Ready Player One
Ernest Cline
Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 14
Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

Ready Player One is a science fiction novel filled with 80s' references about a worldwide virtual reality game called the Oasis. In the dystopian world of the 2040s, Wade Watts escapes from his terrible life in the 'Stacks' into the world of the Oasis to solve a very important puzzle. When the creator of the game, James Halliday died he announced to the world in his will that he had left easter eggs within the Oasis and that whoever found all three clues would inherit his entire company and fortune. Starting five years after the announcement, we follow Wade's discovery of the first clue and the whirlwind that follows.

I started reading this book because somehow, my brother, who does not usually enjoy reading, finished it in three days. I found it to be very engaging. I am not an expert on the 80s' myself, but I enjoyed the novel and its 80s' references nonetheless. Cline explains most of the stuff so it was fine. The story was very entertaining. It also had some interesting themes about collaboration, servitude, friendship and identity.

I would recommend this book for 13 years old and up. There is mention of blow-up sex dolls, online brothels, and masturbation, but it can be easily skipped over without real effect to the story. There is also quite a bit of 'trash talk' between the gamers that will offend some people. There is also a bit where the author talks about how there is no God and certain people might get a bit touchy about that. There is some game violence as well as mention of a character being thrown out of a window. Alcohol use and smoking is lightly depicted in some online settings.

This book can be borrowed from the library or given as a gift. It would be a great gift to try and tempt a gamer into reading a novel, especially those interested in the 80s'. I am a girl and I enjoyed the book very much, but I think this book is more aimed towards boys. It is a fun read that I think that teens and adults, especially those who lived through the 80s' will enjoy a lot.

Recommended Titles:
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- The Maze Runner by James Dashner
- Armada by Ernest Cline