

Example Sample Reader Ladder (S1):

1. *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli, 192 pp.
2. *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher, 304 pp.
3. *All The Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven, 400 pp.
4. *King Dork* by Frank Portman, 352 pp.
5. *The Girl on the Train* by John Paula Hawkins, 395 pp.
6. *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, 336 pp.
7. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, 448 pp.
8. *Requiem for a Dream* by Hubert Selby Jr. and Richard Price, 288 pp.
9. *House of Leaves* by Marcus Zusak, 709 pp.

**Total pages read during S1:**  $3424/14 = 244.6$  pages per week

### Why this Order?

*Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli was by far the easiest book to read. Perhaps it was because I first read it in 5th grade (I read it again this year for nostalgia purposes). Now although I enjoyed all these books greatly, my favorite would have to be *All The Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven. It didn't take me too long to finish that book either. However, it wasn't the easiest to read since it was very...sad. The writing was beautiful and it wasn't difficult at all to become immersed into the story plot...but it's quite hard to read with tears in your eyes. Now *Freakonomics* and *Memoirs of a Geisha* were a bit more dense in some parts which I wasn't so fond of. Thus, it made it quite hard to read it all in one sitting. *Requiem for a Dream*...well...it took me a bit to get used the "language"/format of the book. I've never read anything like it before. However, it's not the most challenging I've ever read because that title pertains to *House of Leaves*. That book is amazing so far (I'm not entirely done as I type this), and although it kind of seems a bit...intimidating I guess, for all the footnotes and "information", that's not the reason I deemed it the most difficult. The real reason is... that it uses plenty of words that I'm unfamiliar with. However, that does not deter me from reading it because I actually like being exposed to new words (helps expand one's vocabulary and whatnot).

I personally love reading. So it'd be safe to assume that I enjoyed this task (or whatever you'd like to call this). However..I didn't. I mean, I just lose interest when something I enjoy doing becomes an assignment. It takes away the fun. It was kind of like I wasn't reading for the fun of it anymore; I was reading to reach a page goal. Now has my stamina improved? Well I guess that's debatable. However, there was something positive that came out of all of this: I was able to read different books and even read a book that turned out to be my all time favorite.

I read about 2 books that really challenged me this year (the ones I mentioned earlier), so I'd like to read more like them. Which is why I'd like to read *The Road*, *Only Revolutions*, and *Infinite Jest*. Although I do personally think that I read a variety of books regarding the genre, I will try to delve more into sci-fi since I don't read much of them. Perhaps I'll do a book club with friends (because it's fun to discuss a book with others who've already read it).