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Star Wars: Jedi Academy



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author/illustrator Jeffrey Brown takes readers to a middle school in a galaxy far, far away....This incredible, original story captures all of the humor, awkwardness, fun, and frustrations of middle school--all told through one boy's comics, journal entries, letters, doodles, and newspaper clippings. The setting? A galaxy far, far away...Roan's one dream is to leave home and attend Pilot Academy like his older brother, father, and grandfather. But just as Roan is mysteriously denied entrance to Pilot School, he is invited to attend Jedi Academy--a school that he didn't apply to and only recruits children when they are just a few years old. That is, until now...This inventive novel follows Roan's first year at Jedi Academy where, under the tutelage of Master Yoda, he learns that he possesses more strength and potential than he could have ever dreamed. Oh, and he learns other important things too--like how to make a baking soda volcano, fence with a lightsaber, slow dance with a girl, and lift boulders with the Force.

Book Information

Series: Star Wars (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (404 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Think of this as a sort of graphic-chapter-book, and I mean that in a very good way.Mr. Brown has taken practically every important aspect of the Star Wars canon, written it in a style that would be interesting for and accessible to an early reader, illustrated it with very clever and apt illustrations,

and wrapped it all up as a "school days" adventure that features a realistic and engaging hero. Roan is crushed when he is denied admission to Star Pilot Academy, and then confused and intimidated when he later receives an invitation to attend the more prestigious but less well known Jedi Academy. The other students at the Academy were tapped when they were much younger, so Roan has to adjust as the new kid and the latecomer. The story embraces all of the conventions of middle school fiction - Roan makes friends and enemies, encounters bullies, has some scary teachers and some teachers he really likes, deals with homesickness and adjusting to school. There is some budding romance. There are some intrigues, and lots of school based events, (a dance, a light saber tournament, a science fair, field trips, an election). The genius here is that everything is based on Star Wars. Yoda is basically the headmaster of the Academy. The teachers are characters from the various movies. Field trips are to the sites of Star Wars episodes. Students all come from worlds whose names you recognize. Our hero, Roan, is from Tatooine and is basically a stand-in for a Luke Skywalker type character. There are lots of inside jokes and references, so that you have both an engaging story that is open to a Star Wars newbie and an immersive and sly Star Wars compendium for really rabid fans.

My son (6 years old last month) read this on his kindle. He is homeschooled and usually balks at the idea of reading. So typically I either let him choose his books for casual reading time or I pick books that have subject matter I think he will enjoy. The latter is how he came to read this one. He was completely engrossed despite stubbornly telling me the book was "just okay". When I told him that he could stop when he wanted, he told me he wanted to keep reading and continued. He finished the book by the end of that week. He has read many books but this was his longest, and based on my observations, his most enjoyable. So on that front the author did a remarkable job. I will remember this book as the one who got my son to say "I like reading now". When I got him the hardcover for the sequel shouted out a resounding "YES!". As I type this, after handing over part 2 to him 15 minutes ago, he is cuddled up with his dog reading. He did have a complaint though which counts for half of the star removal. He wants all of the pictures to be in color. I know this book is not targeted towards his age group, the draw back of his advanced reading abilities is that chapter books don't typically have pictures. It's a bonus that this one does at all! But I agree, if you would have pictures, make them color in hardcover. Especially at this price point, which is what I spend on my own books that are at least 2-3 times as long pagewise. Which brings me to the other half star, you can't put a price on capturing the interest of my child and introducing him to the JOY in reading a book. Even with that in mind I think the price is a bit steep. I think for a kids book \$5 would be a bit

more reasonable, maybe \$6.

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