

13 Words

Lemony Snicket

Reviewed by: Parsa Bakhtiari, 17

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

Thirteen Words, by Lemony Snicket, is a children's story about a despondent bird. The book elicits the meanings of 13 words and provides definitions and examples of each word given. The book starts out with the word "Bird," the main character in the story. Snicket describes the bird with another word which is "despondent" and throughout the story the Bird's friend, a Dog, searches for ways to make the bird happy. The dog provides the Bird with tasks and gifts to cheer the Bird up. Throughout the Dog's attempt to cheer the Bird up the Dog encounters other characters to help cheer the Bird up. The Dog encounters a Baby who owns a hat store, a Goat to drive him around, and a Mezzo-Soprano to sing to the Bird. The Bird becomes a little bit more happy at the end of the story when the Dog gives the Bird a gift which is a hat, but the bird remains sad when the story ends at a window seal hinting that the bird wants to be free to fly.

This book targets a very young audience from about new born children to the first grade. Overall I enjoyed the oddness of the story and how it includes a baby as a store owner and strange, random words such as, Mezzo-Soprano, Haberdashery and Panache even though it was a bit too strange. I also liked how the author was not trying to be so simple and included a few complex words and made the story a bit more detailed and involved. Overall it was a good story and I do recommend this for parents or teachers to read to their children.

I would not recommend to offer this book as a gift simply because it is too simple, but I do recommend to check this book out from the library or buy it yourself to read to your young children. I also recommend this book for kindergarten or preschool teachers to read to their classes because it is entertaining and educational due to the many complex words that the children could learn.

Other books I recommend after reading 13 words: Bedtime for Bear, The Lump of Coal, Glory Be