

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes is a highly searched phrase that leads readers to insightful summaries and analyses of Stephen Chbosky's acclaimed coming-of-age novel. In this article, we offer a comprehensive overview of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, focusing on its plot, characters, and major themes as presented through SparkNotes resources. Readers will discover the book's central motifs, character development, and the social issues it addresses. We also delve into the unique format of the novel, its impact on modern young adult literature, and the reasons why it remains a popular choice for students and readers seeking guidance and understanding. This guide is designed to help anyone looking for a detailed breakdown or study aid, providing SEO-optimized insights that answer the most common questions surrounding perks of being a wallflower sparknotes. Continue reading for a structured exploration, including a detailed table of contents, to make your research and learning experience both efficient and thorough.

- Overview of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
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Overview of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a contemporary novel by Stephen Chbosky, first published in 1999. The story follows Charlie, a sensitive and introspective freshman, as he navigates the challenges of high school life, relationships, and personal trauma. SparkNotes provides a concise and accessible summary, helping readers understand the novel's structure, key events, and character arcs. The book's unique format—written as a series of letters—invites readers into Charlie's intimate thoughts and feelings, offering a fresh perspective on adolescence and self-discovery. SparkNotes highlights the essential elements that make this novel a staple in young adult literature, including its honest portrayal of mental health, friendship, and the journey toward self-acceptance.

Plot Summary and Structure

Epistolary Format

One of the defining features of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is its epistolary form, meaning the story unfolds through letters written by the protagonist, Charlie, to an anonymous recipient. SparkNotes emphasizes how this format provides direct access to Charlie's inner world, creating an authentic narrative voice that resonates with readers. This structure allows for a nuanced exploration of his thoughts, emotions, and reactions to various events.

Key Events in the Story

The SparkNotes summary breaks down the novel into major plot points, starting with Charlie's entry into high school after the death of his close friend. He soon befriends step-siblings Sam and Patrick, who introduce him to new experiences, friendships, and the complexities of adolescence. The progression of the plot incorporates themes of love, loss, and growth, culminating in Charlie's confrontation with his past trauma and his journey toward healing.

- Charlie's first days at high school
- Meeting Sam and Patrick
- Discovering friendship and romance
- Coping with family secrets and mental health
- Resolution and personal growth

Main Characters and Their Development

Charlie

Charlie is the central character whose perspective shapes the entire narrative. SparkNotes describes him as introverted, highly observant, and deeply affected by the events around him. His character development is marked by his evolving relationships, growing confidence, and gradual understanding of his own emotions. Charlie's sensitivity and empathy make him a relatable figure for readers navigating similar challenges.

Sam and Patrick

Sam and Patrick are pivotal to Charlie's transformation. Sam is compassionate and outgoing, while Patrick's humor and openness help Charlie find comfort in their friendship. SparkNotes details how these characters influence Charlie's perceptions of love, loyalty, and self-worth, guiding him through moments of joy and hardship.

Supporting Characters

Other important figures include Charlie's family, teachers, and friends such as Mary Elizabeth and Bill, his English teacher. Each character contributes to the narrative's depth, revealing different facets of Charlie's journey and the broader social context of the story. SparkNotes highlights the subtle interplay between these characters, emphasizing their roles in shaping Charlie's identity.

Major Themes Explored

Coming of Age

The coming-of-age theme is central to *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. SparkNotes explores how Charlie's experiences reflect the universal struggles of adolescence—identity formation, peer pressure, and the desire for acceptance. The novel offers an honest portrayal of the confusion and excitement that accompany this transitional period.

Mental Health and Trauma

Mental health is a recurring theme, with SparkNotes analyzing Charlie's emotional struggles and his journey toward recovery. The narrative addresses complex topics such as depression, anxiety, and abuse, providing a candid depiction of how these issues affect individuals and their relationships. The book encourages empathy and awareness, making it a valuable resource for readers seeking understanding and support.

Friendship and Belonging

Charlie's interactions with his friends underscore the importance of connection and support. SparkNotes examines how friendship helps Charlie overcome isolation and discover his sense of belonging. The novel highlights the transformative power of acceptance and understanding in the face of adversity.

Symbolism and Motifs in the Novel

The "Wallflower" Metaphor

The term "wallflower" symbolizes Charlie's tendency to observe rather than participate, reflecting his introverted nature. SparkNotes interprets this motif as a representation of the challenges of social interaction and self-expression. Charlie's evolution from a passive observer to an active participant mirrors the broader theme of personal growth.

Music, Books, and Gifts

Recurring references to music, literature, and meaningful gifts serve as symbols of connection and self-discovery. SparkNotes highlights how these elements create bonds between characters and provide comfort during difficult times. The mixtapes, recommended books, and shared experiences all contribute to Charlie's development and the novel's emotional resonance.

Social Issues Addressed

Bullying and Peer Pressure

SparkNotes discusses the portrayal of bullying and peer pressure in the novel, examining how these social forces impact Charlie and his peers. The narrative exposes the difficulties faced by teenagers in navigating group dynamics and standing up for themselves.

Sexuality and Identity

Issues of sexuality and identity are explored through various characters, most notably Patrick. SparkNotes provides analysis on how the novel addresses LGBTQ+ themes and the struggles associated with acceptance and authenticity.

Family Dynamics

Family relationships play a significant role, with SparkNotes focusing on the complexities of Charlie's family, their secrets, and the influence of upbringing on personal development. The story reflects the challenges of communication, understanding, and reconciliation within families.

1. Bullying and its effects on mental health
2. Exploring sexual orientation and identity
3. Family conflict and resolution

Impact and Reception of the Novel

Critical Acclaim

The Perks of Being a Wallflower has received widespread praise for its realistic depiction of adolescence and mental health. SparkNotes highlights the novel's influence on young adult fiction and its continued relevance in educational settings. The book's success led to a film adaptation, further cementing its cultural impact.

