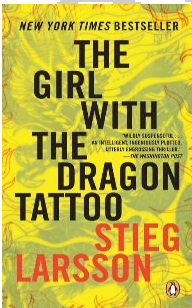




**Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons
Teacher's Book Review**



The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Stieg Larsson
Reviewed by Mr. D'Onofrio, January 19th, 2013.

How creeped-out or curious would you be if you kept receiving every year, for several years, your favourite flower on your birthday? I'm sure you'd like to know who is sending the flowers. This is what starts the action of the book. The recipient of the flowers hires two people to find the sender – a journalist addicted to frozen pizza and who gets involved with almost every woman he meets, and a brilliant goth emo computer hacker with strong anti-social tendencies. And that is the strength of this book – the collection of very, very weird characters.

Other examples of strange characters include one of the bad guys, who is over 6 feet tall, built like a mountain, and who can snap a person's neck with only one of his hands. He cannot feel his own physical pain, and he smuggles drugs and women into Sweden. There are members of a motorcycle gang, and a millionaire who commits a very violent suicide.

This is a detective novel, so at times the action moves very quickly, like a chase scene, and sometimes it moves slowly, such as when the characters are piecing clues together. Although this famous book has been made into a famous movie, two versions in fact, the book often describes in details what a character is thinking, and movies are bad at that. The characters are bizarre enough that it is worth putting in the effort to read the book and to know their thoughts.