

Chase Thomas

Grade 4

Ocean Beach Elementary School

Ocean Beach Library

If all the books in the world were going to disappear and I could choose just one book to save, I would choose *The Chronicles of Narnia*. There are many reasons why so here are a few.

The details in this book are amazing. After the first few chapters, *The Chronicles of Narnia* became my favorite book. For example, "There was a crisp dry snow under his feet and on the ripe green leaves on the evergreen trees. Overhead there was a pale blue sky, the ones you see on fine winter mornings." The details and descriptions made me feel like I was right there as things were happening. The book is filled with descriptive kinds of moments that are exciting to read. When I am reading this book, I can see, feel, and even taste what the author was describing. C.S. Lewis is a very talented author and has his own special way of making this happen.

The second reason I would save this book is because it made a big difference in my life. It encouraged me to read more fiction books. I used to like reading only non-fiction books because I always like to know more about new things. However, I have discovered that knowledge isn't only about knowing facts. I learn about life and myself when I read fiction.

The last reason I would save this book is because it is an escape from reality to a mythical world where I don't feel pain, emotions, or stress in any way. It feels like the main and supporting characters are my best friends, and I'm right next to them, watching them, and all the other characters in the book.

The Chronicles of Narnia is definitely a book worth saving. It has become my friend in a way. It also inspired me to use my imagination more when I'm writing. Although I still love reading non-fiction books and studying things that I want to learn about. I also love reading fantasy books. I'm not always so serious all of the

time anymore. *The Chronicles of Narnia* has taught me that using my imagination can help me to learn and grow.

Khalil Desai

Grade 4

La Jolla Elementary School

La Jolla Library

The Unfortunate Decision

The moment I was told that all the books in the world were going to disappear except one chosen by me, my mind was thrown into a debate. What book would it be? Willie Wonka appeared next to me like an angel. "Pick my book and you will be my second favorite person, second to little Charlie Bucket, of course."

Up popped Milo from *The Phantom Tollbooth*, a fitting thing for him to do for he was the piece of the puzzle that completed my mental image of a devil and an angel.

"My book reminds you that your days are not to be wasted." Old Bilbo Baggins appeared. "In my book there is much more adventure and wisdom than in those dumb books."

Then Zeus came and roared, "You mortal, if you don't choose a book of Greek mythology, all knowledge of the gods will disappear, leaving your world in a state of despair."

Ernest from *The Swiss Family Robinson* appeared next. "Our book is about survival, a good lesson for many people."

Character after character appeared in mind. Tintin was the last to arrive. "My books are a staple of children's entertainment. Without my comics everyone will be bored."

All the characters from all the books settled down around me, and it was time for me to decide. I thought for awhile, and at last I decided D'Aulaire's *Book of Greek Myths*. Immediately all the characters that had not been chosen sighed a great big sigh and then disappeared. Zeus disappeared in a clap of thunder in celebration of his victory. I wanted to carry on the legacy of the gods. Many stories are inside this book. By choosing it, I save a whole culture. The stories grip my mind and leave me

with a feeling of knowledge. I bet that many people would experience this feeling when they read D'Aulaire's *Book of Greek Myths*. I'm sure that now that it is the only book on the planet, many people will read it. I hope that they will enjoy it.

But those characters that I abandoned, never to be seen again, formed a brilliant span of literature. We will recreate it and make an equal book for every book that we lost. The world will once again experience literature. That is the biggest reason I chose *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*. The many characters in D'Aulaire's book will make people feel inclined to recreate a world of literature. It might not be as we knew it, but it might surprise us. Actually I'm sure it will surprise us!

Thomas Bibler

Grade 4

Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School

Scripps Ranch Library

If all the books in the world disappeared but one, I would choose *Oliver Twist*. It is a wonderful epic tale by Charles Dickens that I really enjoyed reading. The reason that I found this book so interesting was that the main character named Oliver spent his early childhood in an orphanage and so did I. Oliver and I have a lot in common, like not having a family when we were babies. Also, we like playing tricks and being funny to our friends. This story tells the tale of a boy who was not as lucky as I was. Oliver had to go through some tough times before finding a happy ending, but I feel amazingly happy that my mom and dad are special parents who saved me from having a tough time in my life.

