The School for Good and Evil
Soman Chainani
Reviewed by: Audrey, 16
Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity
www.bethestaryouare.org

Every four years, in the village of Galvadon, two children are mysteriously kidnapped and whisked away to the School for Good and Evil, where ordinary boys and girls are trained to become the heroes and villains of storybook legend. Sophie has been dreaming of attending the School for Good for years and is clearly the ideal choice. With her perfect hair, flawless complexion, and great sense of fashion, she is destined to become a princess. Her best friend Agatha, however, is the obvious choice for the School for Evil with her love of black, hatred of people, and affinity for graveyards. However, when the big night comes, things don't go according to plan. Agatha somehow ends up in the School for Good leaving Sophie to struggle through the School for Evil. Their friendship is tested as they learn more about who they really are and where they really belong.

I loved *The School for Good and Evil* and once I started, I couldn't put it down. You should definitely give it a try as soon as possible! The author created such an interesting and complex plot, always keeping the readers on their toes. The best part of the book for me, however, was the amazing world-building. There was no detail forgotten or ignored in the creation of the fairytale world. Every aspect of the school and the world it belonged to reflected the classic fairy tales we love, while also adding its own personal touch. Even the students of the School for Good and Evil were a clear representation of their fairytale parent or relative and making the connections between them was always fun. Besides the characters' relationships with their parents, I especially loved the characters' relationships with each other. Best friends, nemesis, romantic interests, even a witch coven- this book has it all! And on top of all this, the book is also incredibly funny. Agatha's dry wit is so much fun and the other students all have hilarious touches to add.

One of the few things I would say that brought the book down a bit for me was that it could get a bit repetitive. Similar events happen more than once throughout the novel, and the results of them are always the same. The story lags a bit in the middle due to this, but quickly picks up and gets back to being new and exciting. One other thing is that the characters are all young teens, Sophie and Agatha only being twelve, and yet they all face some heavy themes for children their age, some of which are not handled in the best way. Because of this, I would recommend this book to teens who are a bit older than the kids in the novel, thirteen and above. Besides that though, it is a great book!

Recommend Titles:
The Land of Stories, Chris Colfer
Princess Academy, Shannon Hale
Flunked (Fairy Tale Reform School), Jen Calonita