

TOP MOVIES

The smell of buttery popcorn and sugary slushies, the comfort of the theater seats, the mesmerizing glow of the massive screen. The year's movies ranged from a treacherous journey of a young woman striving to put her life in order to the story of an animated underwater Sponge.

"I really like going to the \$5 movies on Tuesdays," **Peter Tearse '16** said. "I went to *Selma* ... on a Tuesday. I thought it was a really powerful movie."

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 continued the story of Katniss Everdeen's fight to inspire a nation.

"My heart broke when Peeta was left in the arena," **Emma Fowler '16** said.

Then *Interstellar* followed a team of explorers through a wormhole as they work to save the human race.

"I enjoyed the movie, but it was hard to follow all of the astrophysics. It was very predictable," **Chris Jung '16** said.

Theory of Everything gave an up-close look at the story of Stephen Hawking and his wife.

"[Eddie Redmayne] perfected the symptoms of Stephen Hawking's disease," **Mary Li '16** said.

Although *The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies*, the last of the trilogy, didn't win any Oscars, its story of Bilbo and Company left viewers with closure.

"My favorite part was the end when we found out how Thorin feels about Bilbo and you realize he has not gone crazy," **Andre Magalhães '17** said.

A high school teen rebels against the popular crowd in *The DUFF*, after being dubbed the designated ugly fat friend.

"The ending scene was my favorite, when the main guy and girl characters ended up together," **Meg Moreland '18** said. "It was cheesy romantic, but it was cute and I'm a sucker for it."

—By Avery Kout

SpongeBob Square Pants. **Catlee Grell '15** checks out the poster for the second *SpongeBob* film after seeing *The DUFF* on Feb. 25 at the Coral Ridge Theaters. "I liked *The DUFF* so much that I saw it twice in theaters," Grell said.



PHOTO BY AVERY KOUT



THE OSCARS

Every year, the Academy Awards attract billions of viewers around the world. But this year was different. Controversy over the underrepresentation of minorities in nominated categories contributed to a lack of interest and a drop in ratings on Feb. 22.

4 *The Grand Budapest Hotel* won four Oscars: in Production Design, Makeup & Hair, Music, and Costume Design.

Neil Patrick Harris hosted for the first time, but audience size dropped **16** percent, the lowest in six years.

9 *Birdman (or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* was nominated for nine Oscars and won four, including Best Picture.

1 *Fifty Shades of Grey* ranked as the top film of 2015, followed by *Taken 3* and *The SpongeBob Movie*.

24 Oscars were awarded this year.

Viewers in **225** countries tuned in for the 2015 Academy Awards. **36.6** MILLION

FACTS FROM OSCAR.GO.COM AND VARIETY.COM

GONE GIRL

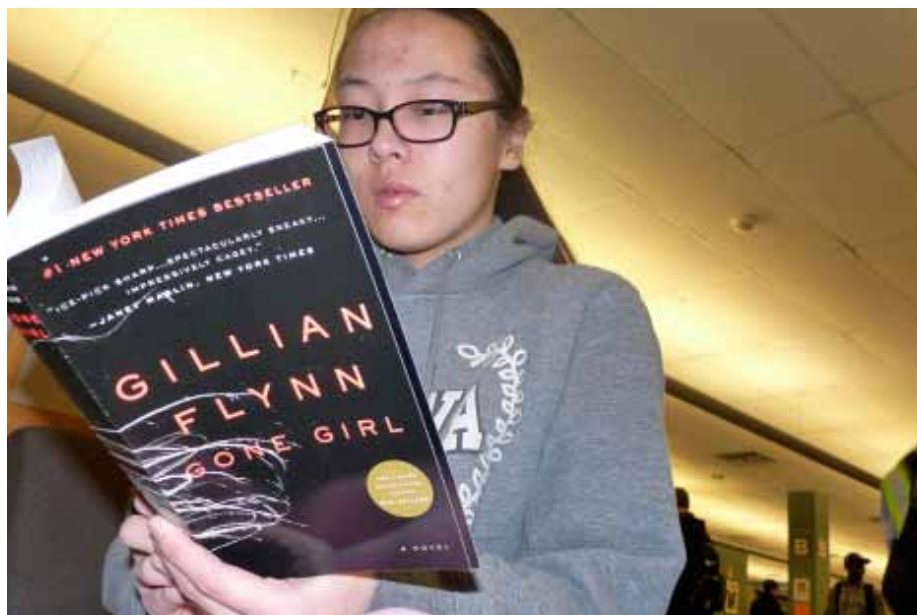


PHOTO BY CATHERINE MCLEAN

Gone Girl, a bestselling book the past two years, drew curious movie-goers in the fall. **Minsu Song '15** described the story as "interesting, and then just plain messed up." **Lydia Rhomberg '16** recommended seeing the film if "you like watching horror or thriller movies. [It] keeps you engaged and on the edge of your seat." WSS adviser **Sara Jane Whittaker** said she preferred the book. "I abhorred the main characters, but I still had to stay up until 4 a.m. to finish it."

BOOKS TO DIE FOR



<<FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

"I read the books this year and I thought they were actually good," **Madelyne Moriyama '18** said. "It's more than just sex. I read it because it was so hyped up and the movies came out, so I decided why not? I would only recommend it to people who don't get embarrassed easily, though, because there are some really blush-worthy parts."



<<UNBROKEN

"I wanted to read the book because I heard hype about the movie and then discovered it was a book so I decided to read it before seeing the movie," **Ryan Ruckdaschel '15** said. "I liked the book a lot and I definitely would recommend it. It was an amazing story with many unheard-of scenarios that would inspire anyone who reads it."



<<YES PLEASE

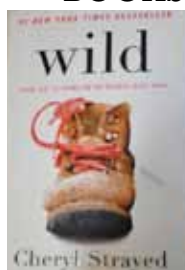
"Amy Poehler gives great life advice while also adding humor," **Annika Johannsen '15** said. "It's also fun to read about a celebrity and her life. I decided to read it because I'm a big fan of Amy Poehler and I knew it would be a good choice."



<<THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

"I loved the book because it didn't sugarcoat anything. Not everybody gets a happy ending," **Rachel Meyer '17** said. "I decided to read it because everyone was talking about it, so I got curious. I would recommend it to anybody who isn't afraid of the truth."

BOOKS TO MOVIES



"I liked *The Maze Runner* because it had a lot of action, but the movie had taken out a lot of good scenes from the book," **Julia Baker '17** said. "I resist seeing the movies of the books I like," Language Arts teacher **Kerri Barnhouse** said. "I don't want to be disappointed." "I really love *The Hunger Games* series," **Anna Turnquist '16** said. "The second movie followed the book more closely and still kept my attention." "I read *Heaven is For Real* last year. It was refreshing to see a child's point of view of God," **Rebecca Sandhu '17** said.



"I love iBooks because they're so much cheaper," **Natalie Childs '15** said. "Also, no one can question me about what books I'm reading."

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