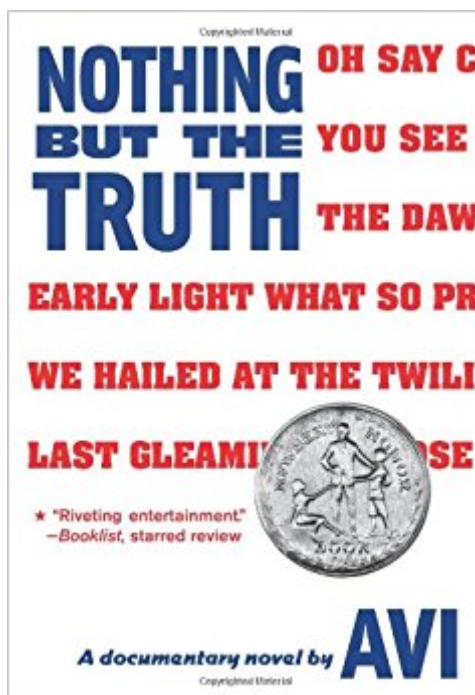


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# Nothing But The Truth



## Synopsis

This Newbery Honor Book by acclaimed author Avi is available again through Scholastic--in an After Words paperback edition! In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class. Breaking the school's policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation's attention.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 771 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues

## Customer Reviews

Structured as a series of journal entries, memos, letters and dialogues, this highly original novel emerges as a witty satire of high school politics, revealing how truth can easily become distorted. After Philip Malloy, a clownish, rather unmotivated freshman, is punished for causing a disturbance (humming "The Star Spangled Banner"), facts about the incident become exaggerated until a minor school infraction turns into a national scandal. Philip's parents, several reporters and a neighbor (who happens to be running for the school board) accuse the school of being unpatriotic. Philip gains fame as a martyr for freedom; his homeroom teacher, Miss Narwin, however, faces dismissal from her job. After gleaning the points of view of many characters, readers will side with Miss Narwin and will recognize the hollowness of Philip's eventual victory. It is clear that Avi ( The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle ) is attuned to the modern high school scene. With frankness and remarkable insight, he conveys the flaws of the system while creating a story that is both entertaining and profound. Ages 11-up. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text

refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 6-9-- Ninth grader Philip Malloy finds himself unable to participate on the track team because of his failing grade in English. Convinced the teacher, Margaret Narwin, dislikes him, he concocts a scheme to get transferred from her homeroom: instead of standing "at respectful, silent attention" during the national anthem, Philip hums. Throughout the ensuing disciplinary problems at school, his parents take his side, ignore the fact that he is breaking a school rule, and concentrate on issues of patriotism. The conflict between Philip and his school escalates, and he quickly finds the situation out of his control; local community leaders, as well as the national news media, become involved. At this point, the novel surges forward to a heartbreaking, but totally believable, conclusion. Avi carefully sets forth the events in the story, advancing the plot through conversations between students, Philip's parents, school personnel, and community politicians, while Philip's point of view is revealed through his diary entries, and Margaret Narwin's through letters to her sister. Also enriching the narrative are copies of school memos and newspaper articles, transcripts of speeches delivered, and copies of letters received by both Philip and his teacher; each document provides another perspective on the conflict and illuminates the many themes that beg to be discussed--most notably the irony of lives destroyed because of the misuse of power and the failure of people to communicate. Admirably well crafted and thought provoking. --Ellen Fader, Westport Public Library, CT  
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This YA novel does a brilliant job laying out the difference between reality and what we believe based on a source. Whether that source we a flawed teenager, the media, or a school board candidate. Without preaching, it shows why listening (while putting aside our own agendas) is so important. As prior school board member, i can attest to the authenticity of many parts of this book - the frustration at trying to discuss issues with people who might be more interested in shaping policy than listening and learning.. about having to consider how my actions will effect a budget vote, instead of what's best for the kids. I just ordered 6 copies, to give to the current school board members

The book *Nothing But The Truth* is a collection of letters, dialogues, and documents about a certain event regarding a kid named Phillip Malloy humming the Star Spangled Banner during the beginning of each day. The various sources the book provides are all biased based on the writer of it, except the dialogues. The reader's job is to figure out what the real event was despite all of the

bias. This book is very unique in the way it is written. Most books are written from one point of view, but this book is written in third person objective and in about 4 different perspectives in first person. This book shows how events in real life can be easily blurred by bias and how easily a person would believe a fake version of a certain event. I personally enjoyed reading this book and attempting to figure out what had really happened. I would recommend this book to my friends.

Interesting story, even more so by the different perspectives. As Avi points out in his introduction, parents and teachers will find the plot very plausible. Lots of potential for family or class discussion about providing the whole truth. It's an easy and insightful novel. I highly recommend it.

My son used it for school in 4th grade. The book was great!

Good story and written in an interesting format. Unfortunately, there are a few swear words in it, so I cannot add it to my classroom library.

Great

This story is so good. Excellent resource for middle school age students and teachers. This story so fully depicts the importance of point of view in any situation (& story). Currently considering how I can get my hands on a classroom set so I can incorporate this into my language arts classes this school year.

Although this book may not be %100 realistic, it truly conveys an idea of different view points and really taps into each character's personality. It's nice because it's a short, quick read, and every sentence is meaningful to the plot. For sure recommend it! :)

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