

**STAR TEEN BOOK REVIEWERS: 2020 Update**

**Welcome to the STAR TEEN BOOK REVIEW TEAM. If you enjoy reading and writing, this is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for you.**

**IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:**

Please follow the guidelines below very carefully. All approved book reviews will be published on various web sites, including our Express Yourself creative site. (<http://www.BTSYA.com>)

**People to know:**

1. Cynthia Brian is Executive Director: Email cynthia@star-style.com

2. Be the Star You Are! Charity email: be\_the\_star\_you\_are@yahoo.com

3. Book Review Coordinator for Book Reviews at Express Yourself is Stephanie Cogeos at WP-D-Cogeos@comcast.net or cogosteph@gmail.com

**Community Service Hours:** Each book review equals THREE (3) hours of community service hours for school or other requirements. Please wait until you have 15-20 hours-worth of service before sending us a form or request for service confirmation. Send your completed form to our attention at **PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556** with a SASE so that we can return the form to you promptly. If you need your form signed in person, we ALWAYS need a week’s notice to schedule an appointment. Everyone is a volunteer and the office is not staffed every day.

**Reading and Writing the Review:**

**A sample of a great 3 paragraph book review is pasted at the end of this document. Follow the format:**

**READING THE BOOK:**

**Our BTSYA guidelines supersede any rules or guidelines from our partners. We give credit for all books with approved written reviews for all ages.**

1. Choose only the number of books you can review by:

a. Going to the “BOOKS THAT NEED REVIEWS” category at <http://bit.ly/need2readBTSYA>

This is a “LIVE” book list on a Google document on our partner site at The Reading Tub for all book reviewers to view without any log-in. Reviewers can search by title, word, or author. It will continue to be updated with 350+ books at all times. There will also be a list of books that have been previously reviewed. The publisher will not accept duplications.

Here are the lists to check out:

<http://bit.ly/need2readBTSYA> (Spreadsheet has two tables: What needs reviewed/What has been reviewed))

https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/932434?shelf=need-teen-reviewer

b. For BTSYA, you may choose any book you wish, but DO try to avoid reviewing a book that has been reviewed many times already – we want to expand our review base. Our partner will not publish reviews that have already been done.

c. Please don’t review best sellers or stuff that has been made into movies as the goal is to connect kids and families with books they might not otherwise consider.

d. Check out the hard copy books at the library or if your local library has an audio or Ebook download section, feel free to use that. These systems allow library card holders to borrow a book, read it on their own computer for a designated amount of time, then the book disappears like the due date on a book.

e. You don’t have to read books from the list. You may read any book you wish. Please do check out our book review site at [www.BTSYA.org](http://www.BTSYA.org) under Book Reviews to see if the book you want to review has already been reviewed. At [www.BTSYA.org](http://www.BTSYA.org) . we **will** publish duplicate reviews **but The Reading Tub will not.**

NOTE: We are not looking for book reviews from Shakespeare, Austin, Bronte, Dickens, Hemingway, or books required in schools. These will not be accepted. Book reviews MUST be from current popular books. Demographics infants to age 16 for publication on The Reading Tub.

No Adult books will be published through our partner The Reading Tub, however, at [www.BTSYA.org](http://www.BTSYA.org) we do publish books for ALL AGES!.

**WRITING THE REVIEW:**

1.Font to be Times New Roman, Size 12

2. Each review must have the following at the top of your page in **BOLD:**

**Book Title**

**Book Author**

**Reviewed by: Your Name, Age**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

**www.bethestaryouare.org**

3. Double space between the bolded section and the beginning of your review. Your review should be 3-4 paragraphs, **single-spaced**, well written where you will give a short synopsis of the story, write what you liked and what you didn’t like. PLEASE USE THESE GUIDELINES and not the ones at the Google Doc. Let us know what age group you feel this book is most appropriate as a target audience. Would you suggest that a person buy this book as a gift, or is this a book to get from the library? Anything else you want to write about the book is appreciated. Again, your review MUST be a minimum of three -four paragraphs.

4. Check for spelling and grammar. You want to make a great impression.

5. DO NOT copy any material from the flaps, back cover, or anywhere in the book. DO NOT copy or reword someone else’s book review. The publishers notice and your review will be rejected and not eligible for service credits. These reviews are published, making you a published reviewer, so please take pride in your work and in being a member of our select **STAR TEEN BOOK REVIEW TEAM.**

6. Do not use vulgar language in your reviews; make it appropriate for readers of all ages.

7. Write each review in a separate WORD document. Email by attachment your reviews in batches of THREE or more as it is easier for us to upload in groups. Please email each review in a separate WORD attachment as a .DOC or .DOCX with the TITLE of the book (example: Twelve Kinds of Ice.doc) to these THREE email addresses: cynthia@star-style.com , Stephanie Cogeos at WP-D-Cogeos@comcast.net and be\_the\_star\_you\_are@yahoo.com. We will download it, print it out, and send it to the publisher and if appropriate post on our Express Yourself site., <http://www.btsya.com/book_reviews.html>

Keep a list of all of your individual reviews.