Influence on Readers

SparkNotes notes the novel's ability to resonate with diverse audiences, particularly those seeking validation and understanding. Its honest exploration of challenging topics encourages dialogue and reflection, making it a valuable resource for readers and educators alike.

Study Tips and SparkNotes Features

Using SparkNotes Effectively

SparkNotes offers a variety of tools for studying *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, including chapter summaries, character analyses, and discussion questions. These features help readers grasp key concepts, prepare for exams, and engage in meaningful conversations about the text.

Key Points for Review

When using SparkNotes, focus on understanding the main characters, central themes, and important symbols. Make use of the provided summaries and analyses to reinforce your knowledge and clarify complex ideas.

- Review chapter summaries for plot understanding
- Study character profiles for deeper analysis
- Explore thematic discussions to enhance interpretation
- Use sample questions for exam preparation

Trending Questions and Answers about perks of being a wallflower sparknotes

Q: What is the main message of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* according to SparkNotes?

A: SparkNotes emphasizes that the main message is about personal growth, acceptance, and the importance of friendship in overcoming adversity.

Q: How does the "wallflower" metaphor relate to Charlie's character?

A: The "wallflower" metaphor signifies Charlie's tendency to observe rather than participate, representing his introverted nature and gradual journey toward self-confidence.

Q: Which major themes are highlighted in SparkNotes for The Perks of Being a Wallflower?

A: SparkNotes highlights themes such as coming of age, mental health, trauma, friendship, belonging, and identity.

Q: What social issues are addressed in the novel according to SparkNotes?

A: The novel addresses bullying, peer pressure, sexuality, family conflicts, and the impact of trauma on mental health.

Q: How does SparkNotes suggest using their study resources for The Perks of Being a Wallflower?

A: SparkNotes recommends reviewing chapter summaries, character analyses, and thematic discussions to prepare for exams and deepen understanding.

Q: What role do music and literature play in Charlie's development?

A: According to SparkNotes, music and literature are crucial for Charlie's self-discovery and connection with others, serving as symbols throughout the novel.

Q: Who are the key supporting characters mentioned by SparkNotes?

A: Key supporting characters include Sam, Patrick, Mary Elizabeth, Bill (Charlie's teacher), and Charlie's family members.

Q: How does the novel's epistolary format impact the story?

A: SparkNotes explains that the epistolary format provides direct insight into Charlie's thoughts, creating a personal and authentic narrative voice.

Q: What impact has The Perks of Being a Wallflower had on young adult literature?

A: SparkNotes notes that the novel's honest portrayal of adolescence and mental health has influenced the genre and remains a popular choice for readers and educators.

Q: Why is The Perks of Being a Wallflower considered a valuable resource for students?

A: The novel is valued for its accessible language, relatable characters, and

meaningful exploration of relevant social issues, making it ideal for study and discussion.

Perks Of Being A Wallflower Sparknotes

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Perks of Being a Wallflower SparkNotes: Unpacking the Novel's Deepest Themes

Are you diving into Stephen Chbosky's poignant and insightful novel, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*? Feeling overwhelmed by the complex characters, intricate relationships, and emotionally charged themes? This comprehensive SparkNotes-style guide will navigate you through the novel's key plot points, character analyses, and underlying messages. We'll unpack the complexities of Charlie's journey, exploring his struggles with mental health, his evolving friendships, and his search for belonging. Get ready to delve into the heart of this iconic coming-of-age story.

A Summary of The Perks of Being a Wallflower

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is told through epistolary format – Charlie, an introspective and socially anxious freshman, chronicles his experiences in letters to an anonymous recipient. The story unfolds during his first year of high school, revealing his struggles with anxiety, depression, and the trauma of his past. He navigates the complexities of forging friendships with Patrick, a flamboyant and openly gay student, and Sam, Patrick's stepsister, a charismatic and independent young woman. Through these relationships, Charlie begins to confront his past traumas, explore his sexuality, and discover the true meaning of friendship and self-acceptance. The novel delves into sensitive topics including mental health, trauma, sexuality, and the challenges of adolescence, making it a powerful and resonant read for many.

Key Characters and Their Significance

Charlie Kelmeckis: The Protagonist's Journey

Charlie is the heart of the novel. His introspective nature and vulnerability allow readers to connect with his struggles on a deeply personal level. His quiet observation of the world around him offers unique insight into the experiences of the other characters. Understanding Charlie's trauma, particularly the abuse he suffered from his aunt Helen, is crucial to understanding his anxieties and social awkwardness. His journey of self-discovery is a central theme of the novel, highlighting the importance of seeking help and finding support systems.

Patrick: A Beacon of Acceptance

Patrick's character represents a powerful counterpoint to Charlie's introversion. Openly gay in a less tolerant environment, Patrick embodies strength and self-acceptance. His friendship with Charlie demonstrates the power of empathy and unconditional support. Patrick's journey highlights the challenges of societal prejudice and the importance of embracing one's true identity.

Sam: Independence and Empowerment

Sam, Patrick's stepsister, is a strong and independent female character. She embodies self-confidence and encourages Charlie to step outside his comfort zone. Her interactions with Charlie showcase the complexities of friendship and romantic attraction, challenging traditional gender roles and expectations.

Exploring the Major Themes

Mental Health and Trauma

The novel tackles mental health issues with sensitivity and nuance. Charlie's struggles with anxiety and depression are realistically portrayed, highlighting the importance of seeking professional help and building a strong support network. The exploration of his trauma emphasizes the lasting impact of childhood abuse and the importance of healing.

Friendship and Belonging

Friendship forms a core theme, showcasing the power of genuine connection and the transformative impact of supportive relationships. Charlie's friendships with Patrick and Sam illustrate the different facets of friendship: unconditional acceptance, shared experiences, and mutual growth.

