

TUESDAY TECH TIP

NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY/NIAGA LIBRARY SYSTEM

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017: COMMON SENSE MEDIA



Common Sense is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in the 21st century.

We are all familiar with MPAA ratings for movies – you probably would want to know why a movie your child is watching is rated PG-13. Wishing for something similar for books? There is! Common Sense Media (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>) offers a library of searchable ratings and reviews for books, movies, television shows and video games.

Age Suggestions and User Reviews

Common Sense Media provides a detailed guide and criteria for age grade ratings. The main criteria factoring into an age-appropriateness rating are listed individually in each review. In addition, users of all ages can review titles, indicate why they liked or disliked them, and why they may even disagree with the ratings.

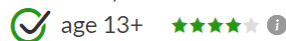
Example Rating: The Book Thief

The Book Thief

Book review by [Matt Berman](#), Common Sense Media



Common Sense says



Powerful testament to humanity in Nazi Germany.

Parents say

age 13+

Based on 25 reviews

Kids say

age 12+

Based on 133 reviews

A LOT OR A LITTLE?

Parents' guide to what's in this book.

A+ Educational value	Positive messages	Positive role models & representations
Violence	Sex	Language
Consumerism	Drinking, drugs & smoking	

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Parents need to know that this book is a tremendously powerful portrayal of life under the Nazis, especially as it was experienced by German youth. Characters suffer cruel fates but also are great examples of the power of personal sacrifice, heroism, friendship, and courage. This is a tough story told about a horrendous time, so there's plenty of grief and sadness, as well as violence and cruelty. But ultimately the book is a portrait of the triumph of spirit and humanity.

Blog: Parenting, Media, and Everything In Between

The website also hosts a blog for parents raising children in the digital age. The blog highlights popular social media websites, new apps, tech trends and a range of other topics. Recent features on the blog include:





- *How to Motivate a Middle School Teacher*
- *Parents' Ultimate Guide to Sarahah*
- *How to Get Your School to Teach Digital Manners and Skills*
- *Explaining the News to Our Kids*
- *Parents' Ultimate Guide to Musical.ly*

Email Subscriptions

If you do not have time to check the CommonSenseMedia blog, you can sign up for a free account and begin an email subscription for the issues that interest you the most.

Your subscriptions

Choose the updates that matter most for the kids in your life.

 <p>Plugged-In Parent Weekly Get the latest media recommendations, reviews, and advice (perfect for busy parents).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selected</p>	 <p>Boletín Latino Bimensual Obtén recomendaciones, consejos y comentarios de los padres.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Únete ya</p>
 <p>Digital Classroom Weekly Discover teacher-approved tools and resources to inspire your next great lesson.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Subscribe</p>	 <p>Kids Action Periodically Stay up to date on policies and legislation that affect kids.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selected</p> <p>If you sign up as an advocate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Sense Kids Action will send you periodic email alerts on legislative activity that impacts your community;• You will have the opportunity to share your actions and these issues with your friends by sending them Common Sense Kids Action alerts and issues;• Common Sense Kids Action may share with our affiliates and like-minded coalitions working on behalf of children the email address and/or ZIP code that you provided to us when you signed up to participate in Common Sense Kids Action;• We will otherwise use your information in accordance with our privacy policy. <p>By signing up, you acknowledge and agree to the above.</p>
<p>Device Free Dinner Weekly Device Free Dinner.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selected</p>	