

RAINBOW ROWELL

Rainbow Rowell writes books.

Sometimes she writes about adults (*Attachments* and *Landline*).

Sometimes she writes about teenagers (*Eleanor & Park* and *Fangirl*).

But she always writes about people who talk a lot. And people who feel like they're screwing up. And people who fall in love.

When she's not writing, Rainbow is reading comic books, planning Disney World trips and arguing about things that don't really matter in the big scheme of things.

She lives in Nebraska with her husband and two sons.

<p>RIDING THE BUS - Eleanor and Park meet and bond on the school bus, one of many locations in a school that are breeding grounds for social awkwardness. The lunchroom, before class on the first day of school, the commons rooms – how can we navigate the complex social environment that is high school?</p>	
<p>Moderator: Joe Golding</p>	
<p>Jenny O'Higgins</p>	<p>Jenny O'Higgins is the Director of Youth Services for the City of Newton. Over the last ten years, Jenny has worked with teens and their allies in several communities in Massachusetts, as well as on the five Native American reservations in Northern Arizona. Jenny has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree focused in painting and a Master of Arts degree focused in child and adolescent development and youth leadership through the arts.</p>
<p>Deb Bernhard</p>	<p>Deborah Bernhard is a new English teacher at Newton South. She graduated from South in 2007 and feels honored to be teaching in a department that meant so much to her when she was a student here. When Deborah was a kid she never wanted English class to end -- and now it doesn't! Before coming back to South she was a student teacher and long term sub at North, but Deborah's a Lion at heart. She coaches JV softball here at South and loves going to other sporting events throughout the year. On the weekends, Deborah likes to eat sushi, do yoga, and watch the Patriots.</p>
<p>Dr. Paul Estin</p>	<p>Paul Estin earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of Michigan in 1998, where he worked on various projects including: how and why does the use of examples help persuade people? How do we recognize objects? How do we reason about nature? And how can we provide feedback to improve human judgment? After working in Informational Technology for a few years, Dr. Estin returned to teaching. He has been teaching both psychology and world history at Newton South since 2007.</p>

COMICS AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL – One of the ways Eleanor and Park first bond is over comics – The Watchmen, etc. What does this genre actually have to offer? Is it still as edgy in 2014 as it would have been in 1987?	
Moderator: Jennifer Dimmick	
Robin Brenner	Robin Brenner is Teen Librarian at the Brookline Public Library in Brookline, Massachusetts. When not presenting programs, dressing us as Batgirl for special events, and providing titles recommendations, she writes features for publications including VOYA, The Horn Book, Library Journal, and Knowledge Quest. She is an active member of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and has served on awards committees including the Margaret A. Edwards Award Committee, the Boston Globe Horn Book Award and the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. She is the editor-in-chief of the graphic novel review website No Flying No Tights.
Hadas Rosen	Hadas Rosen is a junior here at South, and enjoys drawing, painting, and cartooning.
Alisa Kuklina	Alisa was born in Belarus, Minsk, and lived there while attending public school until 2nd grade. Her mother was then invited by the Japanese government to study in Japan. In 3 rd grade, Alisa moved to Japan with her parents. Alisa’s family won green cards when she was in 6 th grade so they moved to America so she could get a better education and citizenship. Alisa still goes back to Belarus every summer to visit her grandparents.
Martha Moyer	<p>Martha Moyer has been a Math teacher at Newton South High School for 17 years. When she’s not grading papers and preparing classes she doodles, writes and draws people who become main characters in her mini comics, graphic short stories and currently live in a Graphic Novel.</p> <p>She majored in theatre and mathematics in college and she has always sketched and enjoyed art. In spring of 2010 she took a course on the art of comics at Massachusetts Institute of Art and has used the skills she learned there for her short stories and for the Graphic Novel she is currently completing.</p> <p>Three of Martha Moyer’s Graphic Short Stories have been included in Comic Anthologies published by Boston Comics Round Table (BCR) and Ninth Art Press.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meal Planning (Inbound Five the food Issue, 2010 by BCR) 2. Teaching High School (Show and Tell 2011 by Ninth Art Press) 3. The Best Excuse for Showing up Late to Work (The Greatest of All Time 2012 by Ninth Art Press). <p>She is currently writing and drawing a full length graphic Novel titled, “24 Hours from Sometime”. It will be ready for publication by fall 2016. It only takes her 12 hours to ink a page, and there are about 200 + pages.... So 2 years sounds about right!</p>

