

Title: *Jackpot*

Author: Nic Stone

Perspectives Category: Socio-Economic Differences

Reviewer Name and Grade: Zahra V., Grade 9

Date Reviewed: August 21th, 2023

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

The main plot of this book follows Rico Danger, who is a teenager who's attending a new high school. Rico carries her family on her back, working overtime at the gas station to make extra money, caring for her younger brother while her mother works hard to keep food on the table. This book shows how privilege is real, which advances into an almost fairytale-like story with Rico's lovelife.

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

I definitely identify most with Rico throughout the story. The reason I say this is because Rico often feels as if she is carrying the weight of her family, and is playing the parent role more than having a regular teen life. I somewhat relate to this as my parents both are full time workers who try their best and work hard. Though, often I find myself caring for my younger siblings just as Rico does.

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

I believe the main message of this book is that poverty exists, and the disadvantages and prejudice that comes with it are very real. I think the author did a great job of projecting the moral gradually and showed how its results show in different ways.

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 believe the main message of this book did not come off as preachy, and was rather effectively integrated into the story. I believe the author showed in different characters how different people view poor people as a whole.

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 definitely agree with the view that no matter if you are rich or more, have a higher rank in society or not, all people can succeed and no one should be judged for it. Compared to the other view that since Rico is from a lower socio-economic class he is on a different level than the other kids.

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

My beliefs were reconfirmed on the topic that there is still a difference between higher and lower level socio-economic classes. This was shown throughout the book in various ways, and proved that although the world claims to be changing, there will always be people who judge you for who you are and what you came from.

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

I believe that the perspective of someone who is poor and tried out for the team but didn't make it is missing. To add on, I think this would have added a greater depth to the story, and shown a reality check that not all stories have a happy ending, especially if you come from a lower class and are trying to make it out.

8. *Did this book encourage you to pursue any topics further through more reading, research, action, etc., and if so, how?* This book encourages me to pursue further research on people who have come from poor backgrounds and have made a good life for themselves now. I believe it is truly inspiring to see the strive and work ethic those who were less fortunate have, compared to say those who have taken their blessings for granted.

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

I would recommend this book to readers ages 8+. I also think kids who are interested in seeing other children's lives have to think as adults although they are still young. I believe this would be engaging to see the difference in mentality, opposed to those who have to work harder when they are young to support their families and parents.

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 category is Blackout by Nic Stone. I think this because it similar shows love between young teens, who come from poor backgrounds.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kate G., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 17, 2024

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

In the book Jackpot by Nic Stone, Rico Danger is a high school senior working at a convenience store to help support her family. One day, a winning lottery ticket worth \$127 million is sold at her store, and Rico becomes determined to find the winner. She teams up with a fellow student, Zan Macklin, who happens to be the son of a wealthy businessman. As they search for the winner, Rico and Zan develop a relationship, uncovering secrets about each other and their families along the way.

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

I most identify with the main character Rico Danger. While I do not need to support my family financially, I certainly would do whatever I had to to help them if the need arose. Like Rico, my family means everything to me and there isn't anything that I wouldn't do to make sure that they were happy, healthy, safe and had what they needed.

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

I believe that one of the main messages of the story is that true wealth isn't just measured in money, but in the relationships we have with one another and the ways we support each other.

Rico's journey shares the importance of empathy, understanding, and community, despite the struggles that she is having. The story also uncovers stereotypes and preconceptions about socio-economic class and shows that people from different backgrounds can find common ground and work together toward common goals.

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 not find the main message of this book to be preachy at all—quite the opposite. I thought it was well written and allowed the reader to come to conclusions about socio-economic differences and how unimportant they can be in relationships 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?

Both Rico and Zan's perspectives were explored in this book. Rico's perspective offered insight into the struggles of a working-class family, where financial challenges are a constant reality. She feels the responsibility to help support her family, balance her job at the convenience store with her schoolwork and personal life. Zan, on the other hand, comes from a wealthy family, and his perspective provides contrast to Rico's experiences. Through Zan's perspective, readers gain insight into the privileges and pressures that come with wealth and social status. Despite his affluent background, Zan struggles with his own set of challenges and expectations, including his strained relationship with his father and the pressure to conform to certain social norms. I think that both perspectives are integral in understanding the main issues of the book.

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

This book didn't change any beliefs that I previously had, but it did reaffirm for me that no one's life comes without challenges and complications, regardless of social status, monetary wealth and/or privilege.

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

The book offers both insights from Rico's working-class perspective and Zan's affluent background perspective. One perspective that might be missing, and valuable to include, would be the perspective of someone who has experienced both ends of the socioeconomic spectrum and the challenges that came along with each as well as the transition from one to the other.

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

This book did not encourage me to pursue any other topics further.

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

Young adults, ages 14-18, would enjoy this book. Especially those who enjoy fictional stories set in modern times that deal with social issues.

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 think the book *On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas would make a good addition to the Socio-Economic Differences category because it's the story of Bri, a young aspiring rapper whose journey to fame intersects with challenges related to race, poverty, and identity.