



2007

Edenville Owls

Holly Dickman

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Parker, Robert B.. *Edenville Owls*. Philomel, 2007. ISBN 9780399246562. \$17.99. 194 p.

Reviewer: Holly Dickman

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction; Detective and mystery stories; Historical Fiction;

Subject: Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Basketball--Juvenile fiction; Teachers--Juvenile fiction;

War--Juvenile fiction; Prejudices--Juvenile fiction; Coming of age--Juvenile fiction;

Massachusetts--History--20th century--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Bobby Murphy is more than the average eighth grader: Bobby Murphy is a detective. This may seem unlikely at first, as this small town boy struggles with normal teenage boy problems—such as making it to the basketball tournament without a coach, and understanding his strong feelings for his cute friend Joanie. However, as the story unfolds, Bobby's inner detective begins to show. One evening after school, Bobby oversees an angry conversation between his pretty school teacher and a mysterious (and dangerous) looking man. Bobby decides it is up to him to figure out who this man is and how to stop him before the school teacher gets in real trouble. With the help of his loyal basketball teammates and his adventure-loving friend Joanie, this mystery soon unravels.

This mystery will keep readers on the edge of their seats while they follow Bobby on his quest for answers. Bobby Murphy is a well developed character; he faces many typical challenges that for his age. An interesting twist comes from the setting of the story taking place at the end of World War II. This provides for interesting and unique characters, especially the dangerous and mysterious man that Bobby must spy on. The story seems innocent enough; however, an unexpected number of racial slurs and terms may offend some. Also, it was difficult not to notice the fast, simple, and slightly unrealistic ending. Despite some of its faults, the book was a fast read, and an entertaining mystery. Useful for middle or high school libraries. Could serve as a good recommend for reluctant readers who enjoy mysteries.