

Title: *Apple in the Middle*
Author: Dawn Quigley
Category: Race & Ethnicity

Respondent Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 10th Grade

Date Response Submitted: July 5, 2021

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book focuses on Apple, a middle schooler with a caucasian father and Native American mother. The plot navigates inability to fully understand her background and how she comes to terms with her identity and Native American heritage after being called an offensive slur. The main plot takes place in North Dakota when Apple is sent to her Native American relatives for the summer.

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

The character that I think I identify most with is Apple because I am a person of color who has seen racism against my community. Overall, I think Apple's story is relatable to many people across America and reading her story was incredibly interesting because of how relatable it is.

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

After reading this book, I think the main message the author was trying to project was that it is okay to be your true self. In fact, Apple's story shows readers how it is encouraged to find your identity as a person and be confident in who you are.

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

Overall, I think the author did a phenomenal job introducing this topic because the plot was interesting and educational. As Apple learns more about her Native American heritage, we see her grow as a person and fully accept her late mother's side and how this heritage plays such a large role in her life. I did not find it to be too preachy, but rather thought the author weaved in the message seamlessly into the storyline.

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

Throughout the book, we see Apple struggling with her Native American heritage. One perspective was to ignore that part of her, while the other was coming to terms with it and understanding its importance. I would agree with the latter perspective because knowing her mother's heritage and how it has been integrated into her life is very valuable. At the end of the book, Apple understands that although her mother is dead, her character and rich culture still lives on inside Apple.

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

While reading this book, my thoughts on living in your truest form were reaffirmed because I was shown how important your heritage plays in who you are and how you should accept it and be proud, rather than push it aside.

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

I think the book did an amazing job at portraying Apple's struggles as a mixed child in America. However, one perspective I wish we had a little more insight on is how others viewed Apple's

Native American mother marrying a white man because this topic was briefly introduced in the book but not heavily explored.

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

Yes, This book encouraged me to learn more about my own heritage and how important that identity is to me as a person of color in America. This book reaffirmed my beliefs and taught me to be proud of who I am.

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

Based on the plot of this book, I would recommend this to a reader who is interested in learning more about the experiences of people of color, especially those who are mixed because it shows their experience navigating both sides of their identity.

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?

One other book I would recommend to readers that I believe is a good addition is Hearts Unbroken, which tells the story of another Native American middle schooler who goes through the unsettling changes of love and dating, as well as not always fitting in, due to her race. This book is already in this category of the Perspectives Bibliography and is a good read because it delves into other experiences people of color deal with such as finding love.

Book Title: The Hate U Give

Book Author: Angie Thomas

Category: Race & Ethnicity

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/10/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book focuses on Starr Carter and how she navigates between the poor neighborhood she lives in and the wealthy suburban prep school she attends. However, the plot escalates when her childhood friend Khalil is shot and killed at the hands of police. The book follows Starr's perspective on the situation and how her unarmed late friend was ultimately targeted by police based on the color of his skin.

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

The character that I most identify with is Starr Carter because her experience as a person of color is unfortunately relatable to many other teens across America. It seems that her experience of facing racism towards her race is an experience many other people of color have faced. I really liked her character because she was able to show her strength despite the huge opposition against her.

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

I think the main message of this book is to stand up for what you believe in and to fight against prejudice and racism that creates harmful stereotypes on others. I also think it shows the importance of fighting for justice, so that people cannot get away with spreading hate or acting violently towards other people based on the color of their skin.

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

I think the author did an incredible way of portraying the message of this book and did so in a heartbreaking way that shows the reality of situations that many people of color have faced in America. I did not think it was too preachy at all.

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

Throughout the book, Starr struggles with the choice she has to make about whether she should tell people what really happened the night of Khalil's murder. This internal conflict is especially important to Starr because what she does or does not say could potentially alter her life or the community she lives in drastically. After reading the book, I believe I agree with the perspective to fight for justice and against systemic racism. I think using your voice and exposing the racism within your community is an important step to condemn violent, racially driven acts from occurring.

