

Independent Reading Guide: The Novel

Title: Words With Wings

Author: Nikki Grimes

-Personal selection

-Peirce library

Elements of the Novels

1. The main character is Gabriella, or Gabby
2. The main character, Gabby is a dreamer. She's also very creative and has a way with words.
3. Gabby was always daydreaming and very often got in trouble for it. Anything that someone said she turned it into something extreme in her head. Words were more than just letters put together on a piece of paper for her. She's almost always daydreaming about something.
4. She has to deal with moving to a new school and having to find new people that will accept her for her and her daydreaming.
5. Gabby eventually finds a friend at her school who shares the same interests as her, and then her teacher decides that it would be best to take about 15 minutes for his students to write down their daydreams. Her mother also realized how prestigious Gabby's daydreams were and she opened up to it.
6. Other than her mother and teacher being apart of her conflict and the resolution, her friend and her dad played small roles as well.
7. The setting of the novel is in California during the school year.
8. Gabriella is the narrator.
9. The climax of the novel is when she first greets the new kid in the middle of the school year.
10. The mood was kind of exciting and it made you a little curious to see how this new little boy would react to Gabby and how Gabby would react to the little boy after they got to know each other. The author helps establish that mood by explaining how hard it was for Gabby to make friends because of her daydreaming, and also by making Gabby a little curious about the boy herself.
11. The central idea of this novel is that, if you use your imagination you can make words fly and make sense in our own mind, don't be afraid to be creative.
12. "Mom names me for a creature with wings, then wonders what makes my thoughts fly."
13. Strong
14. Strong
15. Strong
16. Strong
17. Strong. I rated this book strong because I loved all of the analogies that the author used when explaining Gabby's thoughts. I also love how she

- explains how the people in Gabby's life feel about her, through her and still get a full understanding.
18. I was always questioning if Gabby would ever have anyone in her life who understood her and if she would ever document her daydreams. At the end of the book it explains that she became a writer and that her mother fully supports her, plus she found her a best friend and an understanding teacher.

Reader's Response

At the end of the book I realized that I had strong feelings towards her teacher. I feel that he was an average teacher. He originally saw a student who wasn't paying attention to his lesson and didn't like it, then he found out about her daydreams and thought that she might've needed some help. After a while Gabby never stopped daydreaming and once he saw the daydream that she drew, he changed his whole outlook. I think that it was very considerate of him to actually take consideration into the fact that her dreams are prestigious to her and elegant to the viewers, which at the time was just her and her friend. I also think that it's very gracious that he decided to take ten to fifteen minutes out of his class time for his students to document their daydreams, especially since the teachers that I know would almost never even possibly think of that (plus we're seventh graders and probably think that it's a ludicrous idea).

No matter how long I would've tried I don't think I would have found anyone who reminds me of this character. Don't get me wrong, I have come across some of the coolest teachers in my days, but I really don't think that anyone can be compared to Gabby's teacher. This teacher tried to comprehend as well as understand one student and her delusions, once he found out their importance to her comprehension of the world he tried to make all of his students benefit from it. Most teachers would try to individually work with that student,

instead of trying to put the idea into a more broad option of learning, and some just won't think twice. This character could be a possible role model to teachers and other adults with kids.

As a person and teacher he progressed throughout the story which is why I have intense feeling towards him. Someone might disagree with me and say that Gabby's teacher was not an extraordinary teacher and he did not change as the story progressed, but that argument would be logically flawed. All evidence points to the fact that her teacher got used to her daydreams and ended up respecting them. He never bugged her about them towards the end, and the reason why was because he let his students express them through drawings. At the beginning of the story his teacher was worried that she might be a rebel student, a student with no interest in school, and at the end he understood her point of view as well as her thoughts. He is an excellent teacher, who very well deserves to be documented. I would love to see some teachers that are at least similar to Gabby's teacher. He's a great teacher and this is a great story, to read and tell.