THE '80s – The popular culture of the 1980's is what brought Eleanor and Park together; what about the music, books, and culture that we read about still resonates today?	
Moderator: Alex Kraus	
Rachael McNally	Rachael McNally teaches history and coordinates the student support plan at Newton South High School. Since 1989, she has been the drummer and vocalist in the rock band Sleepyhead.
Bren Baca	Local artist Bren Bataclan is well known for his colorful murals in schools around the country, including one near the Newton South Library. His "Smile" Project, in which he gives cartoon inspired paintings away for free in exchange for promises to smile at random people, has been featured on CBS Evening News and in the Washington Post. He has given away more than 1,000 paintings in all fifty states and nearly that many countries around the world. A graduate of UCLA and the Ohio State University, Bataclan was formerly a professor at UMass/Amherst, teaching computer animation. He mostly listen to just 80s music, he belongs to an 80s movie club, and he has a Man Cave at home devoted to his beloved 80s New Wave bands. And he is married to Newton South history teacher, Bob Parlin.
Erin McGrath	Erin McGrath is a pop-culture blogger at the Ladies Of Comicazi (ladiesofcomicazi.com), writing about comics, books, movies, and television shows from a feminist perspective. In addition, she provides social media support to Comicazi, a comics and collectables shop in Davis Square, Somerville. She is also the Program Director at Boston Partners in Education, a local non-profit that supports the academic and social growth of Boston Public Schools students. When she isn't writing about pop culture or supporting volunteers, Ms. McGrath is an avid runner and baker.

<p>YOUNG LOVE – Both Eleanor and Park seem almost surprised by the force of their love. Is this actually what it feels like? Does her parents’ disapproval make the relationship more powerful or less? What lessons can real-life teens learn from their experiences?</p>	
<p>Moderator: Dave Weintraub</p>	
<p>Meredith Goldstein</p>	<p>Meredith Goldstein is an entertainment reporter and advice columnist for The Boston Globe and Boston.com. Her advice column Love Letters runs daily on Boston.com and appears in The Boston Globe on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. The Names column, which Goldstein writes with Mark Shanahan, runs Monday through Friday and every Sunday in the paper. She welcomes letters from the lovelorn -- and all tips about celebrities spotted around Boston. Meredith was the panelists at Newton South’s <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> One School One Book event in 2012.</p>
<p>Chelsey Philpot</p>	<p>Chelsey Philpot’s young adult debut, <i>Even in Paradise</i>, which comes out in October, has earned a starred review from <i>Publisher’s Weekly</i> and was named a Fall 2014 Best Young Adult Novel by <i>Teen Vogue</i>. Chelsey teaches writing at Boston University and writes about YA for a number of publications, including the <i>Boston Globe</i>, <i>New York Times</i>, <i>BuzzFeed</i>, and <i>Slate</i>. She attended boarding school in New Hampshire and earned a degree in English from Vassar College and a master’s in Journalism from Boston University.</p>
<p>Allison Pottern Hoch</p>	<p>Allison Pottern Hoch has happily made books her life’s work. She recently spent four years selling books and organizing author events for kids and teens at Wellesley Books and before that marketed scholarly titles for MIT’s university press. She is now living her dream: putting her B.A. in Creative Writing to good use as a freelance writer. She enjoys science fiction, young adult literature, and is not-so-secretly a romantic at heart.</p>