Sexuality and Identity

The novel explores the complexities of sexuality and self-discovery. Patrick's openness about his sexuality and Charlie's own exploration of his feelings offer valuable insights into the challenges and joys of coming to terms with one's identity.

The Power of the Past

Charlie's past traumas significantly shape his present experiences. The novel demonstrates how past experiences can influence present actions and relationships, highlighting the importance of confronting past hurts to achieve personal growth.

Conclusion

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is far more than just a coming-of-age story; it's a deeply moving exploration of mental health, friendship, and self-discovery. By following Charlie's journey, readers gain valuable insights into the complexities of adolescence and the importance of finding one's place in the world. This SparkNotes-style guide provides a framework for understanding the novel's intricate plot and profound themes, encouraging further exploration and deeper appreciation of Chbosky's powerful narrative.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What is the main conflict in The Perks of Being a Wallflower?

A1: The main conflict is Charlie's internal struggle with his past trauma and his present anxieties, compounded by his navigation of high school social dynamics and burgeoning romantic feelings.

Q2: What is the significance of the title, "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"?

A2: The title ironically highlights the perceived benefits and disadvantages of social isolation. While initially feeling safe as a wallflower, Charlie eventually learns the importance of embracing connection and overcoming his fear of vulnerability.

Q3: What type of narrative is used in the novel?

A3: The novel employs an epistolary narrative, meaning it's told through a series of letters written by Charlie to an anonymous recipient.

Q4: How does the novel portray mental health?

A4: The novel portrays mental health realistically, depicting the struggles of anxiety and depression with sensitivity and nuance. It emphasizes the importance of seeking help and building a supportive network.

Q5: Is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* suitable for all ages?

A5: Due to its mature themes including mental health struggles, trauma, and sexuality, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is generally considered suitable for older teens and adults. Parental guidance is advised for younger readers.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Perks of Being a Wallflower Stephen Chbosky, 2010-06-29 "A timeless story for every young person who needs to understand that they are not alone." —Judy Blume "Once in a while, a novel comes along that becomes a generational touchstone. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is one of those books." —R. J. Palacio, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Wonder* This #1 New York Times bestselling coming-of-age story with millions of copies in print takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory. The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up. A #1 New York Times bestseller for more than a year, adapted into a major motion picture starring Logan Lerman and Emma Watson (and written and directed by the author), and an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults (2000) and Best Book for Reluctant Readers (2000), this novel for teen readers (or wallflowers of more-advanced age) will make you laugh, cry, and perhaps feel nostalgic for those moments when you, too, tiptoed onto the dance floor of life.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Imaginary Friend Stephen Chbosky, 2019-10-01 From a New York Times bestselling author, a young boy is haunted by a voice in his head in this epic horror novel, perfect for fans of Stephen King (Dan Chaon, author of *Ill Will*). Single mother Kate Reese is on the run. Determined to improve life for her and her seven year-old son, Christopher, she flees an abusive relationship in the middle of the night. At first, the tight-knit community of Mill Grove, Pennsylvania seems like the perfect place to finally settle down. Then Christopher vanishes. Days later, he emerges from the woods at the edge of town, unharmed but not unchanged. He returns with a voice in his head only he can hear, with a mission only he can complete: Build a treehouse in the woods by Christmas, or his mother and everyone in the town will never be the same again. Twenty years ago, Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* made readers everywhere feel infinite. Now, Chbosky has returned with an epic work of literary horror, years in the making, whose grand scale and rich emotion redefine the genre. Read it with the lights on. One of *The Year's Best Books* (People, EW, Lithub, Vox, Washington Post, and more)

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Seventeenth Summer Maureen Daly, 2010-04-27 Seventeen-year-old Angie, who lives with her family in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, finds herself in love for the first time the summer after high school graduation.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Kitchen* Banana Yoshimoto, 2015-09-15 The acclaimed debut of Japan's "master storyteller" (Chicago Tribune). With the publication of *Kitchen*, the dazzling English-language debut that is still her best-loved book, the literary world realized that Banana Yoshimoto was a young writer of enduring talent whose work has quickly earned a place among the best of contemporary Japanese literature. *Kitchen* is an enchantingly original book that juxtaposes two tales about mothers, love, tragedy, and the power of the kitchen and home in the lives of a pair of free-spirited young women in contemporary Japan. Mikage, the heroine, is an orphan raised by her grandmother, who has passed away. Grieving, Mikage is taken in by her friend Yoichi and his mother (who is really his cross-dressing father) Eriko. As the three of them form an improvised family that soon weathers its own tragic losses, Yoshimoto spins a lovely, evocative tale with the kitchen and the comforts of home at its heart. In a whimsical style that recalls the early Marguerite Duras, *Kitchen* and its companion story, *Moonlight Shadow*, are elegant tales whose seeming simplicity is the ruse of a very special writer whose voice echoes in the mind and the soul. "Lucid, earnest and disarming . . . [It] seizes hold of the reader's sympathy and refuses to let go." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Speak* Laurie Halse Anderson, 2011-05-10 The groundbreaking National Book Award Finalist and Michael L. Printz Honor Book with more than 3.5 million copies sold, *Speak* is a bestselling modern classic about consent, healing, and finding your voice. *Speak* up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say. From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, Melinda becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back—and refuses to be silent. From Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award laureate Laurie Halse Anderson comes the extraordinary landmark novel that has spoken to millions of readers. Powerful and utterly unforgettable, *Speak* has been translated into 35 languages, was the basis for the major motion picture starring Kristen Stewart, and is now a stunning graphic novel adapted by Laurie Halse Anderson herself, with artwork from Eisner-Award winner Emily Carroll. Awards and Accolades for *Speak*: A New York Times Bestseller A National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature A Michael L. Printz Honor Book An Edgar Allan Poe Award Finalist A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist A TIME Magazine Best YA Book of All Time A Cosmopolitan Magazine Best YA Books Everyone Should Read, Regardless of Age

