The Institute

Stephen King

Tim Jamieson, ex-disgraced Florida policeman finds himself in DuPray, SC working as a Night Knocker for the police department there. The job consists of him checking on businesses during the night hours making sure all is well and no break-ins. He is starting to think that maybe he might want to stay there. Then one summer night all hell breaks loose

12-year-old Luke Ellis, well-adjusted and well-grounded is a genius and has telekinetic powers. He has loving parents who have tried to make his life as normal as possible. He wants to attend two colleges at the same time, one for Engineering and one for English in the fall. That does not happen, because in the middle of the night a black SUV pulls up outside his house. Three people, one male and two females enter his home. They kill his parents and use an aerosol to knock him out. He is carried to the SUV and transported to The Institute located in Maine. This facility houses children who display special powers such as telepathy and telekinesis. They are poked and prodded and forced to endure horrific tests. If they cooperate they are given tokens for vending machines with special treats. If they don’t cooperate they get tasered or worse. Their powers are harnessed to harm certain people that the officials and doctors at The Institute work for.

Luke decides he needs to escape before he is moved to the Back Half where really bad stuff happens. He does escape with the help of Maureen one of the maintenance people. She tells him how to get through the woods and to a boat that is tied up along the river. He makes it to a small town and hops on a train. That train eventually ends up at DuPray, SC.

The Institute has eyes everywhere and it is not long before they catch up with Luke and have the ultimate showdown.

This is an absolute page-turner of a book. The book club at the administration building is discussing it on June 13, so if you would like to join us we meet at 6:00.