***Everybody Sees the Ants***by A.S. King

Life has to be pretty rotten when dreaming about a Vietnam War prison camp is a preferable escape to your reality. Lucky Linderman has several problems that make his life less than enjoyable. First of all, his parents don’t really know how to be parents. His mom is too busy swimming to notice anything and his father has never dealt with the fact that his father didn’t return from the Vietnam War. Also, Lucky is the victim of bullying, serious bullying, from Nader McMillan. It started 8 years ago and it’s gotten pretty bad. Third, Lucky is in trouble at school because of a question he asked. Just a question, but it was a REALLY bad question in most people’s eyes. And lastly, every night Lucky dreams of rescuing his grandfather from a POW camp he never escaped. His dreams may seem crazy, but how crazy can they be when Lucky wakes up with items from his dreams in his hands?

A.S. King masterfully weaves reality and the surreal together in this dark, funny, bizarre book about a boy trying to figure out life.

Here is quote from the author A.S. King: "[*Everybody Sees the Ants*](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9711714.Everybody_Sees_the_Ants) originated from an idea that we are all prisoners. An idea that bullying is a widely ignored form of torture. An idea that only we can choose to escape from our own prisons. An idea that no one can take something from us if we don't give it."

At one time or another, we have all been Lucky Linderman. We may not have parents like his, a grandfather with his circumstances, or be the victim of bullying, but we all have something from which we want to escape. This book is one young man’s journey to figuring out how to survive this mess called life.

~ Booktalk by Karla Kirby