

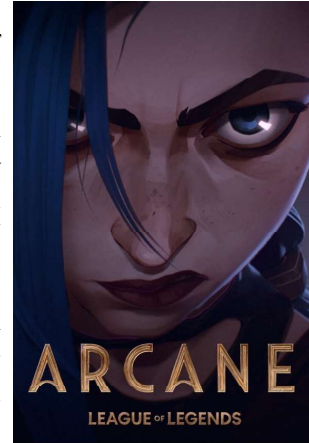
REVIEWS

By *Men Thy Trinh, Phoebe Simpson, Emily Zayels, Drenauski and Verusha Padirana*

Arcane, titled onscreen as Arcane: League of Legends, is an animated action-adventure streaming television series written by Christian Linke and Alex Yee. As inferred from the title, this short series is based off the popular video game "League of Legends" created by Riot Games, making its debut in the television industry much more intriguing and unique, both genre and incentive wise.

Throughout this 8-episode series, the main theme of duality is explored, entailing the idea that there are two sides to everything, good and evil, night and day, truth and lie. The protagonists, Vi and Powder, go through a roller-coaster of emotions as well as countless adversities which ultimately challenge their sisterly bond. In the moment they believed to be bottom of their endless pit of suffering, matters took a turn for the worst. With the deterioration of the sisters' bond as well as the corruption between and within the utopian Piltover and the oppressed underground of Zaun, the fine line between perception and reality is tampered with, making it most enjoyable for the audience to decipher.

As a whole, "Arcane" is a wonderful, quick-binging series that will have you hooked right in from the first episode. With the use of detailed graphics and an amazing soundtrack, this series will appeal to almost anyone (though beware of the adult themes!). It's a series that starts off strong and finishes on a banger (quite literally) making you wish that there will be a sequel (totally not some foreshadowing). I highly recommend this series for anyone who's looking for something to watch that's not too childish yet entertaining and something that's straight to the point yet thorough and depicts attention to detail. Definitely a series to watch and if you're thinking of watching it, it is currently available to binge on Netflix.



Classroom of the Elite, first airing in 2017, is an anime series which explores human nature and the lengths that people are willing to travel in order to exploit this nature to propel themselves to the top of the social hierarchy. Students of an elite government-sponsored high school are grouped together and forced into an unestablished competition of psychological warfare with each person having one goal in mind: power.

Kiyotaka Ayanokouji enters an elite government-sponsored high school and is placed in class D, the lowest class and is where the 'inferior' students are placed. Ayanokouji is seemingly average in every possible way and is just a side character in his peers' eyes, but what happens when the cracks in his facade start to appear and he is forced to use the full extent of his planning, foresight, and ruthless manipulation to steer Class D to victory as dangerously close enemy forces try to bring it down?

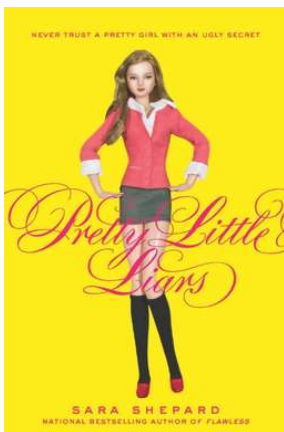
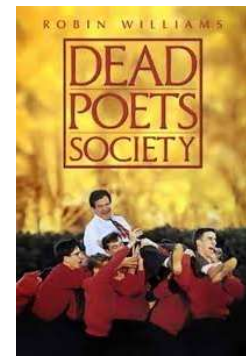
Appearances can be deceiving and Ayanokouji knows this all too well. Despite aloof and standoffish personality, he possesses a profound ability to read the emotions of people around him with pinpoint accuracy and either helps or destroys them. In this cutthroat school, can he prevail against the odds and reach the top?

I definitely recommend Classroom of the Elite. With mystery, psychological, and blackmail thrown into the mix, you'll be on the edge of your seat anticipating the next episode.

Directed and written by Peter Weir, Dead Poets Society was a film released in July of 1989, which follows a group of bored 17-year-old boys attending Welton Academy, a boarding school for boys in Vermont. This movie centres around John Keating, played by Robert Williams, an alumnus of Welton Academy who returns to teach English. John Keating brings with him his passion for poetry and unorthodox teaching methods that other Welton Academy faculty disdain. From Keating's English class, a group of seven boys discovered that their teacher was a member of a secret group, Dead Poets Society, during his time at Welton Academy. They revive this club with themselves as the new members.

John Keating inspires not only his students to follow their passions, but also the audience with his signature phrase, 'Carpe Diem', which translates from Latin to 'Seize the Day'. This movie is a magnificently written film with astounding cinematography that perfectly captures the beauty of autumn and winter. This movie is unforgettable and inspiring with a heartbreaking twist.

Overall, I highly recommend this film. This movie left me sobbing for hours, and even months after watching it. I still contemplate about it. This film has some sensitive topics depicted in it, so I recommend this film to viewers 14+.



Pretty Little Liars is a thrilling and mystery filled book that I'd recommend to an age range between 15-18. The story is told by 4 different perspectives and how they cope with high school, while additionally handling the loss of a mutual friend. While the 4 protagonists strive to investigate who murdered their friend, they are challenged with other obstacles which all come under an unknown phone number sending the group anonymous texts. These messages would often be direct threats targeted toward one of the 4 protagonists, blackmailing or threatening them into committing consequential actions. Although some elements of the book can be viewed as predictable, there is much going on to engage readers which includes even the book's minor plotlines along with introducing side characters of purpose.

Throughout the entirety of the novel, not a single part of it underwhelmed me as author Sara Shepard knew how to skillfully build suspense with every storyline. The many issues the 4 girls encountered happened to give mystery enthusiasts the opportunity to follow the protagonists' journeys with speculating who murdered their friend and their motive, as well as if the anonymous texter was connected to them. Furthermore, I found it interesting how Sara made it clear that the girls had nobody they could trust as the people they'd associate with were always finding ways to backstab them, meaning they'd even suspect family members of vicious acts being performed. An aspect of the novel that I really enjoyed and think other readers would too is that there are small details to look out for that link together with the book series' ending which contains an unexpected reveal. I would most definitely recommend this book to people looking for a thriller mystery novel filled with suspense, romance and plot twists.