

The Perks of being a Wallflower

By Author, Stephen Chbosky

Reviewed by: Matt Zhang 16

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

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The Perks of being a Wallflower is a contemporary young adult novel that addresses the struggles of adolescence, and the problems that come with growing up. As a note, there are heavier themes in the novel, including drugs, violence and sexuality. As a result, it may not be for everyone.

The book revolves around the protagonist, a 15 year old boy called Charlie. It opens with him describing a few traumatic events; his favorite aunt dying, and the suicide of his friend. He meets a caring English teacher that helps him through his trauma, and befriends two seniors, Patrick and Sam, despite him being a wallflower, an observer and more of a presence than an active member of his community. He quickly develops a crush on Sam, and the rest of the book explores the experiences of love and adolescence, and the different complications and twisted aspects, through the aforementioned themes above.

This book was an excellent read, although dealing with quite heavy issues and problems. Although it was very dark, it still felt very engaged and realistic. Chbosky is an excellent writer that uses narration to great effect, and conveys lots of emotion through his writing. The problems and issues felt very emotional, as Chbosky himself stated that some aspects were based in reality. Quite a good read, but not for the faint of heart due to heavy elements and themes. For these reasons, recommended 16 and above.

Recommended Titles:

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

They Both Die in the End by Adam Silvera

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger