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Synopsis

From John David Anderson, author of the acclaimed *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*, comes a humorous, poignant, and original contemporary story about bullying, broken friendships, and the failures of communication between kids. In middle school, words aren't just words. They can be weapons. They can be gifts. The right words can win you friends or make you enemies. They can come back to haunt you. Sometimes they can change things forever. When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes—though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well. In the middle of this, a new girl named Rose arrives at school and sits at Frost's lunch table. Rose is not like anyone else at Branton Middle School, and it's clear that the close circle of friends Frost has made for himself won't easily hold another. As the sticky-note war escalates, and the pressure to choose sides mounts, Frost soon realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 384 pages

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Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,754 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #119 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School #179 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

• Written with understated humor and fine-tuned perception, Frost's first-person narrative offers a riveting story as well as an uncomfortably realistic picture of middle school social dynamics. • (Booklist (starred review)) • Anderson dives into the world of middle school with a clear sense of how it works and what it needs. Kids, and the rest of the world, need more books like this one. • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) • Anderson captures the tumultuous joys and pains of middle school with honesty, creating characters with whom readers will find common ground and insight. Words have lingering and persistent power, Anderson makes clear, but so does standing up for others and making one's voice heard. • (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) • Acute observations about social media and school life and a smart, engaging narrator make this a journey well worth taking. Readers might even want some Post-it notes to mark the good parts. • (The Horn Book)

John David Anderson is the author of many books for young readers, including Sidekicked and The Dungeoneers. A dedicated root beer connoisseur and chocolate fiend, he lives with his wife, two kids, and perpetually whiny cat in Indianapolis, Indiana. You can visit him online at www.johndavidanderson.org.

John David Anderson has an amazing way with words and can spin an incredible story that is perfect for upper middle grades. The humor, the relevancy, the messages are written with flair and finesse. This book is about four boys Wolf, Bench, DeeDee and Frost who found each other, their "misfit" tribe, and now they need to navigate their way through middle school madness protecting each other from the wolves. They are faced with many typical struggles that this time in life brings: social media, girls, outside influences and bullies. Will their friendship survive the bumps of middle school or will their tribe fall apart? This is a book that will inspire thinking and conversation. I'm excited to share it with students.

Another great story from John David Anderson. This book was as good as his first, if not better! Here's an author who seems to effortlessly capture middle school language, reactions, feelings and thoughts. The characters are interesting and the writing is authentic. I can't wait for his next novel.

Highly recommended reading for students struggling to be true to themselves and for students making others feel less than adequate. Not a cliché, everything-works-out-just-fine ending yet satisfying! Adding to my classroom library!

I bought for my 7th grader and he loved it and has passed it on to his brother a 5th grader. They plan on loaning it out to their soccer mates.

Required reading for all middle school students, teachers, administrators and parents. "You find your people and you protect each other from the wolves" ~ that statement alone sets the tone for this searing commentary on middle school, friendship, bullying and the power of words. I flat out cried with about 10 minutes left in the book (no spoilers, I promise) and rejoiced at Anderson's ability to show us light amidst the harsh reality he portrays in this story. It's funny, it's heartbreaking, it's educational and most of all it's REAL. It doesn't offer a magic bullet to stop bullying, but it can and will open conversations "this book needs to be read widely and immediately. And then felt and mulled over. And then discussed and written about. Mandatory middle school library and classroom purchase. Would be an excellent choice for an all-school read. I received a digital ARC of this title for review" all opinions are my own.

Words matter.... words have power....A wonderful novel for upper elementary and middle school students. Middle School. It's the setting for so many books for a good reason. You're no longer a little kid, but not yet a teenager. You're often "reshuffled" into a bigger pond, and every fish has become carnivorous. As an elementary school teacher, I try not to scare my students about middle school - but I do remember 6th grade with a distinct lack of fondness. The one good thing about having more students is the chance to find your crew. Posted does a wonderful job of sharing just how important it is to find that core group, especially for kids who don't fit into more traditional friendship group structures.

John David Anderson *knows* how to write about middle schoolers and here, he touches upon the harsher side of middle school: bullying. When a student is caught in class with a cell phone, causing ALL phones to be banned, a group of boys begin leaving post-it notes on each other's locker...only to find that it catches on, and soon, the whole school starts doing the same. Meanwhile, a newbie "Rose" has joined the boys, causing a shift in the dynamics of their friendships. Rose reveals that she has received a less than kind post-it on her locker and soon, friendships unravel as notes continue to be written. This is a book that would make a wonderful addition to any library. And Anderson's quote, "You find your people and you protect each other from the wolves"

rings true.

Given our culture that writes anything and everything they want online (and says anything in-person) with minimal concern about what the ramifications may be, I thought this was an incredible timely read! When a girl sends an inappropriate message in class, the middle schoolers have to stop using cell phones in class so they start to use post-its to communicate their thoughts and feelings. The lack of filter continues and we, as readers, and they, as characters, see the impact words have on each other as the lack of filter gets out of control. The main character and his crew are loveable and human and make mistakes. They are believable as middle schoolers. The parents and other grown-ups are flawed, yet supportive. I highly recommend it.

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