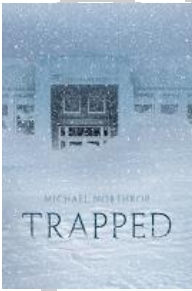




Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons Teacher's Book Review



***Trapped*, Michael Northrop**
Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, February 13th, 2013.

There aren't too many students, or teachers for that matter, who wouldn't at least silently cheer if an announcement was made over the school intercom indicating early school dismissal due to weather conditions. This is exactly how this week's novel begins and what starts as every student's dream ends with every student's nightmare.

A freak winter superstorm descends upon the New England coast, catching everyone by surprise. No one is prepared for a snowfall of the magnitude they encounter. At the start of the book, seven students are introduced to the reader. They all come from different backgrounds – jocks, techies, the loner, the tough kid and a few cheerleaders. They gather in the foyer of their high school to wait for their rides but as the snow starts to accumulate, the last teacher remaining decides to go for help. When several days pass and he doesn't return, the students are forced to rely on themselves to find ways to survive in a building without heat and enclosed by snow banks two stories high.

What I loved about this book was how the writer essentially tricks you into thinking that he is going in one direction with his plot, only to swerve and take the reader in an entirely different direction. Everything you expect to happen, doesn't happen and what does happen, sneaks up on you, culminating in what I thought was a surprising, yet very realistic ending. The book is filled with lots of suspense, enough to cause you to put your life on hold until you finish it.