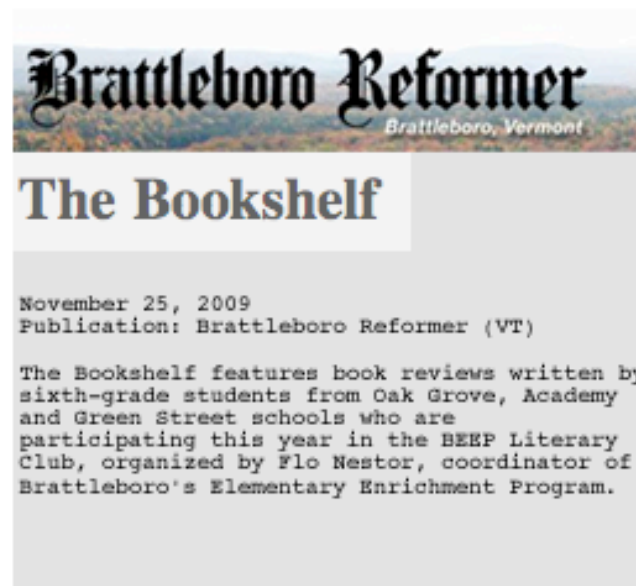


Season's Readings: Books bring joy long after the tinsel is gone

BY CARLA CARLTON • SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL • DECEMBER 13, 2009

"Dweeb: Burgers, Beasts, and Brainwashed Bullies"

by **Aaron Starmer**. "Dweeb" stands for Denton, Wendell, Eddie, Elijah and Bijay, an unlikely alliance at Ho-ho-kus Junior High. With echoes of "The Breakfast Club," five of the smartest, and oddest, kids in school have been imprisoned in a room in the basement by evil Vice Principal Snodgrass, who says he wants them to ace the Idaho Tests. But is that really what's going on? In order to escape and save their school, the dweebs will have to realize their own individual strengths — and the importance of working together. (*Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 240 pp., \$15.99, ages 9-12*)



"DWEEB"

By **Aaron Starmer**

Random House Children's Books

"DWEEB" is a story about five very smart eighth-graders. In fact, they're the smartest kids in Ho-Ho-Kus Junior High. However, when a mysterious robbery is committed at the annual bake sale, an English boy named Denton, a rather large boy named Wendell, an extremely fast boy named Eddie, an anarchist named Elijah, and a somewhat round boy named Bejay, are all framed under the code name DWEEB. Next, this cast of characters is held up in a secret room deep below the school. If they don't ace the dreaded Idaho tests, they will never be released. It's up to them to find out who committed the crime, and clear their names. But can they do it in time?

DWEEB is a creative and funny story. In the beginning, you wonder if it's really a good book or not, but after you get deep enough into the plot, there's no putting it down. You want to read until nightfall, then to daybreak, then all over again! It's one of the best books I've ever read, and I think it could be to others, however, I would not recommend this book for anyone in grade three or below.

— Reviewed by **Harrison Lapan**

THE EDMOND SUN

Good Reads: books

January 05, 2010

'DWEEB: BURGERS, BEASTS, AND
BRAINWASHED BULLIES'

BY AARON STARMER

Denton, Wendell, Eddie, Elijah and Bijay aren't friends and couldn't be more different, or so they think, until a fateful day at Ho-Ho-Kus Junior High brings them together in an unusual and unexpected way.

When each of the eighth-grade boys is called to the office, they assume it's just the overzealous and cruel Vice Principal Snodgrass on one of his typical power trips. What they never expect is to be framed for stealing the bake-sale money since none of them had ever socialized together, let alone committed a crime.

But something eerie is going on at Ho-Ho-Kus Junior High and now the principal is mysteriously missing. To make matters worse, the five misfits are imprisoned in the school basement and given an ultimatum: ace the Idaho Tests (standardized state tests), or be turned over to the cops, and their parents.

So what's an eccentric group of kids to do? Band together, make use of their brain power, and utilize their nerdiest skills to uncover the villainous plan. It's up to a select few to save Ho-Ho-Kus Junior High. It's up to DWEEB.

Narrated from each boy's point of view, in alternating chapters, these eighth-grade boys use their nerdish power to expose a school conspiracy involving fast food, standardized testing and overachievers.

Ages 9-12.