



2019

WhatsHisFace

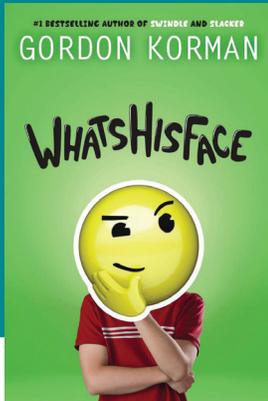
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Book Review

WhatsHisFace

Author

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Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

231

Year

2018

ISBN

9781338200164

Publisher

Scholastic Press

Cooper Vega is sure that no one at his new school will ever learn his name. So he's surprised when the beautiful Jolie introduces herself and asks him his name. Unfortunately, she's way out of his league. She's caught the eye of the soccer star, Brock, and they're cast as Romeo and Juliet in the school play. Every year the seventh graders perform one of Shakespeare's works, funded by a millionaire who's obsessed with Shakespeare. When Cooper takes a picture of the man's private museum, his phone starts glitching. Then a person appears on his screen. It's not an image. It's not a video. His name is Roderick and according to him, he's been dead since 1596. Cooper can't get the ghost to leave his phone, so he starts introducing Roderick to 21st century life. The two become unlikely friends, and as Cooper takes him to play practice, he learns that Roderick's past is tangled with Shakespeare's. The kids at school may never learn Cooper's name, but Cooper decides it's time they know Roderick's.

This book is a great light read for a middle school aged child. It is funny and has a suspenseful plot. The book entertains the idea that Shakespeare's work was never completely his own, at least not with Romeo and Juliet. According to Whatshisface, it was mostly written by Roderick Barnabas Northrop. While it's true that the authenticity of Shakespeare can neither be confirmed nor denied, Roderick's story is a bit of a stretch. However, it is written to be believable enough. This book could encourage readers to become more interested in history and the works we attribute to William Shakespeare. Cooper has a strong moral compass and is a decent role model of a protagonist. His voice in the book sounds a little older than that of a typical seventh grader, and his love interest, Jolie, is a quite a bit more adventurous than your typical seventh grader. Nonetheless, the book still captures the middle school scene through Cooper's relatable experiences. The characters have distinct personalities and the story is original with just the right amount of seriousness and humor.