

Title: *Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard*

Author: Echo Brown

Perspectives Category: Social Economic Differences

Reviewer Name and Grade: Tatjana T., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 10, 2023

1. The main plot of "Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard" by Echo Brown follows the life of Echo, a young Black girl growing up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood while attending a rich school on the West Side. The book portrays her struggles with racism, poverty, trauma, and self-acceptance, as well as her discovery and development of her magical abilities as a wizard.
2. I most identify with Echo because, like her, I also face challenges in navigating issues of identity, race, and socioeconomic status. I can relate to her experiences of feeling like an outsider and trying to find her place in a world that often marginalizes and discriminates against her.
3. The main message of this book is about resilience, self-acceptance, and the power of imagination and creativity to overcome challenges. It highlights the impact of systemic racism, poverty, and trauma on the lives of Black individuals, while also showcasing the strength and resilience of Black girls and their ability to find their own magic and power within.
4. I believe that the main message of this book was effectively integrated into the story without coming off as preachy. The author weaves together Echo's experiences and emotions in a raw and authentic way, portraying the realities of her life while also showing her resilience and creativity in navigating her challenges.
5. In "Black Girl Unlimited," multiple perspectives on important topics such as racism, poverty, and trauma are explored. I agree with Echo's perspective of the impact of systemic racism and poverty on her life, as well as her determination to overcome these challenges and find her own path to success.
6. Reading this book reaffirmed my beliefs about the importance of intersectional feminism, anti-racism, and social justice. It shed light on the experiences of Black girls and the unique challenges they face, and reinforced my commitment to advocating for racial equality and inclusivity in my own community and beyond.
7. While the book provides a rich and powerful perspective on Echo's life as a Black girl, it could benefit from including more perspectives from other marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from different cultural backgrounds, to provide a more intersectional lens.
8. Yes, this book encouraged me to pursue further reading, research, and action on topics related to racism, poverty, and social justice. It inspired me to educate myself more about the

experiences of Black individuals and other marginalized groups, and take action to support and advocate for them.

9. I would suggest this book to teenage and young adult readers who are interested in issues of race, identity, social justice, and resilience. It may particularly resonate with readers who are interested in stories of overcoming adversity and finding inner strength and power.

10. Another book that would make a good addition to this category of perspectives biography is "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros - This novel is a collection of interconnected vignettes that tell the story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in a poor neighborhood in Chicago. It explores themes of race, gender, and identity, as Esperanza navigates her cultural heritage and her place in society.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kylee K., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: 8/5/2023

1. What is the main plot of this book?

The main plot of "Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard" follows the journey of Echo Brown, a young Black girl with magical abilities, as she navigates the challenges of poverty, addiction, and systemic oppression in her community. Through her struggles and triumphs, Echo learns to harness her powers and confront the injustices that threaten her world.

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

I most identified with Echo's mother, whose resilience in the face of adversity mirrors the strength and determination I strive for in my own life. Her mother reflected my pride in my culture and ethnicity.

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

The main message of "Black Girl Unlimited" revolves around the transformative power of self-love and resilience in overcoming systemic oppression. As Echo learns to embrace her identity and harness her magical abilities, she discovers that her greatest strength lies in her ability to stand up against injustice and advocate for change, echoing the author's powerful assertion that "We are all wizards in our own way."

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

The main message of empowerment and resilience is seamlessly woven into the fabric of the narrative, avoiding the trap of coming across as overly preachy. Through poignant scenes such as Echo's confrontation with the demons of addiction and poverty, the message of self-love and agency is conveyed with emotional depth and authenticity.

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

While the book explores various perspectives on systemic oppression and resilience, I resonated most with Echo's belief in the inherent power of Black identity and community

solidarity. When Echo reflects on her experiences and declares, "I am Black girl magic," it reaffirms the importance of self-affirmation and collective empowerment in the face of adversity.

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

Reading "Black Girl Unlimited" reaffirmed my belief in the importance of intersectionality and solidarity in combating systemic oppression. Echo's journey highlights the interconnectedness of race, class, and gender in shaping individual experiences, prompting me to further examine and challenge my own biases and privileges.

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

While "Black Girl Unlimited" offers a compelling exploration of race, identity, and resilience, it could have delved deeper into the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and other marginalized communities. Including more diverse perspectives would have enriched the narrative and provided a more comprehensive understanding of systemic oppression.

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

"Black Girl Unlimited" inspired me to delve deeper into the intersections of race, gender, and class in shaping individual experiences and systemic inequality. Prompted by Echo's journey, I engaged in further reading and research on topics such as Black feminism and community organizing, seeking to better understand and address the root causes of injustice.

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

I would recommend "Black Girl Unlimited" to readers of all ages who are interested in thought-provoking narratives that explore themes of identity, resilience, and social justice. Particularly, young adults and activists seeking to better understand the complexities of systemic oppression and the power of collective action would find this book compelling.

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

Another book that would complement "Black Girl Unlimited" is "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas. Both novels tackle themes of racial injustice and empowerment through the lens of young Black protagonists, offering poignant insights into the experiences of marginalized communities and the importance of speaking truth to power.