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

After reading this book, my views on racism and how it harmfully affects people of color in America was reaffirmed because this story is one that, unfortunately, everyone has heard of before.

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

One thing I wish the book delved deeper into is how Khalil's tragic death affected others around him, besides Starr. I think this would be helpful to see how much of an impact one person has on a community and why the death of Khalil is so significant to the plot.

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

Yes, this book led me to pursue further research on systemic racism that can be found in police departments and how we can better our community by condemning racism.

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

This book is fearlessly honest and fights against police brutality for victims who may not have had someone like Starr to fight for them, which is why it should be read by people of all ages and backgrounds.

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?

One other book that I think would be a great addition to this category is On the Come Up, because not only is the author the same, but it tells the story of fighting for your dreams and freedom.

Book Title: Brooklyn Bridge

Book Author: Karen Hesse

Category: Socio-Economic Differences

Book Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia. Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/15/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of the book takes place in the summer of 1903 in Brooklyn. The plot focuses on fourteen year old Joseph Michtom, who desperately wants to experience the thrill, the grandeur, and the electricity of the new amusement park at Coney Island. This book goes through all the ups and downs of life and how each life is precious to another.

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

One character that I found myself relating to the most was Joseph Michtom. I ultimately related with him because of his individuality and his curiosity of the outside world. As the eldest child in my family, I find myself wanting to explore things on my own, just like Joseph wanted to explore Brooklyn by himself and experience Coney Island. I also related to him because we are very close in age, so much of his experiences were common to other teenagers.

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

I think the main message of this book is to realize how much you have to be grateful for and that you should live life to the fullest because your life and the lives of others are very precious. I think this message is important because we often forget how uncertain life can be and that it is not guaranteed for anyone to live a long and healthy life.

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

I think the author did a good job at portraying the message of the book through the plot and I did not find it to be very preachy.

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

Throughout the book, Joseph goes through the different trials and tribulations many teenagers also go through. The perspective that I agree with that was portrayed in this novel is that we should live life to the fullest and live everyday as if it were our last because we will never know when it is our time to go. This perspective is important because it prompts the readers to fulfill their dreams and take risks in order to be fully satisfied with your life.

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

After reading this book, my views on following one's dreams even if threats or dangers are posed are reassured by demonstrating how Joseph's life became so interesting and fun in the moment of going to the new amusement park.

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

One perspective I wish the author delved more into is the perspectives of Joseph's parents. I think this point of view would be valuable to the story because it would show how views can change as you grow older and whether the parents' views are more aligned with Joseph or not.

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

After reading this novel, I was not prompted to pursue more topics. Instead, my beliefs on life in general were reaffirmed because the book reminded me how precious life really is.

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

I would recommend this book to readers who need to be reminded about how to live your life. Ultimately, this book is perfect for those who have not yet taken the leap of faith by doing what they want.

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?*

One other book that I think would make a great addition to this category is Wish on a Unicorn, which is a story that revolves around a girl living in an old-fashioned trailer park home with many aspirational and vivid dreams. However, due to economic wealth, that may be an issue.

Book Title: Golden Arm

Book Author: Carl Deuker

Category: Socio-Economic Differences

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/20/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows Lazarus “Laz” Weathers, a shy kid who lives on the poor side of town and struggles with a stutter. Lazarus discovers a passion for baseball because it helps him escape the world of poverty and the normalization of drugs. The plot gets more interesting when he gets an amazing opportunity to pitch for the rich kids on the other side of town. While he is excited for the chance to get drafted by the big leagues, his transition to the other side of town is met with other obstacles as his younger brother falls into a dangerous cycle of drug use.

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

When I was reading this book, I found myself identifying with Lazarus the most because he is a shy kid who does not have the most confidence. I found that he and I were similar in character traits because we take care of our younger siblings.

