

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



Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, Ransom Riggs Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

It is often said that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, and while I agree with the statement as a metaphor guarding us against hasty decisions about people, I disagree, somewhat with the statement as it applies to literature. This novel was written for high school level students but has gained great popularity among an adult readership for many reasons. Its intriguing cover introduced a horror story that had me going to sleep with the lights on until I figured out that it might be a better idea to read it during daylight hours. It focuses on a group of time traveler children who live in a mansion, under the care of a crow. A teenage boy from the future disrupts their idyllic life in a war that will pit the good and brave against the evil and soulless. What's really neat about the book is that the author created a story around hundreds of vintage photographs he collected from the last hundred years and these really strange black and white snap shots become touchstones for the readers, as they follow the novel's plot. It didn't surprise me that there was a studio war over the movie rights to this book and I'm really looking forward to the film's release.