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Study Guide* SuperSummary, 2019-08-25 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 85-page guide for *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 51 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like The Secrecy of Abuse and Molestation and Coming of Age and Moral Ambiguity.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Tales of the Madman Underground* John Barnes, 2009-06-25 Wednesday, September 5, 1973: The first day of Karl Shoemaker's senior year in stifling Lightsburg, Ohio. For years, Karl's been part of what he calls the Madman Underground - a group of kids forced (for no apparent reason) to attend group therapy during school hours. Karl has decided that senior year is going to be different. He is going to get out of the Madman Underground for good. He is going to act - and be - Normal. But Normal, of course, is relative. Karl has five after-school jobs, one dead father, one seriously unhinged drunk mother . . . and a huge attitude. Welcome to a gritty, uncensored rollercoaster ride, narrated by the singular Karl Shoemaker.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *It's Kind of a Funny Story* Ned Vizzini, 2010-09-25

Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy. At his new school, Craig realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids; he's just average, and maybe not even that. He soon sees his once-perfect future crumbling away.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *The Football Girl* Thatcher Heldring, 2017-04-04 For every athlete or sports fanatic who knows she's just as good as the guys. This is for fans of *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen, *Grace, Gold, and Glory* by Gabrielle Douglass and *Breakaway: Beyond the Goal* by Alex Morgan. The summer before Caleb and Tessa enter high school, friendship has blossomed into a relationship . . . and their playful sports days are coming to an end. Caleb is getting ready to try out for the football team, and Tessa is training for cross-country. But all their structured plans derail in the final flag game when they lose. Tessa doesn't want to end her career as a loser. She really enjoys playing, and if she's being honest, she likes it even more than running cross-country. So what if she decided to play football instead? What would happen between her and Caleb? Or between her two best friends, who are counting on her to try out for cross-country with them? And will her parents be upset that she's decided to take her hobby to the next level? This summer Caleb and Tessa figure out just what it means to be a boyfriend, girlfriend, teammate, best friend, and someone worth cheering for. "A great next choice for readers who have enjoyed Catherine Gilbert Murdock's *Dairy Queen* and Miranda Kenneally's *Catching Jordan*."—SLJ "Fast-paced football action, realistic family drama, and sweet romance...[will have] readers looking for girl-powered sports stories...find[ing] plenty to like."—Booklist "Tessa's ferocious competitiveness is appealing."—Kirkus Reviews "[The Football Girl] serve[s] to illuminate the appropriately complicated emotions both of a young romance and of pursuing a dream. Heldring writes with insight and restraint."—The Horn Book

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Grendel's Guide to Love and War* A. E. Kaplan, 2017 A tale of rivalry, romance, and existential angst—Jacket.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Satellite* Nick Lake, 2019-04-23 A teenage boy born in space makes his first trip to Earth in this engrossing sci-fi adventure for fans of *The Martian* from award-winning author Nick Lake. He's going to a place he's never been before: home. Moon 2 is a space station that orbits approximately 250 miles above Earth. It travels 17,500 miles an hour, making one full orbit every ninety minutes. It's also the only home that fifteen-year-old Leo and two other teens have ever known. Born and raised on Moon 2, Leo and the twins, Orion and Libra, are finally old enough and strong enough to endure the dangerous trip to Earth. They've been "parented" by teams of astronauts since birth and have run countless drills to ready themselves for every conceivable difficulty they might face on the flight. But has anything really prepared them for life on terra firma? Because while the planet may be home to billions of people, living there is more treacherous than Leo and his friends could ever have imagined, and their very survival will mean defying impossible odds.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *I Have Lost My Way* Gayle Forman, 2019-04-16 The New York Times bestseller from the author of *If I Stay* "Heartwrenching...If you are ready to be emotionally wrecked yet again, you are in luck." – Hypable A fateful accident draws three strangers together over the course of a single day: Freya who has lost her voice while recording her debut album. Harun who is making plans to run away from everyone he has ever loved. Nathaniel who has just arrived in New York City with a backpack, a desperate plan, and nothing left to lose. As the day progresses, their secrets start to unravel and they begin to understand that the way out of their own loss might just lie in helping the others out of theirs. An emotionally cathartic story of losing love, finding love, and discovering the person you are meant to be, *I Have Lost My Way* is bestselling author Gayle Forman at her finest. "A beautifully written love song to every young person who has ever moved through fear and found themselves on the other side." – Jacqueline Woodson, bestselling author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: U Thrive Dan Lerner, Alan Schlechter, 2017-04-18

From the professors who teach NYU's most popular elective class, Science of Happiness, a fun, comprehensive guide to surviving and thriving in college and beyond. Every year, almost 4,000,000 students begin their freshman year at colleges and universities nationwide. Most of them will sleep less and stress out a whole lot more. By the end of the year, 30% of those freshmen will have dropped out. For many, the unforeseen demands of college life are so overwhelming that the best four years of your life can start to feel like the worst. Enter Daniel Lerner and Dr. Alan Schlechter, ready to teach students how to not only survive college, but flourish in it. Filled with fascinating science, real-life stories, and tips for building positive lifelong habits, U Thrive addresses the opportunities and challenges every undergrad will face -- from finding a passion to dealing with nightmarish roommates and surviving finals week. Engaging and hilarious, U Thrive will help students grow into the happy, successful alums they all deserve to be.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Agony of Bun O'Keefe Heather Smith,

