

Absolutely Normal Chaos
By Sharon Creech

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech is a great book. I enjoyed reading it. It was about a girl named Mary Lou who has to write a journal over the summer for homework. The author makes you feel like you are really reading Mary Lou's journal.

Mary Lou decides to write about her everyday life. But she writes her journal in an outhouse because there is no other private place for her to write it.

She is a very interesting character. She is a good person and is always nice to her family. Mary Lou tells us about a lot of problems and how to solve them. She changes a lot from the beginning of the book to the end. For instance when she meets Carl Ray who is her cousin, she doesn't like him, but when she visits Aunt Radean she learns a lot about Carl Ray and changes her mind about him. She learns that she cares what happens to Carl Ray especially when she hears that he has been in a car accident.

Also Mary Lou meets a boy named Alex at her school and they become friends. Alex was a little different and when you read Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech you will learn more about Mary Lou's life and the people in it.

Only thing is...Mary Lou doesn't want anyone to read her journal. So what will you do?

Chris Sims

HEAT
By Mike Lupica

Michael Arroyo was a unique boy with an incredible pitching arm. His fast ball could be clocked at about 80 miles per hour. Michael's father was the first person to tell him about the "arm" he had. As a child growing up in Cuba, he would play baseball with his father. His father told him that one day he would make the World Series, but Michael believed that was more his father's dream than his own.

When the family moved to the Bronx, Michael loved playing baseball so much he joined a little league team. He was so good at what he did, his teammates called him Little Grande, named after his role model El Grande who played for the Yankees.

Michael and Carlos' father died and they kept it a secret for a while. They were afraid if people found out about his death; they would be separated and placed into foster care. Carlos worked two jobs to help take care of his brother. Or so Michael thought. He later found that Carlos had been living a lie and keeping secrets himself. Carlos wasn't working any of the two jobs Michael thought he was. Instead he was scalping tickets with Ramon the 16 year old who robbed Mrs. Cora. She found a man by the name of Mr. Gibbs an ACS worker. She explained the boy's father death and asked Mr. Gibbs to give her temporary custody of Michael. But, Mr. Gibbs decided to do the paper work for Carlos because he knew it would take a long time. Michael and Carlos looked to Mr. Gibbs as being one of their heroes because of his kindness toward them. I would recommend HEAT by Mike Lupica. I will give this book 7 out of 10 stars.

The End

Amir Carter

Camp Greenlake is a camp for young boys who have made some bad choices. It is run by a group of professionals who work to teach the boys to “build character”. However there is no lake at Camp Greenlake. The camp is on a desert area so nothing grows there at all. About one hundred years ago there was a lake, but the lakes dried up. Now all there are is holes that the boys dig all day that is the way the boys “build character”.

Stanley Yelnats is a young boy who lives many miles away. Stanley was brought to Camp Greenlake for stealing a pair of shoes. This pair of shoes were owned by the legendary sports player Clyde Livingston, who everyone called “sweet feet”. He had notated them to the children’s shelter where he lived as a child in Stanley’s home town. When Stanley went to court he said that he didn’t steal the shoes, but that they fell from the sky, but no one believed him. So Stanley went to Camp Greenlake. He blames this all on his great great grandfather who his family calls Stanley’s “No good, dirty rotten, pig stealing, great great grandfather”, who cursed all of Stanley’s Family. So Stanley’s has to dig holes every day for the next eighteen months.

Read Holes, by Louis Scacher to see if Stanley’s luck changes. I give these book nine out of ten stars.

Joseph D’Ambrosio

Touching Spirit Bear
By Ben Mikaelson

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson is a book about a juvenile delinquent named Cole Matthews. Cole was an angry troublemaker because his alcoholic father beats him and his mother does not care. Cole's latest and most serious crime was beating up a boy named Peter. He smashed Peter's head into a sidewalk. He was sentenced to live alone on an Alaskan island for one whole year. When he first got to the island, he burned his shelter and all his supplies. Then he tried to swim away but the tide pushed back to the island.

The next morning he saw a spirit bear. He threw a spear that he made at the bear and then the bear got angry and mauled Cole. Soon Cole's counselors came and rescued him. After all of his wounds healed, he returned to the island. This is when Cole learned to clear his mind and control his anger.

One day Cole got news that Peter had tried to kill himself twice and Cole realized that maybe the island could help Peter like it had helped him. Peter's parents agreed and Peter went to the island. When Peter and Cole are together, Peter learns to forgive Cole and Cole learns to forgive himself. On the island Cole and Peter develop a good friendship.

Learn more about how the island changed Cole's life in Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson.

Warren Carter

The Boy Who Ran For President
By Dan Gutman

Judson Moon is a boy who ran for President of the You-nited States. It all started one night when his best friend, Lane, was watching Meet the Press and they were talking about the presidency of 2000. Lane thought that it would be cool if a kid was president and thought that Judson would be best for the job. At first Judson thought that Lane was joking but soon realized that Lane was serious. The first thing that they had to do was find a first lady and they found one of the prettiest girls in school, Chelsea Daniels. They then had to find a vice-president and they chose Judson's old babysitter, June Syers.

Lane got a journalist named Pete Guerra to write a story about Judson running for President and it gave him a lot of popularity and helped him raise money for his campaign. Judson gave a speech at his school and said that if he became President he would abolish homework but his arch rival, Arthur Krantz, told him that he couldn't get rid of homework. One day Pete Guerra called Judson's house and asked him if one day he had ever broken into a student's locker. Judson said "yes." The next day when he read the newspaper and he saw the article about him. The article read "Judson Moon burglarized another student's locker and deliberately destroyed important papers." The person that

Judson stole the papers from was Arthur Krantz and he knew that he told the press about the story. After the incident Judson's popularity went down. On Election Day Judson realized that he didn't want to be president anymore. During his speech on Election Day he purposely sabotaged his own campaign by saying things that would make people stop voting for him. That night Judson, Lane, and Judson's parents were watching the debate on TV and the amount of electoral votes that Judson had. Towards the end Judson and the current President are very close together. If Judson won California he would be the next President of the United States but if the President wins California it would go to the House of Representatives.

Find out what would happen to Judson. Will he win the election or end in heart break? Read the "Kid who Ran for President" by Dan Gutman.

Kelvin Knight

The Secret Garden

The Secret Garden is a good book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. When Mary Lennox's family passes away, she comes from India to her Uncle's Misselthwaite Manor. She has a very stubborn attitude and a very small body. After exploring the corridors and the gardens, she finds a place to wander around. One day, when Mary was outside, she found a very interesting key that looked very ancient. With the help of a robin, Mary found the Secret Garden that hasn't been opened in ten years. She meets an animal charmer named Dickon, who charms animals like magic. Together, Mary and Dickon build character and friendship by working in the garden. One night, Mary hears unusual cry in the corridors. When she reaches the crying, she notices a small sick boy crying. His name was Colin Craven, Mary's unknown cousin. Mary and Colin become great friends and talk all the time. Colin decides he wants Mary and Dickon to take him out to the Secret Garden. In his wheelchair, Mary and Dickon take Colin out to the garden for him to find life. Each day in the garden, he gets stronger and stronger, the Secret Garden is becoming more beautiful also. All three characters find the magic in their lives whenever they're in the garden. I liked this book because it teaches a good lesson. I also liked it because I kept on wanting to read more. If you want to find out more read The Secret Garden.

Caroline Crilly