You can also see the book reviews at our publisher partner, The Reading Tub: <https://thereadingtub.org/books/be-the-star-you-are/> Please be advised that on [www.BTSYA.com](http://www.BTSYA.com), we publish your review including your name and age. On The Reading Tub, your review will be published with your age only. DO NOT CONTACT The READING TUB. We are partners.

8. At the end of each review, use a double space, then include a list of 3-5 other titles you would suggest to readers after reading the book you reviewed. Write:

**Recommended Titles:**

Name of book, author

9. For tips on how to be a better writer, visit the Writing Center at <http://www.accreditedcolleges.com/writing-center>/. This site will help you with grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.

10. Be honest.

Your review will then be sent to the publisher and to The Reading Tub where, if accepted, will be published on the web site. It will additionally be added to our Pen and Paper section of our creative web site, Express Yourself!™ at <http://www.BTSYA.com.>You then become a published writer. You can view all published reviews at <http://www.btsya.com/book_reviews.html> and <https://thereadingtub.org/books/be-the-star-you-are/>

This is a volunteer project and as such may garner community service credits at your school. If you need a form signed indicating that you participated in this program, we are happy to give you a recommendation. Please send your completed form along with a list of your reviews that you submitting plus send a SASE to our attention after you have completed and turned in your book reviews. Three hours of credit is applied for each book review written. See above for sending us your form or making an appointment for signing.

There is no financial compensation and by joining our **STAR TEEN BOOK REVIEW** **TEAM**. You and your parents, if you are a minor, give Be the Star You Are!, The Reading Tub, and publishers permission to post and publish your reviews and use them as empowerment tools for teachers, parents, and librarians. If you have any questions or concerns please email Be the Star You Are! Charity, be\_the\_star\_you\_are@yahoo.com .

Thank you and congratulations for being chosen for the STAR TEAM!

Keep reaching for the stars and shining brightly.

Cynthia Brian

Founder/Executive Director

Book Review Coordinator Stephanie Cogeos at WP-D-Cogeos@comcast.net or cogosteph@gmail.com

Be the Star You Are! 501 c3 charity, empowering women, families, and youth through improved literacy and positive media

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[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)

<http://www.btsya.com>

**Sample Book Review**

**El Deafo**

**By Author, Cece Bell**

**Reviewed by: Anika 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

[**www.bethestaryouare.org**](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/)

After falling terribly ill at the age of four, Cece finds that her hearing has been impaired. Because of it, Cece’s doctors give her the ultimate Phonic Ear! The device helps her hear better and interact with other people, but it’s super noticeable on her chest and ears. Things weren’t too bad for Cece in her old school. She had been in a class full of people just like her, but it’s different at her new school. Cece feels out of place with her giant Phonic Ear, which seems to repel everyone away from her with all the awkward stares. But surprisingly the Phonic Ear has a lot more perks to it than Cece thought! Cece can hear her teacher anywhere in the school building, almost like a superpower! Calling herself El Deafo, Cece sets off on a journey to find a true friend that will stand by her side.

Cece Bell’s semi-autobiographical novel is one I found truly worthwhile! It helped shine a light and accurately portray the experiences people may have with hearing loss and deafness. The variations in hearing difficulties and coping mechanisms were things I found to be very informative. Cece Bell uses a nice blend of humor and cute adorable illustrations to present her serious experiences growing up deaf, which really helps the reader to easily understand and empathize. This makes for a child friendly novel that allows for  discussion on issues like conflict management, loneliness, fitting in, and self-acceptance. Cece is an all-around likeable character with personality and a growth that all children can take part in to learn from.

El Deafo, for the most part, is a child friendly novel. There aren’t any instances of anything extremely graphic that jump at attention. There is one scene where Cece’s runs into a tree and hurts her eye, but it’s minor. Cece also has a few fantasies about her crush, but they’re all just the musings of a young child. Knowing this, I would recommend this novel for readers of all ages as new perspectives and empathy are vital to the human experience! More specifically, I would suggest this charming graphic novel to anyone 5 or 6 years or older. El Deafo would make a great gift to younger children and fans of graphic memoirs.

**Recommended Titles:**

Drama by Raina Telgemeier

Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier

I Yam a Donkey by Cece Bell

Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson