

## **Hoot**

**Carl Hiaasen**

**Reviewed by: Ananya Ganesh, 16**

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Roy Eberhardt is the new kid in school. He was riding the bus to school one day when he saw a young boy running down the street in bare feet. In an attempt to leave the bus, the school bully, Dana, decides to restrain him, leaving Roy watching the kid go out of sight. Roy later meets the boy, Mullet Fingers, headed to the new construction site of Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House. Mullet Fingers was there on a mission, to wreck the construction site. He wanted to save the burrowing owls living on the premises by slowing down the construction process. Will Roy and Mullet Fingers succeed? Or will those owls meet their untimely end?

Honestly, I found it a bit childish. The language was simple and the book moved rather quickly. However, I wouldn't exactly include myself in the intended demographic of this novel. It seems as though it is best designed for middle schoolers. I loved the story and the characters. Reading about how Roy and Mullet Fingers traipse through town highlights the camaraderie of the two while fighting for change, which I think really adds to the story because it's important to have well developed relationships. I also think that having a young graffiti artist fighting for a positive change is a story we don't often see, so it was interesting to read about it. The descriptions of the settings, the construction site, the school, etc.-- all demonstrate the closeness of the community and the "small town feel" gives the novel that light-heartedness that middle schoolers could enjoy.

This book would make the best fit for fifth to eighth graders. Roughly speaking, this means that most kids in the age range of 10-14 would enjoy this book. It would also make a great gift for anyone, regardless of what they like to read, however if I had to classify this into a category, I would call it contemporary fiction.

### **Recommendations**

Dairy Queen, Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Frindle, Andrew Clements

Loser, Jerry Spinelli

Rules, Cynthia Lord