

Life As We Knew It

By Author, Susan Beth Pfeffer

Reviewed by: Valentina 20

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

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Located in a small town in Pennsylvania, sophomore student Miranda Evans hears rumors of a small asteroid that will hit the moon. Everyone in her town and around the world is buzzing about this exciting event that they begin to throw parties and events to see it happen. However, the night of the event, astronomers soon realize that this asteroid is much denser than they imagined. Causing panic to arise, this asteroid hits the moon forcing it to move out of its orbit and closer to Earth. That's when things begin to go downhill due to the changes in Earth's gravitational pull. In this series of diary entries, we see what life is like for Miranda and her family to struggle to survive post-apocalyptic.

Pfeffer's science fiction is one of the many books that are worth the read. It causes suspense throughout the story whether Miranda and her family can survive. It portrays how life would be like if an asteroid would hit the moon, showing some bits of facts in her book. The theme of faith being portrayed throughout these journal entries was one of the main things that I found to be very interesting. Susan Pfeffer shows how different characters use faith as a way to fill the unanswered question of why the moon hit the Earth. Pfeffer uses subtle ways to show symbolism throughout the story such as the moon, Miller's Pond, and most importantly, the yellow flyer. This makes for a preteen/young adult novel for discussions on what life would be like if we were to ever live in a post-apocalyptic world.

Life As We Know It would be considered a novel for preteens to young adults. There wasn't anything graphic, just a bit of language here and there and a few mentions of deaths. In the book, Miranda does have a crush on a boy named Dan but nothing inappropriate happens. I would recommend this novel for kids 12 and up as something to be an educational way of questioning how should one survive if we were to experience an "end of the world" situation. Life As We Knew It would make a great gift for older kids and fans of science fiction to read during their free time or as a school reading.

Recommended Titles:

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Matched by Ally Condie

Unwind by Neal Shusterman