

Sample Book Review

Name: Johnny Smith-King

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Grade: 6th

Book Title: *Fuzzy Mud*

Author: Louis Sachar

Genre: Suspense

Number of pages: 181 pages

Rating: 4

Main Characters:

Tamaya Dhilwaddi – Tamaya is a 5th grader at Woodridge Academy. She likes to follow the rules, and has perfect attendance.

Marshall Walsh – Marshall is a 7th grader at Woodridge Academy. He walks home from school with Tamaya every day. He is bullied by Chad Hilligas.

Chad Hilligas – Chad is a 7th grader at Woodridge Academy and the school bully. He was kicked out of three schools in two years.

Fuzzy Mud is a novel about a girl named Tamaya who discovers that there is something wrong with the mud in her town. Tamaya Dhilwaddi is a fifth-grader who goes to Woodridge Academy in Heath Cliff, Pennsylvania. Tamaya is a good student who always listens to her teachers and parents. However, she feels like her friends are changing without her. They've started hanging out with older boys in the lunchroom and call her a goody-two-shoes.

Marshall Walsh is a seventh grader who walks home with Tamaya every day. He is currently being bullied by Chad Hilligas, the new boy at school, and has lost all his friends.

One day Chad threatens to beat Marshall up after school, so Marshall tells Tamaya that they are taking a shortcut through the woods that are right outside of the school. When they get into the woods they find a strange, fuzzy mud that sets off a health crisis.

The book goes back and forth between the story and excerpts from secrets hearings held by the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Environment. The hearings are about nearby Sunray Farm, where Biolene, a clean energy alternative to gasoline, is made. Biolene consists of ergonyms, which are microorganisms with altered DNA. The hearings consist of different interviews from people associated with Biolene, and highlight the unplanned, negative effects of it.

This was a good book. It was a quick read with fast-paced action. The fact that the story includes the hearings throughout made it more suspenseful, since they foreshadowed events that hadn't happened yet in the story. The ending was a little disappointing and left you wondering, but a lot of people like endings like that and it seems like the author did that purposely.

Teens will enjoy this book because Tamaya is a very relatable protagonist. She struggles with how to fit in and follow the rules at the same time. A lot of teens go through the feeling of wanting to impress your friends while staying true to yourself. The relationships between the characters transform throughout the story, which is realistic. It shows that people have underlying reasons for their behavior. If someone is mean, it could be because they are unhappy or something is bothering them. The story also shows that things can go wrong when you try to modify nature, which is relevant today.

This book would appeal to teens who like fast-paced, suspenseful books and teens who are interested in environmental issues.