

Sisters

Raina Telgemeier

Reviewed by: Anika, 13

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

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Sisters is the second book in the autobiographical series written by Raina Telgemeier. The story follows the protagonist, Raina, as she embarks on a long road trip from San Francisco to Colorado for a family reunion while simultaneously navigating her relationship with her younger sister (Amara). In the book, Raina reflects on her prior wish to have a little sister to play with. However, after Amara is born, Raina quickly realizes that having a little sister is not exactly like she thought it would be. Instead of spending time with Raina, Amara enjoys playing by herself and is inclined to throw a fit when things do not go her way. Additionally, Raina learns that being an older sister means having to share almost everything – including her time and space. Naturally, Raina struggles with this and often finds herself in an argument with Amara. However, Raina's perspective on having a sibling changes during this three-week road trip.

Sisters provides an accurate portrayal of what it is like to have a brother/sister and helps to shine a light on the ups and downs of such a relationship. The book is sure to resonate with any reader who has a sibling, or sibling-like bond. From switching to not wanting to be near Amara to feeling like Amara might be the only person who understands her - the mixed-emotions Raina feels towards her sister are incredibly relatable. One of the things I like about this book is that the storyline alternates between a present-day narration of a road-trip and flashbacks of Raina's life before and immediately after having a baby sister. I think the flashbacks really help the reader understand what events influenced the current feelings between Raina and Amara. As the book is a graphic novel, it does have very few words. I would not recommend this book for readers who prefer visualizing a story themselves through the vivid descriptions of an author. However, I think the drawings in this story are amazing and are truly the element of the book that tells most of the story.

Sisters is most suitable for children between the ages of 9-14. From a general perspective, the book is a very light and enjoyable read. The story does include some important issues like unemployment and the possibility of parent's divorcing – although these themes are described in a very age-appropriate manner and are not major parts of the story as a whole. Overall, *Sisters* is a lovely book detailing both the sweet and tumultuous aspects of a sibling relationship. I think this story would make a great gift, especially for children who have siblings or are still getting used to being a sibling!

Recommended Titles:

Smile, by Raina Telgemeier

Guts, by Raina Telgemeier

The Perfect Place, by Teresa E. Harris