ETHNICITY AND IDENTITY – What insight does Park’s experience as an Asian-American in a largely white city give us into the experience of those around us who come from racial or ethnic backgrounds that are not the majority?	
Moderator: Hae Choi	
Faye Cassel	Faye Cassell is a History teacher at South. She is originally from Singapore but grew up in a small town in Kansas. She went to college at Fordham University and grad school at Brown University. After college she spent two years living as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. She currently teaches freshmen and sophomores and loves thinking about the Cold War and gender issues.
Suzy Drurey	Suzy (Fu) Drurey was born in Taiwan, R.O.C. and immigrated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the early 1970's. Suzy attended Boston University, and then Boston University School of Medicine for 2 years. During a gap year, she taught science in the inner-city Bronx, NY and the Bay Area of San Francisco. Suzy fell in love with teaching, and returned to complete her M.Ed. at Boston College Graduate School of Education. This is my Suzy’s 18th year of teaching chemistry and her fourth year at South.
Dennis Phan	Dennis is currently a senior at Newton South. He has been a student here all four years and will soon be an officer for the Asian Student Organization at South. Dennis is a Vietnamese American and his parents grew up in Vietnam.

BEING DIFFERENT – Eleanor and Park both struggled with this; how hard is it at Newton South? What could adults do to make it easier? Students?	
Moderator: Sarah Gentile	
Brian Murray	Brian Murray has been working at South for the last ten years. Currently he teaches Modern World History, American History, and Ethics in the Modern World. Mr. Murray is from the City of Chicago, and attended Boston College for both Undergraduate and Graduate studies, where he studied philosophy and history.
Mitch Kellaway	Mitch Kellaway is a transgender journalist, creative writer, publisher, and co-editor of <i>Manning Up</i> , an anthology of transgender men's stories about gender and family. He holds a degree in gender studies from Harvard University, and currently writes for <i>The Advocate</i> , covering news about transgender rights, LGBT family rights, and LGBT literature. He graduated from Newton South in 2006.
Peter Hershon	Peter Hershon has been deaf since birth and has overcome a lot of obstacles and challenges as a result of his deafness. He holds a B.A. and M.A. degree in the field of counseling. Peter has taught American Sign Language (ASL) classes at Newton South High School for the past four years and this is his fifth year. Previously, Peter taught ASL for 12 years at colleges, high schools, and workplace before coming to South.

BEAUTY – Eleanor’s self-image is certainly negative; would a Newton teen have more or less of a problem handling this issue? What can we learn from Eleanor?	
Moderator: Dana Arnaboldi	
Sam Donovan	Sam Donovan graduated from Newton South High School in 2009, and attended Parsons School of Design, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in fashion design in 2013. Sam has worked as a designer with numerous design companies, including Anna Sui, The Gap, and Eileen Fisher. He also participated in the first season of Project Runway: Under The Gunn, becoming the first ever Massachusetts designer to make it to the finale of the show, where he placed second. Sam believes in fashion that is environmentally sustainable and socially responsible, believing in clothing should enable us to be bold and fearless and true to ourselves, but that it should make as little impact on the earth as possible.
Karuna O'Donnell	Karuna sees yoga and arts learning as her path to becoming an authentic human being with a precious gift to bring to her people. Through a 20 year journey of studentship of art and yoga, she has witnessed the power of practice to uplift, heal and inspire responsibility. Karuna is a deeply passionate teacher and student of Forrest Yoga and arts learning. With the guidance of her mentors, she has found my most authentic expression of self, thus far. Karuna holds a BFA in Painting from the Massachusetts College of Art and a Masters Degree in Education from Harvard University. She offers yoga and studio art as resources for healing psychological trauma in the greater Boston area. In 2008, Karuna became a founding member of Survivor Theatre Project, helping people to heal from trauma through performing arts. Facilitating personal acts of courage <i>brightens her spirit tremendously</i> .
Jaime Hyde	Jaime graduated with honors from George Washington University with a Bachelor’s in Psychology, and completed her Master’s in Clinical Social work from Simmons College. Jaime has experience with diverse clinical populations but is especially passionate about the treatment of eating disorders, and has worked with patients struggling with eating disorders on the inpatient, residential, and outpatient levels. In addition to her clinical expertise, Jaime brings patience, compassion and integrity to all her clinical and professional work.
Rachel B Monroe	Rachel earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Gender and Feminist Studies from Oberlin College and a Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a focus on Holistic Studies from Lesley University. While in graduate training, Rachel served as a clinical intern at MEDA and gained critical experience in group dynamics and trauma work. Rachel also provides both clinical and educational trainings in the community on MEDA’s behalf at local non profits, health organizations, universities, and schools. Rachel believes strongly in recovery and is honored to guide and empower clients on their own path to wellness.