2017-09-05 Little Miss Sunshine meets Room in this quirky, heartwarming story of friendship, loyalty and discovery. It's Newfoundland, 1986. Fourteen-year-old Bun O'Keefe has lived a solitary life in an unsafe, unsanitary house. Her mother is a compulsive hoarder, and Bun has had little contact with the outside world. What she's learned about life comes from the random books and old VHS tapes that she finds in the boxes and bags her mother brings home. Bun and her mother rarely talk, so when Bun's mother tells Bun to leave one day, she does. Hitchhiking out of town, Bun ends up on the streets of St. John's, Newfoundland. Fortunately, the first person she meets is Busker Boy, a street musician who senses her naivety and takes her in. Together they live in a house with an eclectic cast of characters: Chef, a hotel dishwasher with culinary dreams; Cher, a drag queen with a tragic past; Big Eyes, a Catholic school girl desperately trying to reinvent herself; and The Landlord, a man who Bun is told to avoid at all cost. Through her experiences with her new roommates, and their sometimes tragic revelations, Bun learns that the world extends beyond the walls of her mother's house and discovers the joy of being part of a new family -- a family of friends who care.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Homeless Bird Gloria Whelan, 2009-10-06

The National Book Award-winning novel about one remarkable young woman who dares to defy fate, perfect for readers who enjoyed *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park or *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai. Like many girls her age in India, thirteen-year-old Koly faces her arranged marriage with hope and courage. But Koly's story takes a terrible turn when in the wake of the ceremony, she discovers she's been horribly misled—her life has been sold for a dowry. Can she forge her own future, even in the face of time-worn tradition? Perfect for schools and classrooms, this universally acclaimed, bestselling, and award-winning novel by master of historical fiction Gloria Whelan is a gripping tale of hope that will transport readers of all ages.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: An Economist Walks into a Brothel Allison Schrager,

2019-04-02 A Financial Times Book of the Month pick for April! Is it worth swimming in shark-infested waters to surf a 50-foot, career-record wave? Is it riskier to make an action movie or a horror movie? Should sex workers forfeit 50 percent of their income for added security or take a chance and keep the extra money? Most people wouldn't expect an economist to have an answer to these questions--or to other questions of daily life, such as who to date or how early to leave for the airport. But those people haven't met Allison Schrager, an economist and award-winning journalist who has spent her career examining how people manage risk in their lives and careers. Whether we realize it or not, we all take risks large and small every day. Even the most cautious among us cannot opt out--the question is always which risks to take, not whether to take them at all. What most of us don't know is how to measure those risks and maximize the chances of getting what we want out of life. In *An Economist Walks into a Brothel*, Schrager equips readers with five principles for dealing with risk, principles used by some of the world's most interesting risk takers. For instance, she interviews a professional poker player about how to stay rational when the stakes are high, a paparazzo in Manhattan about how to spot different kinds of risk, horse breeders in Kentucky about how to diversify risk and minimize losses, and a war general who led troops in Iraq about how

to prepare for what we don't see coming. When you start to look at risky decisions through Schrager's new framework, you can increase the upside to any situation and better mitigate the downside.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Secrets in the Shadows Anne E. Schraff, Paul Langan, 2002 When Roylin Bailey falls in love with a new girl in his history class, he finds that his life starts to fall apart.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Rats Saw God Rob Thomas, 2012-06-12 Steve details his descent from bright star to burnout in this newly repackaged edition of the definitive, highly acclaimed novel from the creator of Veronica Mars and Party Down. Houston, sophomore year: Steve is on top of the world. He and his friends are the talk of the school. He's in love with a terrific girl. He can even deal with "the astronaut"—a world-famous hero who happens to be his father. San Diego, senior year: Steve is bummed out, drugged out, flunking out. A no-nonsense counselor says he can graduate if he writes a 100-page paper. So Steve starts writing, and as the paper becomes more and more personal, he reveals how a National Merit Scholar has become an under-achieving stoner. And in telling how he got to where he is, Steve discovers how to get to where he wants to be.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Voyage of the Frog Gary Paulsen, 2014-05-27 An adventure novel about survival at sea from the Newbery Award-winning author of Northwind. "An epic, often lyrical journey of self-discovery." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) ALA/YALSA Best Book for Young Adults ALA Notable Book for Children ALA/YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers David thought he was alone, that the ocean around him was all there was of the world. The wind screamed, the waves towered, and his boat, the twenty-two foot fiberglass FROG, skidded and bucked and, each moment, filled deeper and grew heavier with sea water. David thought surely he was dead at fourteen. His uncle Owen, who had taught him about sailing safely, would be so angry. Owen had died only days ago, his last wish for David to take the FROG out on his own, and sail her beyond sight of the coast, and once there, scatter Owen's ashes. David had done this the evening before, but he hadn't thought of a storm roaring across the Pacific, or of the terror of being alone later in the dark hundreds of miles from home with no radio or flares and little food. He hadn't thought of a shark attacking, or of the four killer whales, or the oil tanker large as a city about to sink him and the FROG . . . But in fact, David wasn't alone at all. He'd had the FROG as a partner from the first—his uncle's guiding spirit. He had only to learn that. "Paulsen's spare prose offers an affecting blend of the boy's inner thoughts and keen observations of the power of nature to destroy and to heal." —School Library Journal

