

Title: *Oracle Code*
Author: Marieke Nijkamp
Perspectives Category: Different Abilities

Reviewer Name and Grade: Kevin D., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 28, 2024

1. What is the main plot of this book?

"Oracle Code" by Marieke Nijkamp follows the story of Barbara Gordon, a teenage hacker who becomes paralyzed after a traumatic incident. While undergoing rehabilitation at the Arkham Center for Independence, Barbara uncovers a mystery involving missing patients. Using her hacking skills and detective instincts, she discovers that the facility's director is conducting illegal experiments on the patients, and she works to expose and stop the sinister activities.

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

I most identified with Barbara Gordon because of her resilience and determination to overcome her physical limitations and uncover the truth. Her intelligence, resourcefulness, and refusal to be defined by her disability are both inspiring and relatable traits.

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

I believe the main message of "Oracle Code" is about empowerment and resilience in the face of adversity. Barbara's journey emphasizes the importance of self-acceptance, using one's strengths to overcome challenges, and the power of persistence. Despite Barbara's initial frustration and depression following her paralysis, she still found the strength to persist and figure out the truth. The story also shows the value of community and support in dealing with personal struggles.

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 that the main message was effectively integrated into the story. Barbara's journeys throughout the book flowed coherently with the different themes and messages presented in the story.

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

The book explores multiple perspectives on coping with disability, particularly through Barbara and her fellow patients at the rehabilitation center. Barbara's proactive mindset contrasts with some characters who feel defeated by their circumstances. I agree with Barbara's perspective because her determination and positive attitude demonstrate that disability does not define one's capabilities or potential.

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

My beliefs about the capabilities of individuals with disabilities were reaffirmed. Though they may lack in some areas, with the right mindset, people with disabilities can achieve remarkable things and should not be underestimated.

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

The book could have included more perspectives from other patients at the Arkham Center. While Barbara's story is centralized, hearing more about the experiences and backgrounds of other patients could provide a better understanding of the different ways people cope with disability and rehabilitation.

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

Not really, though reading about the topics in the book was definitely interesting.

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

I would suggest this book to young adult readers, particularly those interested in graphic novels, mystery, and stories about overcoming adversity. Additionally, those interested in cybersecurity/hacking might find the "Oracle Code" interesting.

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?

"El Deafo" by Cece Bell would make a good addition to the "Different Abilities" category because it explores the experiences of a young girl who becomes deaf and learns to navigate the world with a hearing aid. Like "Oracle Code," it has themes of self-discovery, empowerment, and perseverance in the face of disabilities.