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

I believe the main message of this book is to work hard in order to achieve your dreams and to never give up despite the obstacles that will inevitably come in your way. This book shows me how Lazarus dealt with the issues in his life and how he still worked towards his goals through it all.

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

I think that the author did an amazing job at incorporating serious topics such as poverty and drug use into the storyline. This book effectively shows the audience the overall message of the book without being too “preachy” and instead did so in a relatable way.

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

In this novel, readers got to see how Lazarus lived on the poor side of town, and how he navigated with pitching for the wealthy kids on the rich side of town. This stark contrast of setting truly highlighted the socioeconomic differences Lazarus faced and how it affected his mindset. Overall, this helped me understand the perspective of Lazarus and how hard he worked for his goals.

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

While reading this book, my view on hard work and how socioeconomic differences can affect people was reaffirmed. The way the author dealt with these topics were very inspirational and truly showed Lazarus’ character development.

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

I think that the author did a great job showing the different perspectives found in the story. For example, the readers got to understand both the rich and poor sides of town, and how drugs negatively impacted Lazarus’ younger brother. Due to this, I do not think any perspective was missing from the book.

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

Yes, this book encouraged me to put more action and effort into my future. It helped me understand the value of hard work and not giving up on your dreams even when times get rough and hard to manage.

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

I believe this book is a wonderful read to students in need of inspiration and have been stuck in a mindset where they believe their dreams are far from reach. This book does a nuanced job at implementing the hard parts of life and how our dreams help us balance it all.

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?*

One other book I would recommend to readers that I think would make a good addition to this category is Gutless, because it not only is written by the same author, but also because of a similar plotline of the book, which tells the story of when one individual faces the problems of bullying, and how that motivated them to do well on their football team to achieve success.

Book Title: Anger is a Gift

Book Author: Mark Oshiro

Category: Different Abilities

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/25/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows Moss Jeffries, a student at West Oakland High. Moss suffers from panic attacks and experiences ridicule from his peers and the community after his father was brutally and wrongfully executed by an Oakland police officer. Readers get to see how Moss navigates life without a parent and the media's abusive stories against his family.

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

While I was reading this book, I thought that Moss Jeffries was someone I related to because it is very common for people to feel "stuck" in their highschool and hometown. While I do not experience the things he goes through, I can understand how hard it must be to cope with the loss of a parent whilst battling the media and suffering with his own mental health.

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

I believe the main message of this book is to not allow painful and tragic losses in life to constantly keep you depressed. Instead, you should use these experiences to grow as a person and lift yourself back up.

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

I think the author did a great job at displaying the grief and frustration Moss feels throughout the book, both at himself and at the community around him. I believe the author conveyed the main message of this book effectively and integrated it seamlessly into the story without it being "preachy".

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

In this novel, two perspectives were shown regarding Moss' father. One perspective was that of the community where Moss' father is painted in a bad light. The other perspective is that of Moss, who loses his father in a devastating way that shows the criminalization of marginalized groups. I agree with Moss' point of view because of how realistic the storyline is and how so much of the topics explored in the book are seen in real time today.

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

While reading this book, my beliefs on social justice and how marginalized groups are often targeted by law enforcement due to racism and bigotry was reaffirmed.

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

One perspective that I wish the author would have explored was the perspective of Moss' father and what he dealt with in his life leading up to his last moments. I think this perspective would be valuable and would display immense amounts of emotion.

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

Yes, this book encouraged me to pursue topics of emotions and the psychology of the human mind when it endures an extremely sad or tragic event. This book also prompted me to do more research on marginalized groups and how they are targeted for criminalization.

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

I would suggest this book to readers who want to read about grief and struggle. I think these topics are important to explore because they teach you about the human experience and how people deal with various obstacles in their lives. I found it very interesting to read about Moss' feelings and how he felt "stuck " in his highschool.

