

The Unteachables

By Author, Gordon Korman

Reviewed by: Harini, 14

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

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“The Unteachables” by Gordon Korman is a novel all about inspiration. This story revolves around Zachary Kermit, a 55-year-old teacher who is about ready for early retirement and seven “unteachables”. These kids are troublesome, have behavioral problems and are basically the problem kids of the school. Being involved in a cheating scandal from his earlier years as a teacher, Mr. Kermit feels that his spark is out and he’s no good at being a teacher. But when the superintendent forces him to teach this class of seven supposedly unteachable students, will his career go down the drain completely, or will these kids show him a new side of teaching he never really noticed before?

Gordon Korman’s novel was one that stood out in my mind. Lots of people in middle school experience these issues of being put in a box based on what you can and can’t do academically. Just because someone has trouble with something doesn’t mean they can’t learn. Korman’s novel helped show this in multiple perspectives; the teacher and the students in a way that was relatable, hilarious and meaningful. This book, generally centered for middle school students is very kid-friendly and portrays problems that most teenage kids experience.

“The Unteachables” for the most part is not graphic in any way and would be recommended for upper-grade elementary schoolers or middle schoolers. More specifically, anyone 10-11 years or older would love this hilariously realistic novel.

Recommended Titles:

Restart by Gordon Korman

Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier

Wonder by R.J Palacio