

Jessy Cao
Fourth Grade
Spreckels Elementary

“If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?”

If I had to choose one book and all the others would disappear, what book would I choose?

I would probably choose the encyclopedia because if all of the books in the world really were gone, what would you do? Would you waste your time reading fiction books that don't help us at all, that just amuse us?

I chose the encyclopedia because it teaches me stuff that I don't know. There are things you probably don't know in the encyclopedia. That's one of the reasons why I would choose the encyclopedia.

The second reason is that it's a long book. It would probably take me (if it was all the volumes jammed into one) two weeks to read it, and I'm a fast reader! The benefit of this is: I'll be amused for longer. Usually it takes me a pretty short time to get bored of a book. But the encyclopedia is...well, it's a pretty long book and the print is small (and the book is still fat) so the first time I read it, I'll be sure to miss something. Then I can read it again and find what I missed.

The third reason is: it's an educational book (well, kind of). You can study in class if you don't have a textbook anymore, even though finding what you need to search up may be a little challenging.

These are all reasons I would choose the encyclopedia. Though it's long (some people think it's boring), it's informative, and that's what counts...for me.

I hope you liked my essay and all my reasons. I would choose the encyclopedia as the last book in the world (which is sad). But people will write new books...right?

The End

Lucia Caputo
Fourth Grade
Ocean Beach Elementary

“If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?”

Are you bored? You need a book! Reading can be like a theater in your brain. Go ask your parents to take you to a library or a local bookstore to check out or buy one of the many great books written by Donald J. Sobel. “The exciting Adventures of Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of Pablo’s Nose” is one out of many mysterious books in his series. If all the books in the world were to disappear, I would keep this series to entertain kids by making them keep track of events to help solve mysteries.

Each chapter in each book is a short story, which makes every one of them easy and fun to read. The series centers around a main character named Encyclopedia Brown, a boy who solves mysteries in his garage during his summers off of school, with this friend, Sally Kimble. One of my all-time favorites out of the series is called, “The Case of the Masked Man.” In this particular story, Encyclopedia and Sally help Professor Irvin’s secretary discover the identity of the masked man who kidnapped her boss. It is very suspenseful and exciting. Encyclopedia Brown solves the mystery by cracking the code left by Professor Irvin.

These stories encourage the reader to solve the mysteries and then provide an opportunity to check the solution on a different page. This has affected my reading because I have to pay attention more to all the details in the story so I can figure out the solution. I like to challenge myself to comprehend the details in the story so I can figure out the solution. I like to challenge myself to comprehend the details and piece them together, just like Encyclopedia Brown does.

I strongly recommend this series to other readers because the stories

are thought provoking and exciting. I can relate to the characters because I can imagine Encyclopedia Brown and Sally Kimble being my friends in real life because as I'm reading, I feel like we are solving mysteries together. Readers will enjoy this series because they get to participate in a mystery by having a chance to use the solution before it is provided to them. Donald J. Sobel writes with the purpose to not only entertain children but to teach kids to be good thinkers. His series of books requires the reader to become a good problem solver and remember details that will help solve the mysteries.

So, go get your cloak, your magnifying glass, your spy hat and your notebook and start figuring out cases with Encyclopedia and Sally!

The End

Logan McKerring

Fourth Grade

Green Elementary

“If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?”

I have a confession. Even though learning to read has come pretty easy for me and I know that I am lucky because there are kids who have troubles learning to read, I really don't like to read. For fun that is, unless it is about football. I usually don't pick reading to do as a hobby. I wish I could be like some of y friends who really get into the books that they read. They look like they really enjoy them. But up until now, reading stuff other than for school just hasn't been one of my things. So when we were told about writing an essay for the library, I thought to myself, “Why did it have to be a book? Why couldn't it have been about something like pick your favorite athlete? Or tell us about something you do well... like play football?”

But then I started to think about this book that my mom and I had read together. She did most of the reading because there were a lot of words in German and pronouncing them looked hard. But I liked hearing this story and now that I think about it, I think that this would be a book that I would save. It is called, “The book thief” by Markus Zusak. It is about a girl who lives in Germany during the war. She lived in a time when the Germans were burning books that they didn't want people to read. I think they didn't want the people to get ideas from the books and see what Hitler was doing was wrong.

In the book Liesel is learning to read and she finds herself looking for more books to read. She took a book from the fire at one of the book burnings in the town. She is so eager for reading that she sneaks away to visit the Bergermeister's wife to read her library and eventually she sneaks into their house and steals the books to read when he finds out. She reads the book to Max, a Jewish man, who they are hiding. She finds power in the words that

she reads and she learns to find courage to not just believe what others tell her. I think this is the most important part of this book. A person's words can influence others in both good and bad ways. I think that this book can help others to provide reasons for not doing bad things to people because they are different. I wonder what book Leisel would pick to save.

In the story she loved to read and was just grateful to sneak and read anything she could get her hands on. I guess if I had thought about this story again before this essay, I may have found myself inspired to try to read more and realize how lucky I am to live in a time where I have this freedom. I forgot about this book but didn't forget about its meaning. For me, if the world could only have one book, I would pick "The Book Thief" because it is a reminder to not repeat the mistakes of the past, like Hitler and to the power of words and how they affect our beliefs and behaviors. Sometimes words are all we have to help us figure things out and I am grateful that I live in a time where we can read the books we want and not just those given to us.