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?

One other book I would recommend is The Insiders because the brilliant novel is written by the same author of this book. This novel follows Héctor Muñoz, a boy who shares similar feelings of not belonging to his community. This book ultimately tells the story about finding home and falling in love amidst dangers, and is another great read by Oshiro.

Book Title: Wonderstruck

Book Author: Brian Selznick

Category: Different Abilities

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 7/30/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows two characters named Ben and Rose, who secretly wish their lives were different. Ben, on one hand, longs for a father he has never known, while Rose dreams of a mysterious actress. Both characters' stories are set fifty years apart, but their respective plotlines weave back and forth with amazing symmetry.

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

While I read this book, I found myself relating to Ben, who spent much of his childhood going to museums like the Museum of Natural History. I found it interesting how he had a fascination with the wolf display because I am also fond of such displays. Overall, I found Ben's character to be very relatable, despite there being differences between us.

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

I believe the main message of this book is to show the experiences of children who are deaf by displaying multiple perspectives. For example, this book introduces how a child navigates the world while being deaf by starting in the 1920s to a child today.

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, this book was not too "preachy". In fact, I believe the author crafted this book fantastically. I love how the book weaves in two stories of children who lived years apart because it showed the readers the similarities and differences they experienced as deaf children.

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

This book contained two main characters and their stories from different time periods. I think out of the two perspectives that were shown throughout the book, I would choose Ben's perspective because I found his story to be very relatable and I really enjoyed watching him develop as the plot unfolded.

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

This book introduced to me how deaf children examine and experience the world around them. This was a very eye-opening experience because these topics are not often given mainstream attention. My views on the importance of catering to this community was reaffirmed after reading this book.

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

I do not think this book was missing any perspective. I believe the author did a nuanced job at articulating his views and showing the obstacles his characters faced throughout the story.

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

Yes, this book encouraged me to pursue further research into the topic of being deaf and how this affects a person and the way they develop or see the world. This topic is one that should be discussed more and this book did a good job at giving it a platform.

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

I would recommend this book to readers who like stories where there are two main characters. I specifically like books like these because it keeps my interest in how the characters' stories are entwined with each other.

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?

Another good addition to this book list would be The Invention of Hugo Cabret, a book written by the same author. This book takes place in France and follows a boy who is trying to find his purpose in life.

Book Title: Does My Head Look Big in This?

Book Author: Randa Abdel-Fattah

Category: Religion and Belief

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 8/5/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book follows a sixteen year old girl named Amal, who decided for herself that she wants to wear a hijab full time. This decision is met with mixed reactions from various people in her life: her parents, teachers, friends, and even strangers. The plot ultimately shows Amal work past numerous obstacles in her way in order to feel fully confident and comfortable in embracing her faith as a Muslim in America.

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

I identify and relate most to Amal because she faces a lot of the same experiences many people of color do in America. While I was reading her story, I felt inspired to do the things that I believe in and to not let other people's opinions tear me down.

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

I believe the main message of this book is to stay true to yourself and trust the process, despite the obstacles that may stand in your way. Throughout the book, Amal faces mixed reactions from the people in her community after she decides to become a full time hijabi. However, she remained true to herself and embraced her faith in a strong and determined way, which is very admirable.

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

At some points, I did find this book to be a little "preachy" because the plot used many stereotypes of characters to further push the plot along. Overall, I still enjoyed the book and think that the message of the story is immensely important.

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

In this book, there were two overarching perspectives, one where people believe Amal should not wear the hijab, and another where Amal is steadfast in what she believes in and is determined to wear the hijab full time. I agree with Amal's perspective because we see how strong she is in her faith and accepts the challenges that come with being a hijabi. I think this story is incredibly inspiring to young muslims, especially those who want to follow in Amal's footsteps and wear the hijab.