<p>CENSORSHIP 1 – <i>Eleanor and Park</i> is one of a number of novels that has been at the center of censorship controversies in recent years. How should schools walk the line between exposing young people to the ugly side of the adult world and protecting them from it?</p>	
<p>Moderator: David Fleishman</p>	
<p>Samantha Mandel</p>	<p>Samantha Mandel is the Global Education Programs Manager for Newton Schools, working with all foreign exchanges and trips at Newton North and South as well as the Global Education Leadership Fund. She joined Newton Schools in July, but prior to that, she worked in editorial in children's book publishing for Macmillan, the same company that published <i>Eleanor and Park</i>. She has also worked for textbook and trade nonfiction publishers, and she has a background in international programs and foreign languages.</p>
<p>Maureen Vacca</p>	<p>Maureen Harty-Vacca and her husband have resided in North Reading for 27 years. There they raised three children, who all attended North Reading public schools, went to and now have successful careers. Maureen was an at-home mom for 18 years, giving up her college career for what she considered the most important job she would ever have, raising her kids to be all they were meant to be.</p> <p>Maureen has a bachelor of science degree in business administration/financing. After raising her kids she returned to the work force and has been employed with Massachusetts Family Institute for nine years. There she is the Director of Public Policy and Research, researching issues and lobbying state legislators around issues involving families and children. She is an advocate for parental rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Maureen is also a strong advocate for public education. She believes everyone should serve their community in some way. Maureen served six years on the North Reading Finance Committee before being elected to the School Committee where she served for five terms (15 years) before retiring when her youngest son graduated high school. North Reading schools have student-centered policies that encourage parental participation which reflect the values and expectations of all families. Maureen believes inclusive districts recognize that everyone must be included and respected.</p>
<p>Liz Rowland</p>	<p>Liz Rowland has been the young adult Librarian at the Newton Free Library for almost three years. Liz received her undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and her Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina. Liz is passionate about connecting teens with great books and spends her time purchasing young adult materials for the library, running 10+ programs a month for teens, and connecting with community groups that serve youth, such as Newton's Youth Commission and Newton Cares. Liz is currently reading: <i>I am Malala</i>.</p>

<p>CENSORSHIP 2 – <i>Eleanor and Park</i> is one of a number of novels that has been at the center of censorship controversies in recent years. How should schools walk the line between exposing young people to the ugly side of the adult world and protecting them from it?</p>	
<p>Moderator: Jamie Rinaldi</p>	
<p>Sam Musher</p>	<p>Sam Musher has been the middle school librarian at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley for 10 years. She adores YA and middle grade fiction of all kinds, and writes about issues in teen lit and education at Parenthetical.net.</p>
<p>Ellie Ross</p>	<p>Ellie Ross has been a Newton South High School secretary for the past 12 years. For many years she worked with students, in the school, through the college application process, and currently is working in the small studies center. She moved to Boston in the 70's, and graduated from Emerson College in 1983. Ellie studied communication disorders and worked in a school for children with learning disabilities before moving to Newton. She has one daughter who graduated from Newton South High School in 2003. She is honored to be asked to join this panel discussion.</p>
<p>Ethel Downing</p>	<p>Ethel Downey has been teaching students and faculty how to find the sources they need to complete their research and studies at NSHS since 1999. As librarian Ms Downey selects appropriate resources for all grades. She supports reading by acquiring popular and challenging fiction and non-fiction books each school year that support and refresh the Newton South library collection.</p>

