

Ungifted

By Author, Gordan Korman

Reviewed by: Writisha 13

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

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Donovan Curtis has a knack for getting into trouble. But when one prank goes a little too far and he accidentally ends up destroying his school gym, he is shocked when he doesn't get punished for it. And on top of that, his whole family is surprised to learn that he has been accepted into the Academy for Scholastic Distinction, which is the school for gifted and talented students (in other words, the "nerds" and "geeks"). But as he struggles to fit in with the ASD's challenging curriculum, he slowly realizes that his new school has become his hideout from the district superintendent, who is on a desperate search to find the culprit behind the destructive prank. On the other hand, the genius students at the ASD react to the arrival of a seemingly normal kid in many different ways. As the days pass, Donovan continues to fail his assignments, but he contributes to the class and the school robotics team in ways they never thought they would need.

This is a fun book with hilarious characters and an interesting premise. I liked how the chapters alternate between several different characters, and their relationships with Donovan are comprised of witty dialogue and funny reactions. The only thing I didn't like was that the characters were very stereotyped—the gifted and talented kids were geniuses with zero social skills; everyone at the regular middle school were either popular cheerleaders and jocks or troublemakers like Donovan.

This book is for ages 9 and up. There is no sensitive content. I recommend borrowing this book from the library—it's a good read, but it might not be something you come back to several times.

Recommended Titles:

Supergifted by Gordan Korman

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

The Unteachables by Gordan Korman

Slacker by Gordan Korman