WHAT THIS IS

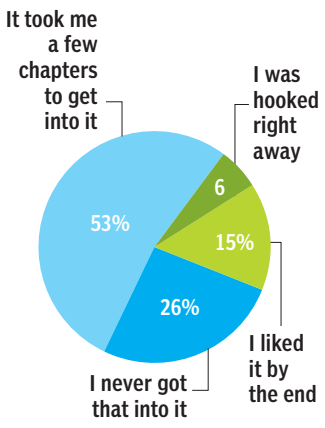
Books coverage generally focuses on writers; this is a page about readers. Specifically, it's about the readers we ask to respond to a new novel each Tuesday. If you'd like to read with us, sign up at *theafterword.ca*

STATS

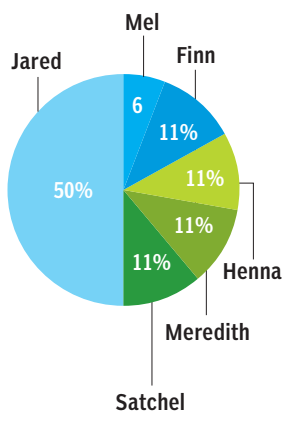
Overall the students gave this book a:

B–

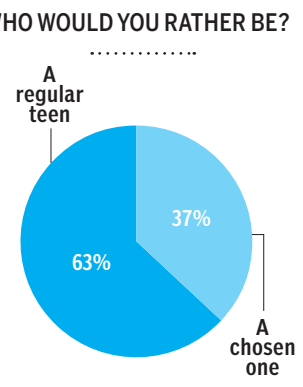
WHEN DID YOU GET INTO IT?



WHO WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER?



WHO WOULD YOU RATHER BE?



BE IN THE PAPER & GET FREE BOOKS

RS READING SOCIETY

READ ALONG WITH US!

THE READERS:

Students at Donview Middle Health and Wellness Academy, Toronto District School Board (grade 8):
Salwa Abdalla, Stephen Belov, Julia Burlaca, Colin Doyle, Rubaina Farin, Mitchell Hall, Elham Islam, Veeda Khan, Brandon Luk, Kal Narongsha, Nico Peng, Tess Ro, Angela Ryoo, Alexander Spence, Saranya Varakunan, Kandy Wang, Marilyn Xing, Daniel Zagrodney, Eric Zhang. Teacher: Alana Guinane

THE BOOK:
THE REST OF US JUST LIVE HERE by PATRICK NESS

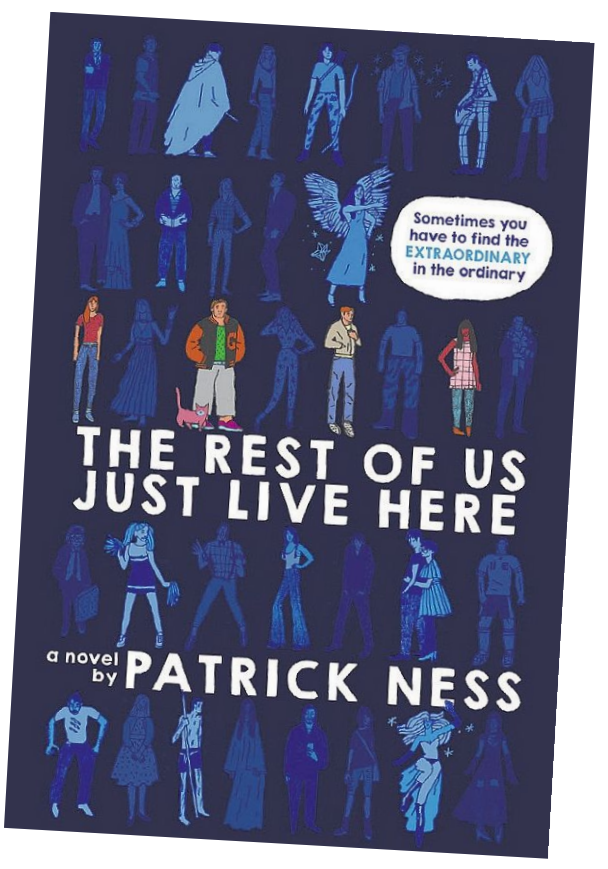
SUM UP THE BOOK IN A TWEET

This book is all about the people that aren't always in the spotlight, and shows how sometimes the bystander is just as interesting as the hero! *Eric Zhang*

As graduation, and a mysterious threat to the entire world, draws nearer, Mikey just wants to live out his final weeks of high school and hopefully muster enough courage to ask Henna out. All without his high school blowing up. *Kal Narongsha*

The background characters become main, and vice versa. Their high school burns down... again, due to a group of students, including 6 Finns. *Colin Doyle*

A group of ordinary teenagers' lives turn upside down after a series of unfavourable and unpredictable events. *Alexander Spence*



There are chosen ones, and there are normal kids. Mikey is just a highschooler who wants to have a love life and graduate. *Nico Peng*

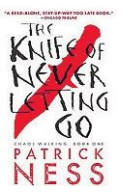
While its originality was refreshing, it lacked the depth necessary for a tale about OCD, evil and a group of friends' last year together. *Tess Ro*

Other people's messed up and dangerous lives might just leak into your average one. *Kandy Wang*

In a world of abnormalities, a boy and friends try to live a normal life but find that it's just as hard to graduate as it is to fight gods. *Elham Islam*