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

My beliefs about Islam and how strong you have to be in order to be a hijabi were reaffirmed because Amal faced many trials where others would have given up to societal pressure. Her story inspired me to take control and make my beliefs known.

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

I do not think this book was missing any perspective because Amal's points of view were made very clear to the readers.

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

This book encouraged me to conduct my own research on the hijab and what it means in Islam. After reading about Amal's story, I thought it was a good idea to do further research to better understand why Amal was so determined to wear the hijab. This book made me want to do my own reading and see the full importance of the hijab.

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

I would suggest this book to readers who like books about religion. I would especially recommend this book to young Muslim girls, specifically those who are interested in becoming a hijabi full time because this book will inspire them and make them feel more confident in themselves.

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?

Another book that I think would make a great addition to this category is Ten Things I Hate About Me, which tells the story of a Lebanese-Muslim who has trouble with her true identity from her peers at school. In order to blend in with her community, the main character dyes her hair blonde and changes her name to be more Americanized. This book is great because it shows readers how you can come on top while being yourself.

Book Title: The Night Diary
Book Author: Veera Hiranandani
Category: Religion and Belief

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 8/16/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book takes place in 1947, right after India wins its independence from British rule and the subcontinent is separated into two countries: India and Pakistan. This historical time period plays a valuable part of the plot because tensions are high between Hindus and Muslims. The main character is a twelve year old girl named Nisha who is half-Hindu and half-Muslim. The story focuses on her journey as a refugee and discovering who she really is. The story is uniquely told in the form of diary entries written by Nisha to her late mother.

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

I identify most with the main character, Nisha because her character traits are very relatable. For example, instead of expressing her emotions outright to others, she writes heartfelt letters to her mother who died when she was a baby. I also identified with Nisha's twin brother, Amil.

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

I think the main message of this book is to understand how differences between two groups of people can be used to lift each other up instead of tear them down. The plot of this novel talked greatly about the partition that made India into two different countries and how this affected Hindus and Muslims living in the region.

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, this book was not too "preachy". In fact, I believe this story is incredibly unique because I have never read a book targeted for a teenage audience that dealt with the tensions between India and Pakistan and how the partition affected children and families during that time period. I believe the main message was effectively integrated into the story because it kept my interest.

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

There were many different perspectives shown in this book. For example, there was a clear divide among Hindus and Muslims and those who identified with India and Pakistan. Overall, I agree with Nisha and her struggle to balance her identity as a half-Hindu and half-Muslim because she is able to see both sides and understand that both groups are beautiful.

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

My beliefs about the partition and the fact that our differences can bring people together rather than tear them apart was reaffirmed while reading this book. I love that this book explores topics of refugees and immigrants that does not involve America because these stories are not often made mainstream.

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

I do not think any perspective was missing from this book. The author did an amazing job at portraying Nisha's struggles being half-Hindu and half-Muslim. I also think the author did a good job at showcasing Nisha's selective mutism and how this affects her day to day life.

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

Yes, this book implored me to conduct my own personal research about the partition that created India and Pakistan. After reading this book, I wanted to learn more about how British imperialism caused tensions to rise in the region that book took place and how this affected families who were Hindu, Muslim, or half-half like Nisha.

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

I would recommend this book to people who enjoy historical fiction and are Indian or Pakistani because this book does a great job at portraying the two nations' beauty and culture. I would also recommend this book to readers who want to learn more about this historical time period and see how Nisha navigated life in such a stressful time.

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?

Another book I think would make a good addition to this book list is Whole Story of Half a Girl, as it tells the dejecting story of a girl after her father loses his job, as well as being thrown out of private school. I think the main character of this book and Nisha are very similar because they deal with being uprooted from what they've known their whole life and being put in a totally new environment where they have to cope with the numerous changes around them.

