

Soon-To-Be Classics by Eva Gaetano, KTL staff and CCS senior

For a book to become a classic it needs to stand the test of time, express universal themes, be relevant to multiple generations, and show the premise of the period it was written (as defined by thoughtco.com). It also needs to be generally agreed upon that it meets these standards. I've compiled a list that I believe should become classics in the next few decades.

World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments by Aimee Nezhukumatathil: The book is mixed with a collection of poetry, essays, and illustrations. It explains Aimee Nezhukumatathil's childhood through a series of animals or things in nature like the corpse flower. This especially spoke to me as we talk about the phenomenon of this stinking flowering fruit in biology all the time. As the author talks about the hunt she took to find the flower, she also explains the relationship with her husband and how alike the two are. The themes of love and nature intertwined are universal for any generation.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas: This book is a staple to read in this decade as it gives representation to a topic not shown enough in literature. It starts with Starr Carter who is a mixed black girl living in a poor neighborhood in Garden Heights but goes to a rich prep school with a majority of white people. This balance is hard to manage for Starr as she feels she lives in two worlds. As she is trying to deal with this her friend is killed by a police officer. The two worlds she has grown up in conflict about this issue and Starr becomes a social activist as she attempts to fight for justice for her best friend. This book not only expresses themes of finding your identity and voice but also tells of our period.

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern: The fantasy novel tells the story of an enchanting circus that appears suddenly without advertisement. When it does appear, however, it includes breathtaking displays of magic that seem impossible to occur. Behind the makings of the circus are two magicians, Celia and Marco who challenge each other to create an even more beautiful scene every night. What is unexpected is that they form a romantic relationship through their acts in the circus. The description of the circus is fantastical and very fun to read. The themes of everlasting love and sacrifice are still prevalent today.

Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky: Charlie struggles to find friends and has a difficult past as he tries to get through high school. This book is written through Charlie's letters so we only know the world as Charlie tells it. This gives an inside look into navigating high school life, making and losing friends, growing up, and mental health. As he goes through the school year, more is revealed about his past and he becomes a more outgoing person.

Looking for Alaska by John Green: The book starts with Miles Halter getting the opportunity to leave his life in public high school and go away from his family to Culver Creek boarding school. He soon makes friends with his roommate Chip and meets Alaska through him. These

two friends are different from anyone he has known previously and they all become very close. They speak about deep topics in the books they read like the “Great Unknown” and the “Labyrinth of Suffering”. As the book progresses they all become closer especially Miles and Alaska’s relationship until something happens that disrupts their friendship. This is a growing-up story that is important to read at any age.