



2018

Sunny Side Up

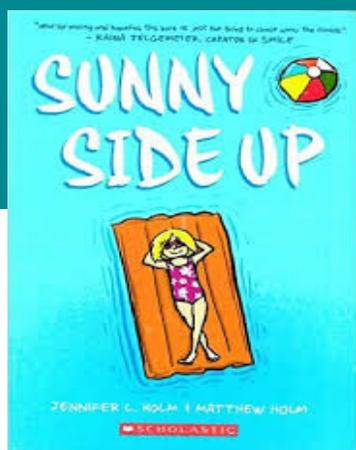
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Book Review

Sunny Side Up

Author

Jennifer L. Holm and

Illustrator

Lark Pien

Reviewer

Kylee Hackney

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

216

Year

2015

Publisher

Graphix: Scholastic

ISBN

9780545741668

Ten year-old, Sunny Lewin's plans change when her family cancels their beach house summer vacation and sends her to spend the entire summer with her grandpa in Florida. With hopes of spending her summer days in Disney World, she is sorely mistaken when she ends up passing time with the elderly people of Pine Palms Retirement Community. Luckily, she meets Buzz, another kid her age! The two spend the summer reading comics, tracking down the run-away cats, and collecting stray golf balls. While Sunny's summer is turning out to be better than she anticipated, she can't help but be reminded of why her family sent her away in the first place. Back home, her brother Dale is on the verge of a drug addiction and Sunny is constantly reminded of her family's struggle to help him overcome his demon. Sunny finds answers and peace as she spends time away from it all with her new friends and family in Florida.

Sunny Side Up is a wonderfully designed graphic novel, written by Jennifer and Matthew Holm that covers the message of eliminating self-blame when loved ones are involved in substance abuse. Sunny feels confused and partially responsible for her brother's poor choices which causes her to feel ashamed and hurt. Balanced with her days spent reading comics and playing with friends, like a normal 10-year-old should, this humorous and yet emotional story is relatable to many young readers who carry the burden of overcoming family hardship and trial while trying to still be a kid. Readers will love the comedic phrases and graphics that make this book so difficult to put down. This is a powerful story to read and discuss with young adults to help them broaden their perspectives about what people are coping with in their day to day lives.