

Title: *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13b*

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Category: Different Abilities

Response Submitted By: Owen M., 9th Grade

Date Submitted: February 17, 2021

1. What is the main plot of this book?

This book, *The Unlikely Hero of Room Thirteen B*, is about a group of kids who all have OCD and are in group therapy to help them become more “normal”. In this group the main character, whose real name is Adam is given a superhero alias as part of a bonding exercise and refers to himself only as Batman. The other characters names are rarely said and, in some cases, never even mentioned except for Robyn who is Adams crush. The reason Adam chooses Batman as an alias is because Robyn chose Robin as her alias. Other characters are Wolverine, Ironman, Thor and Green Lantern. The book is about Adam as he tries to become a better functioning human in society. Adams Mother and Father are divorced, and his father married a recently widowed woman with a young son. His biological Mother is a doctor in a nearby hospital. You never learn about his stepmother or biological fathers’ professions. Throughout the book you also see that Adams Biological mother is a hoarder who keeps lying to Adam about starting to clean out the house, and after a certain point she starts receiving these horribly abusive letters, that suggest she go kill herself. Adams mom, only referred to as Mrs. Ross commands Adam to tell no one what’s going on, even his stepmom, stepbrother and father. After a couple weeks of these letters Adam is no longer able to enter his own house, as the opening ritual, a specific set of actions that would allow him to enter a room and make it so he would remain unharmed, cannot be completed properly. No matter how many times he tries he just can’t get in. so he goes to his dad’s house where he lives for a few months. Until one day he’s walking past his Mother’s house and he sees smoke coming out of one of the windows, he rushes to the door but can’t open it because he needs to complete his ritual. Throughout the book problems like this keep popping up, such as the time he needed to get into church but couldn’t because he needed to do the opening ritual and all his friends went on without him.

2. Which character did you most identify with and why?

I mostly identify with Thor because in the book he is described as this quite guy who looks all scary but the further you progress in the book the more you realize he just wants to help people

3. What do you believe is the main message of this book?

If you be yourself as opposed to what others want, you to be you will be much happier.

4. Do you think the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story, or did it come across as too “preachy”?

No. I believe this came off as too little of the theme it showed up in the very end of the story and was only there if you read the characters body language, like a friend that you’ve known for years.

5. If two or more perspectives on an important topic were explored/presented in this book, which one did you agree with and why?

I don't believe that there was any contradicting opinions or different perspectives about OCD in this book, there were different mental illnesses but otherwise everyone had the same view when it came to OCD.

6. In what ways (if any) were your beliefs about the topic changed or reaffirmed through reading this book?

I had no clue OCD was this severe I thought it was just a severe need to make sure everything was organized. The need for everything to be perfect in your mind and door rituals as well as needing everything to be in such an order all the time is more than I realized.

7. What perspective, if any, do you think was missing from this book?

This book is in the third person, so I think it has the views of everyone possible.

8. Did this book encourage you to pursue any topic further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?

This book did not lead me to research many topics besides some conditions, and symptoms of OCD.

9. What type of reader (based on age, interests, perspectives, etc.) would you suggest this book to?

I believe anyone from the ages 13 up would enjoy this book, but it depends on their maturity level.

10. What other book(s) have you read that you think would make a good addition to this category of the Perspectives Bibliography, and why?

I cant think of any books that would go well with this specific Novel.