Hovering around the edges isn't always a bad thing. *Julia Burlaca*

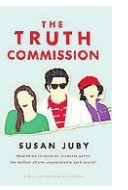
IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, YOU'LL LIKE



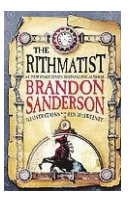
The Knife Of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness. Because is written by the same author and has won multiple awards. *Stephen Belov*

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson. Both books are filled with imaginative and out-of-this-world thoughts. These authors are scarily similar and believe me: you wouldn't be able to tell the difference! *Salwa Abdalla*

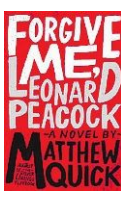
The Girl at Midnight by Melissa Grey. Because they are both clever, quirky, and witty. *Marilyn Xing*



The Truth Commission by Susan Juby. It is also a book on how normal people cope with situations that are way out of their comfort zone. *Eric Zhang*



The Rithmatist By Brandon Sanderson. Both books have similar plots: a kid lives in a world of chosen ones, yet he is not, and a background character becomes main. *Colin Doyle and Nico Peng*



Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock by Matthew Quick. Both books have a similar concept of how mental health affects your way of thinking. *Rubaina Farin*

ASK THE AUTHOR

"why doesn't Mike ever get his own book?"

Saranya Varakunan asks, *What motivated you to write this book? How did you come up with the concept?*
Patrick Ness replies, It started with some jokes about names of the Chosen Ones in YA novels. They're always a little... different. Katniss, Bella, Triss. I thought, why doesn't Mike ever get his own book? So this is sort of the Book of Mike.

Rubaina Farin asks, *Growing up did you ever know anyone that fitted your description on an Indie Kid? Does your concept of an Indie Kid come from personal experience?*
Patrick Ness replies, Only a little. The thing about growing up, of course, is that you never feel like the indie kids, and I'll bet even the indie kids look at others and think, "They're the Chosen Ones." I'm never mean about them. They've sure got their own stuff to deal with.

Mitchell Hall asks, *Was any of the content of the book influenced by your childhood experiences?*
Patrick Ness replies, Mikey's OCD is based a lot on my actual experience. The handwashing and the loops. I was also a waiter in a steak restaurant with awesome cheesy toast. But mostly the OCD. Not exactly me, because Mikey has to live his own life, but definitely from my own experience.

Marilyn Xing asks, *Near the end, Jared claimed to be able to fully heal Mikey's mental condition and Henna's arm. But Jared is a quarter cat god (with a degree in mathematics I might add.) Where does this healing ability come from?*
Patrick Ness replies, What's the point of being a god if you can't heal stuff? Jared negotiates his way into it from all the other gods. He wouldn't do what they wanted unless they gave it to him. That's the kind of god I'd want to be.

Elham Islam asks, *Though it is clear you wanted to convey the message of finding the extraordinary in the ordinary, if there was any other message you wanted us as the readers to take away, what would it be?*
Patrick Ness replies, I try to never think of a "message to convey" because I never want the books to be preachy. My main goal is to try and see the characters as truthfully as I can. I think if you can do that, then a reader has a much better chance of seeing themselves in there. And that's the main magic power of a book.

Veeda Khan asks, *Nathan is an indie kids and joins Mikey's group of friends. In most fantasy novels, the normal kids don't mix with indie ones. What gave you the idea to do something different?*
Patrick Ness replies, I'm always trying to do something different. I want to keep trying new stuff and flexing new writing muscles. I think if you ever get complacent, you automatically start writing bad books, and that terrifies me.

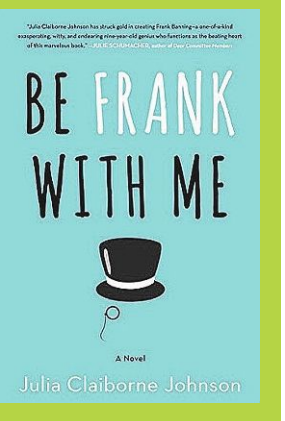
Daniel Zagrodney asks, *What was the inspiration for Jared, the cats worshiping character? I would like to know this because it's strange...*
Patrick Ness replies, Honestly, it's because I thought it was funny, and then I thought it was even funnier if this big, tough guy actually took the job seriously (like most teens would). That felt really wonderful and true and fresh.
Salwa Abdalla asks, *If all the characters were your age, which character would you date?*
Patrick Ness replies, Jared! So would anyone, I think. He's a GOD OF CATS!

Angela Ryoo asks, *Why are none of the Chosen Ones friends with the regular teens? Why is the barrier between them so thick?*
Patrick Ness replies, That's more about finding your own tribe. I didn't want it to be a judgement, just looking at how important it is to find people who'll love you. At the end, they all see that boundaries are thinner than they thought.

Julia Burlaca asks, *Why is the mental health factor so strong in your book?*
Patrick Ness replies, Because mental health factors so strongly in teenage life. It really does. The pressure is enormous, and that has consequences. It really was just an attempt to look at what the truth is for so many teens.

Brandon Luk asks, *Will there be a sequel to the book and if so, what will it be called?*
Patrick Ness replies, Only ever a sequel if I get an idea, and I never give titles away before they're ready. Too precious.

Patrick Ness is the author of seven novels and a short-story collection. His works have been translated into 25 languages.

NEXT WEEK'S BOOK

Next Tuesday, The Afterword Reading Society will discuss Be Frank With Me by Julia Claiborne Johnson