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Faceless Alyssa Sheinmel, 2016-01-07 When Maisie is struck by lightning, her face is partially destroyed. She's lucky enough to get a face transplant, but how do you live your life when you can't even recognize yourself any more? She was a runner, a girlfriend, a good student ... a normal girl. Now, after a single freak accident, all that has changed. As Maisie discovers how much her looks did and didn't shape her relationship to the world, she has to redefine her own identity, and figure out what 'lucky' really means.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Middle School: Get Me out of Here! James Patterson, Chris Tebbetts, 2012-05-07 Live large with James Patterson's winning follow-up to the #1 New York Times bestseller Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life. After sixth grade, the very worst year of his life, Rafe Khatchadorian thinks he has it made in seventh grade. He's been accepted to art school in the big city and imagines a math-and-history-free fun zone. Wrong! It's more competitive than Rafe ever expected, and to score big in class, he needs to find a way to turn his boring life into the inspiration for a work of art. His method? Operation: Get a Life! Anything he's never done before, he's going to do it, from learning to play poker to going to a modern art museum. But when his newest mission uncovers secrets about the family Rafe's never known, he has to decide if he's ready to have his world turned upside down.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Monday's Not Coming Tiffany D. Jackson, 2018-05-22 Jackson's characters and their heart-wrenching story linger long after the final page, urging readers to advocate for those who are disenfranchised and forgotten by society and the

system. (Publishers Weekly, An Anti-Racist Children's and YA Reading List) From the critically acclaimed author of *Allegedly*, Tiffany D. Jackson, comes a gripping novel about the mystery of one teenage girl's disappearance and the traumatic effects of the truth. Monday Charles is missing, and only Claudia seems to notice. Claudia and Monday have always been inseparable—more sisters than friends. So when Monday doesn't turn up for the first day of school, Claudia's worried. When she doesn't show for the second day, or second week, Claudia knows that something is wrong. Monday wouldn't just leave her to endure tests and bullies alone. Not after last year's rumors and not with her grades on the line. Now Claudia needs her best—and only—friend more than ever. But Monday's mother refuses to give Claudia a straight answer, and Monday's sister April is even less help. As Claudia digs deeper into her friend's disappearance, she discovers that no one seems to remember the last time they saw Monday. How can a teenage girl just vanish without anyone noticing that she's gone?

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Tears of a Tiger Sharon M. Draper, 2013-07-23 The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Year I Stopped Trying Katie Heaney, 2024-02-06 Mary never imagined spending her junior year with an existential crisis—but here she is, in this story of overachieving, growing up, and coming out, from the author of *Girl Crushed* and *Never Have I Ever*. Mary is having an existential crisis. She's a good student, she never gets in trouble, and she is searching for the meaning of life. She always thought she'd find it in a perfect score on the SATs. But by junior year, Mary isn't so sure anymore. The first time, it's an accident. She forgets to do a history assignment. She even crosses history essay off in her pristine planner. And then: Nothing happens. She doesn't burst into flames, the world doesn't end, the teacher doesn't even pull her aside after class. So she asks herself: Why am I trying so hard? What if I stop? With her signature wit and heaps of dark humor, Katie Heaney delivers a stunning YA novel the sprints full-force into the big questions our teen years beg--and adeptly unravels their web.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Boy Underground Catherine Ryan Hyde, 2021-12-07 During WWII, a teenage boy finds his voice, the courage of his convictions, and friends for life in an emotional and uplifting novel by the New York Times and #1 Amazon Charts bestselling author. 1941. Steven Katz is the son of prosperous landowners in rural California. Although his parents don't approve, he's found true friends in Nick, Suki, and Ollie, sons of field workers. The group is inseparable. But Steven is in turmoil. He's beginning to acknowledge that his feelings for Nick amount to more than friendship. When the bombing of Pearl Harbor draws the US into World War II, Suki and his family are forced to leave their home for the internment camp at Manzanar. Ollie enlists in the army and ships out. And Nick must flee. Betrayed by his own father and accused of a crime he didn't commit, he turns to Steven for help. Hiding Nick in a root cellar on his family's farm, Steven acts as Nick's protector and lifeline to the outside world. As the war escalates, bonds deepen and the fear of being different falls away. But after Nick unexpectedly disappears one day, Steven's life focus is to find him. On the way, Steven finds a place he belongs and a lesson about love that will last him his lifetime.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: We Are Lost and Found Helene Dunbar, 2019-09-03 From the queen of heartbreaking prose (Paste) Helene Dunbar, *We Are Lost and Found* is a young adult realistic fiction novel in the vein of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* about three friends coming-of-age against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the early 1980s. Michael is content to live in the shadow of his best friends, James and Becky. Plus, his brother, Connor, has already been kicked out of the house for being gay and laying low seems to be Michael's only chance at avoiding the same fate. To pass the time before graduation, Michael hangs out at The Echo where he can dance and forget about his father's angry words, the pressures of school, and the looming threat of AIDS, a disease that everyone is talking about, but no one understands. Then he meets Gabriel, a boy who actually sees him. A boy who, unlike seemingly everyone else in New York City, is interested in him and not James. And Michael has to decide what he's willing to risk to be himself.

This book is perfect for: Readers who want stories centering gay boys coming of age Parents and educators looking for realistic historical fiction for teens Fans of Becky Albertalli, Adam Silvera, and Stephen Chbosky Praise for *We Are Lost and Found*: Dunbar painstakingly populates the narrative with 1980s references—particularly to music—creating a vivid historical setting... A painful but ultimately empowering queer history lesson.—Kirkus Reviews It's a certain type of magic that Helene Dunbar managed with this story... A hauntingly beautiful, yet scarring story that captures the struggles of figuring out who you are while facing the uncertainties of the world, a story that should be mandatory reading for all.—The Nerd Daily *We Are Lost and Found* absolutely sparkles... she so perfectly, so evocatively captures the angst, uncertainty, and shaky self-confidence of adolescence that it might make you wince.—Echo Magazine Optioned for a major motion picture adaptation by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau's production company, Ill Kippers!

