



2018

# The List

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### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Osborn, Katelyn (2018) "The List," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 2 , Article 91.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss2/91>

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## Book Review

### The List

#### Author

Siobhan Vivian

#### Illustrator

#### Reviewer

Katelyn Osborn

#### Rating

Dependable

#### Level

Young Adult

#### Pages

333

#### Year

2012

#### Publisher

Push

#### ISBN

9780545169172

Every year at Mount Washington High School, The List goes up right before Homecoming. The four “prettiest” girls and the four “ugliest” girls are on it, and that’s all anyone can talk about. This year, the prettiest girls listed are freshman Abby, who wishes her sister could understand how much of an honor this is; sophomore Lauren, the new girl who’s only ever been homeschooled; junior Bridget, whose body transformation hasn’t been a healthy one; and senior Margo, who isn’t surprised to be there. The girls on the other side of the list are Danielle, who is worried about what her boyfriend will say when he sees he’s dating the “ugliest” freshman, sophomore Candace who doesn’t understand why she’s on the “ugly” list, Sarah who takes her nomination to make a statement, and senior Jennifer, who’s been named “ugliest” all four years she’s been at Mount Washington. The story follows all eight girls through finding out they’ve been Listed to the homecoming dance – the high points, the low points, and all the drama in between.

The List is an in-depth look at the idea that being pretty brings happiness, and uses the lives of these eight girls to experiment on that hypothesis. However, none of the girls on the “prettiest” or “ugliest” list are truly happy, and that will inspire readers to look around them and realize that no one has a perfect life, no matter how ideal it may look from the outside. Some of these girls learn that you don’t need others’ opinions to be happy, but sadly, some girls don’t. The List is told from the perspective of each of the eight girls on the list, so most readers will find themselves identifying with at least one of them. Some of the girls start to sound very similar, which can make it difficult to tell the girls and their stories apart. Additionally, a few girls feel more developed than others – some feel much more realistic, while others feel more like caricatures than actual people. This book is appropriate for high-school aged readers, as there are mature themes and explicit language throughout.

\*Contains severe language and moderate sexual content.