



## **Uglies** by Scott Westerfeld, reviewed by Donna Bush

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society where everyone is considered “ugly” until the age of 16 when they are surgically made pretty. They leave Uglyville and live in Pretty Town where life is non-stop fun and parties. The novel opens with Tally spying on those in Pretty Town as she waits her approaching 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. While doing so, she meets another girl named Shay who has decided she does not want to become pretty and look exactly like everyone else. Shay is going to travel to the Smoke to live with a band of rebels who feel the same way. Through a series of events Tally is made to become a spy for the authorities in order to find Shay and the rebels. She will not become pretty unless she does so. Through her encounters and short time with the rebels, Tally learns that not only do the authorities change the way people in society look but they also operate on their brains to make them more compliant. As she learns more, she makes the decision that she wants to become one of the rebels and not become pretty. But it may be too late.

This book was very fast-paced and full of action. It made me think about the importance that is placed on beauty and what the media considers attractive. I thought about the people who I have encountered in my life who I considered attractive or beautiful. In most cases those people did not fit that “standard” of beauty but I considered each attractive because of the way he/she laughed or his/her style or personality, etc. Everyone is beautiful in some way and beauty truly is in the eyes of the beholder.

I recommend this book for students and adults alike. I am look forward to reading the sequel to find out what happens to Tally.