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* Jack Gantos, 2011-07-05 They say I'm wired bad, or wired sad, but there's no doubt about it -- I'm wired. Joey Pigza's got heart, he's got a mom who loves him, and he's got dud meds, which is what he calls the Ritalin pills that are supposed to even out his wild mood swings. Sometimes Joey makes bad choices. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors. Joey ends up bouncing around a lot - and eventually he bounces himself all the way down, into the district special-ed program, which could be the end of the line. As Joey knows, if he keeps making bad choices, he could just fall between the cracks for good. But he is determined not to let that happen. In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyper-activity and related disorders. This title has Common Core connections. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: *The Music of Bees* Eileen Garvin, 2022-04-26 A NATIONAL BESTSELLER! A Good Morning America BUZZ PICK | A Good Housekeeping Book Club Pick | IndieNext Pick | LibraryReads Pick | Recommended by People • The Washington Post • Woman's World • NY Post • BookRiot • Bookish • Christian Science Monitor • Nerd Daily • The Tempest • Midwestness • The Coil • Read It Forward • and more! "An exquisite debut that combines a moving tale of friendship with a fascinating primer on bees."--People "This heartwarming, uplifting story will make you want to call your own friends, not to mention grab some honey."--Good Housekeeping Three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing--and maybe even a second chance--just when they least expect it. Forty-four-year-old Alice Holtzman is stuck in a dead-end job, bereft of family, and now reeling from the unexpected death of her husband. Alice has begun having panic attacks whenever she thinks about how her life hasn't turned out the way she dreamed. Even the beloved honeybees she raises in her spare time aren't helping her feel better these days. In the grip of a panic attack, she nearly collides with Jake--a troubled, paraplegic teenager with the tallest mohawk in Hood River County--while carrying 120,000 honeybees in the back of her pickup truck. Charmed by Jake's sincere interest in her bees and seeking to rescue him from his toxic home life, Alice surprises herself by inviting Jake to her farm. And then there's Harry, a twenty-four-year-old with debilitating social anxiety who is desperate for work. When he applies to Alice's ad for part-time farm help, he's shocked to find himself hired. As an unexpected friendship blossoms among Alice, Jake, and Harry, a nefarious pesticide company moves to town, threatening the local honeybee population and illuminating deep-seated corruption in the community. The unlikely trio must unite for the sake of the bees--and in the process, they just might forge a new future for themselves. Beautifully moving, warm, and uplifting, *The Music of Bees* is about the power of friendship, compassion in the face of loss, and finding the courage to start over (at any age) when things don't turn out the way you expect. "A hopeful, uplifting story about the power of chosen family and newfound home and beginning again . . . but it's the bees, with all their wonder and intricacy and intrigue, that make this story sing." --Laurie Frankel, New York Times bestselling author of *This Is How It Always Is* Eileen

Garvin's debut novel is uplifting, funny, bold, and inspirational. The Music of Bees sings! --Adriana Trigiani, New York Times bestselling author

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Bystander James Preller, 2009-09-29 Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: he's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim. This title has Common Core connections.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie David Lubar, 2007-01-18 Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. The guys you grew up with are drifting away. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Scott's chronicle of his first year of bullies, romance, honors classes, and brotherhood is both laugh-out-loud funny and touchingly wise.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Read the Face Eric Standop, Elisa Petrini, 2019-10-01 Relearn the intuitive language of face reading From birth, face is our first language. We are born face readers—knowing to seek out human features and faces from the moment our eyes open. We all have the intuitive ability to read and interpret the feelings and expressions of those around us. In Read the Face, master face reader Eric Standop unlocks the power of this innate human ability, sharing his own journey to become a face reading master, along with stories that illustrate the power of this unique language. Using a combination of three different schools of face reading, along with a scientific accuracy to detect the most fleeting microexpressions, Standop is able to read personality, character, emotions, and even the state of a person's health—all from simply glancing at their face. The book is divided into sections focusing on specific ways that face reading can offer insight, such as Health, Love, Communication, Work and Success. The stories are accompanied by detailed black and white illustrations of faces, allowing readers to observe the same features that Standop interpreted. The final section of the book outlines the meanings of dozens of facial features and face shapes, so that readers can recognize their own innate intuitive powers and develop them. Read the Face is a guide to using the ancient art and science of face reading to go beyond the surface and create the boldest life possible.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Bronze Bow Elizabeth George Speare, 1961 A young Jewish rebel is filled with hatred for the Romans and a desire to avenge his parents' deaths until Jesus of Nazareth teaches him love and understanding of others. A Newbery Medal book.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Love, Lucas Chantele Sedgwick, 2015-05-05 A 2015 Whitney Award Nominee! A powerful story of loss, second chances, and first love, reminiscent of Sarah Dessen and John Green. When Oakley Nelson loses her older brother, Lucas, to cancer, she thinks she'll never recover. Between her parents' arguing and the battle she's fighting with depression, she feels nothing inside but a hollow emptiness. When Mom suggests they spend a few months in California with Aunt Jo, Oakley isn't sure a change of scenery will alter anything, but she's willing to give it a try. In California, Oakley discovers a sort of safety and freedom in Aunt Jo's beach house. Once they're settled, Mom hands her a notebook full of letters addressed to her—from Lucas. As Oakley reads one each day, she realizes how much he loved her, and each letter challenges her to be better and to continue to enjoy her life. He wants her to move on. If only it were that easy. But then a surfer named Carson comes into her life, and Oakley is blindsided. He makes her feel again. As she lets him in, she is surprised by how much she cares for him, and that's when things get complicated. How can she fall in love and be happy when Lucas never got the chance to do those very same things? With her brother's dying words as guidance, Oakley knows she must learn to listen and trust again. But will she have to leave the past behind to find happiness in the future? Sky