Oliver Twist is a feel good story set in England in the early 1800's. The story is about Oliver's escape from a workhouse and his meeting with the "Artful Dodger," a character who invites Oliver to become part of his family. The Dodger is an important character in the book. He is a little boy who works for Fagin. Fagin is a bad man, but loveable, who teaches kids to pick pockets for him. Fagin is also a very important character in the book. Fagin feeds and houses the boys in return for the treasures they steal from people. Other important characters are Nancy and her boyfriend Bill Sykes. The story continues when Oliver is caught by police and is helped by a very kind man who takes him into his home and treats him well. Nancy kidnaps Oliver from the kind gentleman and brings him back to Fagin. Things get very exciting, and there is a family member that Oliver gets to meet.

Oliver is a fiction book that tells the sad yet amusing story of a lonely orphaned boy. In my opinion the book gives the reader an idea of what life was like in the early 1800's and how scary life was in those days. "Please, sir, I want more," Oliver says when he asked for more food at the orphanage. Mr. Bumble who ran the orphanage was very angry, The state paid to clothe and feed each child. Mr. Bumble got the money. And the orphans got rags on their backs and slop in their

bellies. I can tell from reading this how terrible life must have been for poor orphan children. In the story Mr. Bumble says, "The boy will be hung someday," all because Olivier dared to ask for seconds. I think the author wants the reader to feel something for the poor children leading such a terrible life.

To conclude I would like to say that I chose this book because it ticked all the boxes for me. I felt sad and happy and excited and sorry while I read this book. Sometimes I wanted to laugh, and sometimes I wanted to cry. Sometimes I was shocked, and sometimes I was delighted. Most importantly I enjoyed reading this book very much. At times in the book I felt scared for Oliver as it seemed he could easily be killed. "Hear that, Oliver? Fagin said. "You don't want to say Bill Sykes' name to anybody." Bill put his huge hands on Oliver's neck. "You do," he growled, "and I'll rip your head clean off." I was disappointed when this book came to an end. I looked forward to reading it whenever I had a minute. That's my kind of book!

Lindsey Williams

Grade 4

Hawthorne Elementary School

North Clairemont Library

The Amazing Clairemont Library

I like to go to the Clairemont branch library because it has a large selection of resources to match my needs. There I can find friendly people that help me learn, exciting books on almost any subject and activities that inspire me.

All of these things help me be prepared for my future and would not be possible without the library staff. They organize fun activities, make sure there are interesting books, and introduced me to Mrs. Park. Mrs. Park is a tutor that comes to the library and helps me with homework. Tutoring is important to me because I have difficulty with spelling and reading. She helps me by giving me creative ideas on how to remember spelling words and multiplication tables. She also helps me with reading which has improved a lot in the two years that I have been with Mrs. Park. When I first went to see Mrs. Park, I was reading books with a few sentences on each page, and now that I am reading longer books like *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and I am proud of that.

Other books that I have read from the Clairemont Library are *Fortune's Magic Farm* and non-fiction books on the big bang theory. *Fortune's Magic Farm* is a story about a girl who finds out she is part of a magical family, and it introduced me to interesting characters and descriptive language that make the story seem real. I was impressed with the library when I could find books on the big bang theory for a science project that I could understand in first grade.

A fun activity at the library is Science Saturday. Science Saturday is a day where scientists set up booths for kids to do exciting science experiments. Tails for Tales is another activity at the library where the Humane Society brings animals to the library for the kids to read to. I have seen that kids are inspired to read by being with the animals.

The Clairemont Library branch has provided me with tools for knowledge. At the library, I feel like I am learning about things that are important in my life. I love the whole library, but writing this report made me realize that the librarians are its most important resource.