<p>ABUSE – Eleanor suffers a variety of forms of neglect and abuse. How widespread are those issues in our community? What can we all do to help those of our friends and neighbors who are forced to deal with these issues?</p>	
<p>Moderator: Shelly Borg</p>	
<p>Jenny Robertson</p>	<p>Jenny Robertson is a Newton Teacher Residency Program candidate in the English Dept. here at NSHS. Before becoming a Newton resident in May of last year, Ms. Robertson was a family law attorney based in western MA who specialized in domestic violence/intimate partner violence issues. In addition to representing survivors in family court since 2005, she taught a course, "Domestic Violence & the Law" at Western New England School of Law in Springfield from 2010-2012 and served as board member and Legal Director of Safe Passage, a Northampton-based organization that provides shelter and other services to survivors and their children.</p>
<p>Brian Deleskey</p>	<p>Brian is an LICSW with a Master's Degree in Social Work from Boston College. His is currently the Prevention and Intervention counselor at Newton South High School, and he also has a private practice. Brian is a dad of four kids and has worked with children and families for the past 25 years. For the last 22 years Brian was employed as a child protection worker, investigator, and supervisor for the Department of Children and Families. This is Brian's first year at Newton South.</p>
<p>Michael Greenspan</p>	<p>Michael is a Newton North alum and lifelong Newton resident. He studied elementary education in college and has been working with kids since he was a sophomore at North. He loves baseball, learning languages, and video games. He's also a child abuse survivor, and is here to talk about what it was like growing up abused in Newton.</p>
<p>Lee Doyle</p>	<p>As the Coordinator of Community Mobilization, Lee works within the Newton and Waltham communities to raise the level of awareness of sexual violence as a public health issue. Lee engages with parents, school administrators, service providers, and youth around issues of child sexual abuse, teen dating violence, and healthy relationships. Lee is also passionate about youth empowerment and LGBQ/T involvement in the sexual violence movement.</p>

<p>RESILIENCE – Both of the title characters face challenges, and each finds ways to overcome them. What can we learn from them about how to be resilient in our own lives?</p>	
<p>Moderator: Jenn Pontillo</p>	
<p>Dea Hunsicker</p>	<p>Dea Hunsicker is currently the Director of Research and Evaluation at Horizons for Homeless Children, a non-profit organization that aims to help homeless children throughout Massachusetts by providing high quality early education and opportunities for developmentally appropriate play.</p> <p>She received her Ph.D in psychology from the University of Chicago in 2012, where she was the recipient of The Benjamin Bloom Fellowship. Her research there focused on language development and homesign, and she is interested in how language supports other areas of cognition in early childhood and beyond.</p>
<p>Rachel Gans-Boriskin</p>	<p>Rachel Gans-Boriskin, a Newton South alum, is a life coach at Connect Evolve Thrive Coaching. She holds masters degrees in Communication from The University of Pennsylvania and New York University. Recognized as one of the Top 300 Professors in the United States by the Princeton Review, Rachel has worked at Clark, Northeastern and Brandeis Universities.</p> <p>With training in mindfulness, psychology and coaching, Rachel works with high school and college students to help them identify their strengths, values and working styles so that they can live more meaningful and productive lives. She specializes in working with individuals with ADHD to help them develop structures and routines that channel their unique abilities. Rachel lives in the Boston area with her husband, two kids, eight fish, two lizards and one cat.</p>
<p>Susan D. Swick</p>	<p>Susan Swick is the Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Newton Wellesley Hospital, where she is also the Director of the PACT Program (Parenting At a Challenging Time) at the hospital's Vernon Cancer Center. Additionally, she is an attending psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and is an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.</p>