**The Maze Runner** by James Dashner

Imagine waking up in a place where you have little memory of where you came from or who you were. In *The Maze Runner*, Thomas wakes up in a metal elevator that lifts him to a place know as The Glade. He is welcomed by over 50 boys who are all in the same situation and Thomas learns that he lives in this large field, working hard to survive. This field is surrounded by a huge maze and every day, people called ‘runners’ go outside the walls to try to find a way to escape. He learns that they are surrounded by a giant maze, covering miles. At night, Thomas is frightened when the walls surrounding the Glade seal shut, closing the entrances to the maze until an older member shows him why.

Looking through a window, Thomas sees the most terrifying thing he could imagine: a slimy mass that seems to be a cross between a machine and animal. The creature, known as a Griever, is extremely deadly, appearing to be a giant slug covered in electric saws, razor sharp claws, and needles filled with a terrible toxin. Even with the danger in the maze, Thomas has the feeling that he is to be one of the runners, brave members of the community that explore the maze, looking for a way out.

Soon after Thomas arrives, the first girl ever is delivered, but she's in a coma.  It's clear she and Thomas have some kind of connection and that there may be a valid reason for the other gladers not to trust him.  What can Thomas do to help and gain their trust?  He knows he wants to be a runner, but can he survive out in the maze?

*~ Stephanie Wilkes’ Booktalk*