Pony Press, with our Good Books, Racehorse and Arcade imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of books for young readers—picture books for small children, chapter books, books for middle grade readers, and novels for young adults. Our list includes bestsellers for children who love to play Minecraft; stories told with LEGO bricks; books that teach lessons about tolerance, patience, and the environment, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Out of the Dust (Scholastic Gold) Karen Hesse, 2012-09-01 Acclaimed author Karen Hesse's Newbery Medal-winning novel-in-verse explores the life of fourteen-year-old Billie Jo growing up in the dust bowls of Oklahoma. Out of the Dust joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! Dust piles up like snow across the prairie. . . . A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Blood Red Road Moira Young, 2011-07-07 Saba's twin is golden. She is his living shadow. He is strong and beautiful. She is scrawny and dark. But nothing will separate them... Raised in isolated Silverlake, Saba is ignorant of the violent and dangerous world beyond, where life is cheap and survival is hard. But when her twin brother is snatched by mysterious black-robed riders, she sets out on an epic quest to rescue him. How will Saba find him in a wild, scorching and lawless land? Every step of her journey sizzles with danger in this addictive futuristic thriller, which beats with a powerful, red-blooded heart. An outstanding debut... echoes of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* and the writing is fantastic. The Bookseller Spring Highlights Top 10 Written in a sparse, spare style that fits the bleak setting perfectly, and with a first-person narration that gets us right inside Saba's skin from the very first page, I absolutely loved reading *Blood Red Road*. Jill Murphy, Bookbag The writing is strong, and in *Saba*, the author has created a tough rebel to root for... the author's wonderful cast of characters and Saba's epic journey to save her brother will keep you glued to the pages. Mybookishways.com

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Words on Bathroom Walls Julia Walton, 2018-12-31 Now a Major Motion Picture starring Charlie Plummer, AnnaSophia Robb, and Taylor Russell! Fans of *More Happy Than Not* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* will cheer for Adam in this uplifting and surprisingly funny story of a boy living with schizophrenia. When you can't trust your mind, trust your heart. Adam is a pretty regular teen, except he's navigating high school life while living with paranoid schizophrenia. His hallucinations include a cast of characters that range from the good (beautiful Rebecca) to the bad (angry Mob Boss) to the just plain weird (polite naked guy). An experimental drug promises to help him hide his illness from the world. When Adam meets Maya, a fiercely intelligent girl, he desperately wants to be the normal, great guy that she thinks he is. But as the miracle drug begins to fail, how long can he keep this secret from the girl of his dreams? Echoing the premise and structure of *Flowers for Algernon*, this [is a] frank and inspiring novel. --Publishers Weekly, starred review Don't miss *Just Our Luck*, another stunning book by Julia Walton. Coming in 2020!

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Let the Willows Weep Sherry Parnell, 2010-07-01 Birddog Harlin is a willful and bitter woman whose husband leaves suddenly one morning. She is left with her sad and angry daughter. Birddog, feeling the detachment from her only child, recalls her own difficult past filled with the hurt of death, abandonment and loneliness. Painful memories flood her mind, forcing Birddog, who is teetering between self-destruction and redemption, to choose whether she will rise above her pain or whether she will fall.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: The Good Luck Of Right Now Matthew Quick, 2014-02-11 For almost four decades, Bartholomew Neil has done nothing but live with his mom.

When she begins calling him Richard—for reasons unknown—and then dies, Bartholomew is woefully unprepared.” A clue comes in the form of a “Free Tibet” letter he finds in his mother’s underwear drawer, and so Bartholomew awkwardly starts his new life, writing Richard Gere a series of highly intimate fan letters. Jung’s theory of synchronicity, the mystery of women, the Dalai Lama’s teachings, alien abduction, cat telepathy and the Catholic Church are all explored in depth by Bartholomew’s epistles—but mostly the letters outline one man’s heartbreakingly earnest attempt to assemble a family of his own. A struggling priest, a “girlbrarian,” her foul-mouthed brother and Richard Gere (well, sort of) join the quest. In a rented Ford Focus, they travel to Canada in search of Bartholomew’s biological father and end up finding so much more.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Dress Codes for Small Towns Courtney Stevens, 2017-08-22 A Golden Kite Honor Book of 2018 * A Kirkus Best Book of 2017 “A poetic love letter to the complexities of teenage identity, and the frustrations of growing up in a place where everything fits in a box—except you.”—David Arnold, New York Times bestselling author of Kids of Appetite Courtney Stevens firmly reasserts herself as a master storyteller of young adult fiction; crafting stories bursting with humor, heart, and the deepest sort of empathy.—Jeff Zentner, 2017 Morris Award Winner for The Serpent King Courtney Stevens carries us into the best kind of mess: deep friendships, small town Southern gossip, unexpected garage art, and unfolding romantic identity.—Jaye Robin Brown, author of Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit As the tomboy daughter of the town’s preacher, Billie McCaffrey has always struggled with fitting the mold of what everyone says she should be. She’d rather wear sweats, build furniture, and get into trouble with her solid group of friends: Woods, Mash, Davey, Fifty, and Janie Lee. But when Janie Lee confesses to Billie that she’s in love with Woods, Billie’s filled with a nagging sadness as she realizes that she is also in love with Woods...and maybe with Janie Lee, too. Always considered “one of the guys,” Billie doesn’t want anyone slapping a label on her sexuality before she can understand it herself. So she keeps her conflicting feelings to herself, for fear of ruining the group dynamic. Except it’s not just about keeping the peace, it’s about understanding love on her terms—this thing that has always been defined as a boy and a girl falling in love and living happily ever after. For Billie—a box-defying dynamo—it’s not that simple. Readers will be drawn to Billie as she comes to terms with the gray areas of love, gender, and friendship, in this John Hughes-esque exploration of sexual fluidity.

perks of being a wallflower sparknotes: Monster Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. Monster is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story that was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist. Monster is now a major motion picture called All Rise and starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Nas, and A\$AP Rocky. The late Walter Dean Myers was a National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, who was known for his commitment to realistically depicting kids from his hometown of Harlem.

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