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Winton and Millards' "Diary of a Dyslexic School Kid" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Winton, A. & Millard, Z. (2020). *Diary of a dyslexic school kid*. London, UK: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 112 pp. \$14.95. ISBN 9781785924422

Winton and Millard co-write this book which aims to provide support for middle and high school students with dyslexia. Both Winton and Millard have dyslexia adding a layer of authenticity and authority to *Diary of a Dyslexic School Kid*. Winton, a private tutor for dyslexic children, was not diagnosed with dyslexia until she was in college. While Millard is a teenager with dyslexia. Both authors struggled in school and felt this book would show other people they are not alone in their struggle with dyslexia.

It is important to note that the narrator is a teenager, and the writing of the book aligns with that of a teenager. There are several grammar and spelling mistakes similar to those a student with dyslexia might make. The authors also use slang throughout because of the narrator's age. This book is set in Wales, so the language and holidays are slightly different to those of the United States. Overall, readers will enjoy the informal teenage writing style of this book.

This book, written in diary format, follows the narrator, Cal, through his first year at a new school or big school. Readers see the difficulties Cal has with school and his dislike for most academic subjects. Cal tries hard at his schoolwork, but it is challenging, and he regularly fails exams. The school seems slow to help Cal with his dyslexia. However, Cal's struggles with bullying are addressed by the school as well as Cal's parents. The bullying incident show additional problems a student with dyslexia may face apart from academic struggles. School is not the only part of a teenager's life, so readers also learn about Cal's hobbies, friends, and family. Cal has dyslexia, but it is not the only thing to know about him.

This book would be a great addition to a school or public library with a young adult or middle grade collection. It would also be helpful in the personal library of a student with dyslexia or a parent of a child with dyslexia.

Reviewer

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