedule and are meant to stick to it. One of the most trustful characters in the book may become the most hated one, even hunted down to death. ‘The Secret History’ was an interesting and indulging read that I highly recommend because of Donna Tartt’s beautiful style of writing and the depth and thought that went into this book.

VAMPS

by Nicole Arend

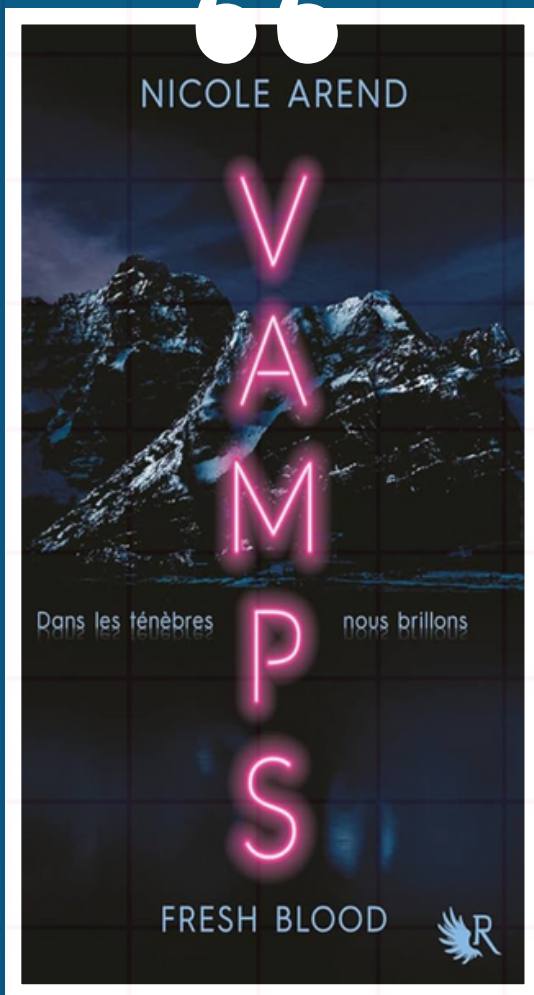


‘VAMPS’ by Nicole Arend was one of those books that you know, from the first chapter, will be an indulging read. 450 pages of this fast-paced, intriguing narrative follows Dillon Halloran’s journey after learning he is half-vampire, half-human. Raised as a human in quiet Ireland by his human father, his vampire origins are supposedly powerful, hence why his mother has disappeared for the last 18 years. Dillon is almost entirely in the dark when he enrolls in VAMPS, a vampire finishing school in the Swiss Alps. Here, he must learn how to be

an honourable dhampir, as well as protect himself from threats that come with his reputation. Being half of each species is no easy feat, especially when you’re being targeted by unknown vampires. Who can you trust? Who are your enemies? Dillon’s year mates at VAMPS know their powers but he has to unlock his full potential while remaining wary of danger...

VAMPS

by Nicole Arend



... One can only have so many allies. Manipulation. Blood transfers. Betrayal. Emotion.

I especially admire Nicole Arend's style of writing and her portrayal of the different characters at VAMPS and their influences on Dillon. There are definitely many moments in the book that have left me with my mouth-open, re-reading paragraphs with the reactions writers intend their readers to have, which is why VAMPS gets a high rating, in my opinion. Cora, Dillon, Asta, Madame Dupledge and

Jeremiah are my favourite characters, and I look forward to the sequel of VAMPS!



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