



2013

Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians By Brandon Sanderson

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Holst, Brandon (2013) "Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians By Brandon Sanderson," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

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Author: Sanderson, Brandon

Title: *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians*

Year of Publication: 2007

Publisher: Scholastic

ISBN: 9780439925525

of pages: 308

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Courage; Challenges; Abilities; Librarians; Fantasy

Review:

When thirteen year old foster child Alcatraz finally meets his Grandfather who is always “late for things,” he finds out he has an important talent for breaking things that he will use to save the Free Kingdoms. On his thirteenth birthday he receives a bag of sand. The Evil Librarians want to use the sand to create what they believe to be a powerful weapon to conquer the Free Kingdoms, so they steal it. Alcatraz and his Grandfather go deep into library territory to get the bag back and they soon find that it has already been turned into a monocle. Obtaining the monocle before the Evil Librarians can figure out how to use it, Alcatraz and his family are able to escape from the library using dinosaurs and a library card.

Sanderson is very good at using things in our everyday life (not what we would see as very advantageous: breaking things and always being late, for example) to emphasize anything can be an advantage if we see the use of it. In each chapter Alcatraz breaks the fourth wall and directly talks with the reader, which can be confusing, but Sanderson does well in intertwining these outbursts from the narrator to the reader. This book would be great to teach students about the writers craft especially about devices authors use to catch and keep a reader’s attention. Geared specifically towards middle grade readers, this book still has broad appeal for any age group who could pick up the book and equally enjoy the twist of perceptions.

Reviewers Name: Brandon Holst

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