Book Title: A Girl Like That
Book Author: Tanaz Bhathena

Category: Challenging The Status Quo

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 8/29/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot centers on sixteen year old Zarin Wadia, a vivacious orphan who is known around school as the girl you should stay away from. Zarin is often the center of drama and gossip because of her many romances, which raise the eyebrows of the religion police. The plot thickens when she is found dead with an eighteen year old crashed on the side of a highway in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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

The character that I most identify with is Zarin because she is very relatable. Although I personally have not dealt with the struggles she has in her life, I found her character traits to be similar to many people our age.

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

I believe the main message of the book is not to judge a book based on its cover. For example, throughout the book, Zarin is subjected to ridicule by her classmates and her community because she is seen as a problematic girl. Due to the rumors and gossip that is spread about her, Zarin feels isolated. However, as the plot continues, readers will realize there is more to Zarin that people let on and that she is more than the facade people made her out to seem.

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 don't think the author made the message too "preachy" because she wrote the story through multiple perspectives so that readers would slowly piece together the message on their own.

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

The two perspectives that were shown in this book were people who judge others based on rumors and people who truly get to know someone instead of believing in the rumors. I believe in the latter perspective because it is important not to make assumptions about someone based on what you hear from others. Instead, you should get to know the person and come up with your own opinions.

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

My beliefs on the harm of gossip and rumors and how it is important to not let them jade your views on people were reaffirmed after reading this book. Zarin faced a lot of ridicule in her life, and reading about how she coped with her struggles made me better understand how people make feel when others make them the center of gossip and harmful rumors.

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

I do not think any perspective was missing from this book. The author did a good job creating this novel because she included multiple perspectives that pieced Zarin's story together.

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

No, this book did not encourage me to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, or action. It did, however, teach me valuable lessons.

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

I would recommend this book to readers who have been involved in drama or have been the victim of gossip and rumors because it tells a poignant story of a girl who went through many periods of stress in her life.

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?*

Another book that is a good addition to this category is Suggested Reading. The book is about a bookworm who decides to fight back against her principal when her school bans numerous classic and meaningful books and deems them to be prohibited media. Here, Clara fights against the status quo and stands up for what she believes is right.

Book Title: Go With the Flow

Book Author: Karen Schneemann

Category: Challenging The Status Quo

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen Vesamia, Grade 10

Date Reviewed: 9/3/21

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of this book focuses on high school students Abby, Brit, Christine and Sasha who decide to fight back against their school administration and have their voices heard. These girls wish to start a menstruation revolution so that the schools provide them with the support they need. This book deals with the challenges in friendship and female empowerment.

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

Although the characters in this book deal with issues that I personally do not deal with, I think Brit is a relatable character because she has faced many social controversies regarding the issue of equal representation.

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

I believe the main message of this book is for women and young girls to fight back against administrations and make their voices heard so that their needs are met. This book does a good job at highlighting female issues that are often swept under the rug and instead normalize them.

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

I did find this book to be a little preachy at times, however the message behind the book is incredibly important and is something that is very valuable for girls and others to read about.

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 agree with the perspective that shows how women and young girls take initiative, such as rallying a revolution, for their voices to be heard. This message and perspective is an important one for all people because it shows how problems can be solved.

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

My beliefs on female issues and how difficult they are for young girls, especially when they are being neglected have been reaffirmed from reading this book.

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

I do not think any perspective was missing from this book because the book focuses on female issues and centered around its female characters rather than male, which allowed their voices to be better heard.

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

No, this book did not encourage me to pursue any topics further though more reading, research, or action. However, it did teach me more about female struggles and how girls feel neglected by administrations that are often led by men.

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

I would recommend this book to all people because it teaches you about female struggles. However, I would especially recommend this book to young girls and teens because this book deals with issues that are often seen as taboo for girls to discuss when it should not be the case.

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?

Another book I think would make a good addition to this list is Almost American Girl, because it tells a captivating story about immigration, belonging, and how arts can save a life. In this book, the main character stands up for what she believes in and works to find a solution to her problem just like the girls did in this book.