

*Title: When We Make It*  
Author: Elisabet Velasquez  
Genre: Fiction

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Joyce L., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: May 28, 2022**

The book “WHEN WE MAKE IT” is the story of a girl named Saria, first-generation Puerto Rican living in a town called Bushwick. The story is about life of Saria across 3 years, from 13 to 16 years old, of her life changing moments within those years. Bushwick is a dangerous place, and it is also a place where Saria lives. It is where Puerto-Americans live too, this is also where people who don’t have enough money lives. Every second you step, breath, see, and hear you worry and hope that you don’t get in trouble. And when you do nothing, police get you because they worry that you might do something, so do something so that you won’t get arrested. Be worried about everything and everything around you, there are times when you don’t have enough money to buy more toothpaste or other essentials. In Saria’s point of view, she is always having her guard up and worry at the same time. Bushwick come on the news, but the news only talks about the bad things about them and say they do drugs or some sorts. As you read and follow along in Saria’s life within 3 years it will feel like as if it was several years. Saria faces many things within those 3 years, as the poems goes on, so does she. Will she be able to face all of them with her brave soul or will she give up in the end.

The book of the story was fun to read, and the plot was always very interesting too. The events and twists and turns that Saria faces is the possibilities in this world, and she is also relatable too in some parts. For me, the relatable parts were funny and sad at the same time. There are some parts where it discusses some serious topic like sexual things, abortion, death, or the dangers in that area of place. Reading the book was fun and it’s been like a few days since I read it, and I am a forgetful person, but the plot and the storyline of “When we make it” is still stuck in my head which is a good thing.

Ending this off, the rating of this book is 4.7 because this book is full of serious and comedy. The whole story is just so well written, and I love the poetry they use for this dairy type of book. I’m not into so much about the dairy type books but this was a book full of creativity and tales of this girl in a Puerto Rican town where it is both dangerous and poor. I would love to recommend this book to a friend of mine. I do think this is about a 12+ or a 13+ type of book being it does go into sexual things at times, and there is cursing too, which I found very funny. So, this book is a 4.7 review with a 12+ or 13+ age in it. There Saria is a girl in her teen years, and we see her perspective of Bushwick where she lives, and we see if she will stop midway and give up or if she will continue her path and not give up.