The End

Mackenzie Nabors

Fourth Grade

Dailard Elementary

“If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?”

“Black Beauty” will introduce you to characters, scenes, and ideas that will draw you in and change your heart forever. Black Beauty is a horse that suffered through a troubled life. The same thing was happened to Anna Sewell who wrote this book while laying sick in bed. Anna was crippled at the age of 14 by slipping and falling on the way home from school. She published this book in 1877 at the age of 56 and died a year later in 1878. Anna hoped that this book would change how animals were treated. If all of the books in the world were about to disappear, I would save the book, “Black Beauty.”

This book teaches a lesson of not being cruel to animals. For example, Black Beauty was getting fed and groomed and a lady came into the barn and told the groomer to raise Black Beauty’s, and his horse friend Ginger’s checkreins. The groomer did as he as told. The next day, the lady came to the barn again and told the groomer to raise the checkreins even higher. Now it was hurting Ginger and Black Beauty’s necks badly and Black Beauty saw that Ginger could take it anymore. So, the next day when the lady came, she told the groomer to higher the checkreins even more. He did Black Beauty’s checkreins but when he went to raise Ginger’s, she kicked the groomer’s hat right off his head!

This book also teaches the reader to take care of things and to be responsible. In one chapter, there was a man who needed hay. He was small and had a pipe in his mouth. He asked if he could get some hay for this horse and when told to leave his pipe before getting the hay, he didn’t. He left his pipe in the attic, which created a fire in the barn where Black Beauty and Ginger were sleeping. Black Beauty saw red sparks coming from the attic and he neighed loudly and someone took him out of the barn. He waited a long time for Ginger

to come. Next, the firefighters came to put the fire out and save Ginger. While the firefighters were putting out the fire, the roof fell with two horses still in the barn. Black Beauty was taken to a different owner and was safe in his new stall.

Finally, the last lesson of this book is to treat others the way you want to be treated. The book has many examples of this. Black Beauty was riding wherever his rider took him for days with little rest. Ginger was a cab horse like Black Beauty, and he saw her all wrinkled up and work out in pain. Black Beauty hoped for Ginger to die, so her pain and suffering would be over. Shortly after, Black Beauty noticed a dead horse that was the same color as Ginger. Although very sad, Black Beauty hoped it was Ginger who had died so she didn't have to suffer another day.

The book, "Black Beauty," teaches about not being cruel to animals, being responsible and taking care of your things, and to treat others the way you would like to be treated. Horses have feelings like people and they don't always know better, so they shouldn't be treated badly when they do something wrong. As you now can see, if you read this book, your heart may change to stop the cruelty and pain to all animals, and to be responsible.

The End

Andrew Tsai

Fourth Grade

Solana Ranch Elementary

"If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? Why?"

If all the books were to disappear except one, I would save the worst-case scenario book called "The Boy's Book of Survival." The book has fun and mind boggling facts. It show you how to survive anything anywhere. Three reasons that the book deserves to be the one left are that it has useful knowledge, self-important ideas, and confidence-building tip.

The first reason I want the survival book to e the last one left is I can use it knowledge to inspire people and create new things. The book suggests new ways to do jobs like turning salt water to drinkable fresh water by using stones and pots. Also it tells how to make a home with sticks and leaves intersecting against each other that is safe and comfortable. Another way I can use the book's knowledge is to write more books! The book tells me how to write about difficult topics and how to get along with a teacher by focusing regardless and asking questions to learn new information. These are some ways that the book provides knowledge that can be useful and can even bring books back.

The second reason this book should be he one left is that it can help people become better. One way it can help is that it can encourage them to survive a bad situation or protect them. The book tells you how to carry someone to safety by making a square with some else's hands and it teaches people how to survive by using tools and weapons to hung food and build a home. Another way this book can help is to set an example for others to follow. This survival book tells me how to be a good leader by being modest and how to stand up against a bully by relaxing and acting as if you are s fine. These are reasons this book helps others and myself be better people both emotionally and academically.

The last reason the book should be the one left is that it can bring people

joy and confidence. One way is to have fun in everyday life. The survival book tells you how to get along at a school dance by saying positive words and comments so you can be happy. It also tells how to predict rain to stay dry and not get grumpy by looking at the sky and birds flying around you. Another way is to stay happy and have fun rather than being bored. The book tells you how to survive a boring Christmas family party by keeping yourself occupied and getting a good book and flashlight and hide somewhere in your house. Also, it explains how to survive a huge pimple so you won't have to look hideous by not keeping on scratching it and picking at it. These are the reasons the book helps you to be happy in everyday life even on the toughest days.

“The Boy’s Book of Survival” shows that there are many ways to handle the toughest problems in life. This book helps with giving joy and confidence, helping others and yourself be better persons, and, last but not least, having knowledge that can help everybody and even bring books back to existence. “The Boy’s Book of Survival” shows that anything can happen, so it gives you ways to be prepared. In my opinion, this book is not only for boys; it is a book for everyone to see. This book is truly amazing with facts that are funny and is a kid favorite.

The End