

Title: *Rust in the Root*
Author: Justina Ireland
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer name and grade: Kaileen C., Grade 8

Date reviewed: April 3, 2024

“Rust in the Root” by Justina Ireland is a really cool young adult fiction set in a dystopian world where society is divided into two classes: the elite, who live in luxury, and the working class, who struggle to survive in the polluted outskirts. The story centers on 16-year-old Maeve, who discovers she has the power to manipulate metal, a rare ability in her society. As Maeve navigates her newfound powers and fights with the injustices of her world, she joins a rebellion against the oppressive ruling class. Alongside her friends, Maeve embarks on a dangerous journey to overthrow the corrupt government and bring equality to her society. Set in a gritty, industrial landscape with themes of power, rebellion, and friendship, *Rust in the Root* is a thrilling adventure with a strong protagonist fighting for justice.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot of *Rust in the Root* kept me engaged with its blend of action, suspense, and social commentary.

Was the pace of the book just right?

The plot of the book was just right, balancing moments of intense action with quieter scenes of character development.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for middle school and high school students, but more for those interested in dystopian fiction and themes of social justice.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy strong female protagonists and thinking.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

Teens should be aware that the book contains themes of class inequality, oppression, and violence, which could require mature handling.

Rating: 4 stars

I enjoyed *“Rust in the Root”* and found it to be a nice read. The story was intriguing, and the characters were well-developed, particularly Maeve, whose journey from a reluctant hero to a determined leader was compelling. However, at times, the pacing felt slightly uneven, with some

sections dragging while others raced forward. Overall, the book had an engaging story with important themes.