

**Title:** *The Year I Stopped Trying*

**Author:** Katie Heaney

**Genre:** Fiction, Young Adult

Reviewer Name and Grade: Bharath R., 7th grade

Date Reviewed: 11/26/2023

In the book **The Year I Stopped Trying**, Mary Davies suddenly decides to stop trying in school and be a normal kid. Before, she was a good student, with good grades. But when she forgets to do her history essay, she decides she will forget on purpose next time. She sets a goal to become an average student, and try to be cooler. When she gets a B+, she asks her friend Cara how she got a C. Cara is confused, but Mary realizes she needs a boyfriend. She decides she wants Mitch, but doesn't know how to get him. While she tries to be normal in school, she works at a fast-casual restaurant called *La baguette*. There is a new worker, Elyse. It was Mary's job to teach her to do the cash register. Soon they become work friends. In school, Mary begins to hang out with Mitch. They go on drives together, and they also talk a lot. Then Mary waits for the right moment to kiss Mitch. After they kissed, they stopped speaking to each other. After Christmas, they talk and become friends again. They go to a party, and Mary learns he likes AJ, another girl who will be at the party. At the party, Mary drinks 80% of a beer, and learns why she lost her friendship with Hanna. At the end of the book, Mary learns Elyse is gay, and Mary asks her out.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

The plot wasn't as interesting as the plots of other novels I read

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?*

I think the pace of the book was a bit slow.

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

It is appropriate for anyone in middle school or above.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

I would recommend a romance type of reader read this book.

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

There are no chapters in this book.

*4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.*

The plot didn't interest me as much, but it was still interesting to read.