



2018

The Truth As Told By Mason Buttle

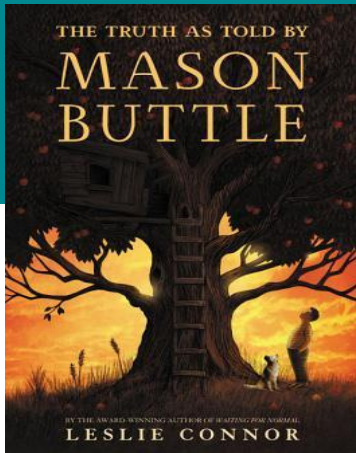
Taylor Harris

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Harris, Taylor (2018) "The Truth As Told By Mason Buttle," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 5 , Article 93.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss5/93>

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Book Review

The Truth As Told By Mason Buttle

Author

Leslie Connor

Illustrator

Reviewer

Taylor Harris

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

326

Year

2018

Publisher

Katherine Tegen Books

ISBN

9780062491435

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade and has visible learning disabilities. When he finds his best friend, Benny, dead in their orchard, he can't seem to satisfy the cops with the honest story of all he knows. The whole town, including the police, think that Mason was the one who tampered with the ladder that killed Benny. So when his new best friend, Calvin, goes missing, the cops are a little more than suspicious. Thankfully, Mason finds Calvin in a light shaft they had built in their clubhouse and they are able to save him. However, the mystery of what happened to Benny isn't solved until Mason accidentally discovers his missing handsaw in neighbor's garage and they realize that the bully kids were the ones who had tampered with the ladder. With the case finally resolved, it offers the Buttles the will they need to start putting their life back together as a family.

Told in twelve-year-old Mason's honest, innocent voice, *The Truth As Told By Mason Buttle* pulls readers in and delivers a heart wrenching tale—a tale about bullying, disabilities, and friendship. Connor skillfully weaves the story in first-person perspective while providing complex development for all characters. Mason has multiple conditions and disabilities: dyslexia, hyperhidrosis, and color synesthesia—all for which he is bullied relentlessly. Despite the meanness of the other kids, Mason has a simple, optimistic perspective and views others as having good intentions. Connor uses dramatic irony in helping the readers figure out what is going on while Mason himself has no idea. His innocent, sweet nature is endearing and it will break readers' hearts to see the trauma that he has to work through. Much of the trauma is implied, for example, Benny's death is not explicitly detailed in the book; however, Mason describes explicitly boys throwing apples or lacrosse balls at him and the nasty names they call him. Material may be too heavy for young readers. A beautiful story of loyalty and friendship that teaches readers to listen a little better and be kind to all people, for you never know their story.

Contains a homosexual relationship (two dads), mild language, and mild violence.