Reviewer: Anonymous
School: Yorba Linda High
Grade: Freshman
Book title: Eleanor & Park
Book author: Rainbow Rowell
Rating: 3.5

The book begins with Park reflecting on Eleanor, foreshadowing their story. It takes place during August 1986 in Omaha, Nebraska. Park is a half-Korean, half-white teenager who has never felt like he fits in but gets by. Eleanor is a curly redhead misfit who has family and financial struggles. As the new kid, Eleanor does not know where to sit, and Park forcefully tells her to sit next to him because no one would move over on the bus. For a while, they do not talk to each other until Eleanor starts reading Park's comics. Their shared interests in music and reading sparked the start of their relationship. Park and Eleanor's worlds are completely opposite, but their love for each other is inseparable. Eleanor's insecurities constantly wonder how Park could ever like her. Park struggles to feel comfortable in his own skin when his mom is a beautician, his dad was in the army, and his younger brother is bigger and stronger than him. Park helps Eleanor get through her family difficulties and abuse.

I thought the book had a realistic yet hopeful ending. I liked the suspense building in their story that led to their relationship, and how they both came from opposite backgrounds but connected through similarities. I felt that some of the dialogue was unnecessary or boring. My favorite characters are Eleanor and her friends Beebi and DeNice because the story shows Eleanor's view more, and her friends have funny and supportive personalities. It surprised me when it was revealed who had written those words on her books.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys romance or drama genre because the character development is interesting. It reminds me of the books: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *Story of a Girl* because of the complex family and emotional issues.