

Title: *New Kid*
Author: Jerry Craft
Genre: Young Adult - Socio-Economic Differences

Respondent's Name and Grade: Zahra V., 8th Grade

Date Responded To: August 12, 2022

Questions:

1. *What is the main plot of this book?*

The main plot of this novel follows 12 year old Jordan Banks, who is one of the only colored kids in his new school. Jordan has a love for cartoons and art, but his parents want him to have the best opportunities, sending him to a prestigious private school called Riverdale Academy Day. There he has to learn to make new friends, find school activities, like any other kid. However, the biggest challenge is dealing with racist comments and finding a friend group where he fits in.

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

I identified with Jordan the most because like his school, the majority of my school is white, and being a person of color makes you stand out. I enjoyed how I related to him, and saw how he had to navigate his way to finding a friend group that supported him because that is also something I have had to navigate.

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

I believe the main message of this novel is that judgment will come to you in any situation, but you must persevere through it and find your own way. I believe that this is the main message because Jordan had to fight racist comments and privilege standards in his new school. Despite his struggles, he persevered through them and found his own friends and place to fit in.

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 main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story. The reason I say this is because throughout the entire novel, we see how Jordan has to fight his way through hardships in his new school. I did not find this to be preachy, as it is an experience many people of color have had to deal with in America.

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

Two perspectives that were introduced in the story were whether Jordan should give up and not try to find his own way to fit in or if she should persevere and keep trying. I agree with the latter perspective because in life many challenges will be thrown at you, but you must keep persevering, otherwise you will fail. Jordan showed many examples of this throughout the novel.

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

This book reaffirmed my belief that everyone is unique in their own way and that everyone deserves to find friends who understand and accept them for who they are. This book showed me the importance of friendship and not allowing your boundaries to falter because you deserve to have friends, despite being different from others.

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

I think the perspective of having a Black friend at school is missing and they could have acted as a refuge for Jordan and helped guide him with Liam. This would have brought hope to Jordan in the beginning and would also have been good for Jordan as he would have had more friends at the start of the story, and therefore be more confident.

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 further look into the topic of people of color in majority white schools. I feel as though doing a survey in my school would be interesting to see how different kids fit in, and if any hardships and racist comments came along the way.

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

I would recommend this book to grades 5-10. I say this because it shows the journey of how any kid of any age can face hardships of fitting in, especially as a person of color. I also think it would be interesting to people who like graphic novels, since they are easier to read through for younger levels. I think that many ages who read this would be able to see the perspective of Jordan and relate to and understand how he feels.

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 believe would be a good addition to this category is *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. I believe this because it shows how kids who are poor or different looking than others have a strugglesome time to fit in and how they persevere through. I also think this book is great for many age levels, since it is easy to understand the perspective of the main character and what hardships and trials they are going through.