



2008

It's Only Temporary

Larysa Bordner

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Warner, Sally. *It's Only Temporary*. Illustrated by Warner, Sally. Viking, 2008. ISBN 9780670061112. \$15.99. 182 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Middle schools--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Bullying--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Being part of a family and community is complicated, and no one knows this better than Skye McPhee. Her brother Scott used to be her best friend. Now they are teenagers, and he was recently in a bad car accident that was his fault. The accident has turned their family upside down. Her parents decide that Skye should go live with her grandmother in California until Scott is better. The whole time Skye is in California, she gets through tough situations by telling herself that "it's only temporary." However, Skye learns that most things in life are temporary, and life is about finding the joy in the relationships and time that is available. She learns to make new friends, to stand up for herself against bullies, and to be understanding of others.

It's Only Temporary is a somber story with a comical feel. There are many difficult situations that Skye must face, but her quirky personality keeps the narrative feeling hopeful. Qualities similar to *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh are evident throughout this book, and both books share similar situations. Both girls pour their every thought and feeling into a journal that they would prefer to remain hidden from the world, but which someone comes to be public. *It's Only Temporary* is an honest look at how a girl feels about the situations she must face in her life, and it shows how time can teach someone to be graceful in their actions and reactions.

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