



The Eyes of Kid Midas

Neal Shusterman

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What if a seventh grader could have everything he wanted? He'd make ice-cream cones materialize out of nowhere and zap up every video game he'd ever wanted, right? But what if he was also tired of being bullied and all it took to change that was to put on a pair of sunglasses? Kevin Midas's new look is more than just for style -- he's out for revenge!

The Eyes of Kid Midas Details

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From Reader Review The Eyes of Kid Midas for online ebook

Christy Keeler says

I loved the book until the last third. It seemed to become a little "too much" and then ended without a strong conclusion—the perennial "then he woke up from a dream" kind of ending. Shusterman, though, is a great storyteller and I was eager to continue reading until the end.

Sandra Strange says

A typical Shusterman, fun and easy to read but bringing up issues teens should face and discuss; aimed at junior high, but gripping for older teens, too. What if you could access something that would give you the power to do ANYTHING, to change reality to punish bullies, reward friends, conjure up any food, video game, nice clothing item, to have power over anything you want or don't want? The reason the kid's last name is Midas becomes apparent pretty quickly.

Jason Alberto says

A very great book for kids, recommended age is 8 onwards. It will teach kids about what would happen when you abuse something, value of friendship, and many more.

Dayton says

Good

Victor says

Another fantastic one by Shusterman. I first read this as a kid and just reread it in one day. Still holds up. Kevin Midas gets his hands on magical glasses that grant him great power but all is not as it appears.

For its target audience it is a fantastic piece with a protagonist that is in no way perfect but acts exactly as you'd expect a seventh grader to act in such a bizarre situation. Four stars.

Clairemantle says

This book is definitely a book that makes you think. It focuses on a young boy's slow descent into madness and his peak to reprieve when he finds a pair of glasses that grant his every wish. The story is packed with suspense and questions of morality.

The best part of the novel to me was the unbelievably realistic protagonist. Kevin Midas, thinks, feels, and acts in every way a young outcast character would. He is desperate to win the heart of an unattainable girl, he struggles to escape the torment of an angry bully, and he puts all his trust in only one person that he calls his friend. Kevin also bears the unmistakable human quality of greed. As the glasses give him power, he finds himself wishing for things that affect others if he were to have them. He also feels guilt for his actions later on, despite how horribly people treat him.

More likable than the characters is the plot line. It is perfectly paced to match the Kevin's emotional responses. The climax is simple, but far from uninteresting. There is also a section of the book in which Kevin supposedly meets a deity that is outstandingly written. Some of the sections of the book were also quite scary, helping the reader to understand the horrible power of greed.

The only problem I had with this book was its description. There were certain sequences in the book in which Kevin's powers warped and distorted objects and scenes. These sequences were poorly described, and almost a pain to read. There were also a lot of personal depictions of very personal things, such as hell, heaven, and the concept of love itself. Neal Shusterman was very biased in terms of their portrayal, and more often than not, I was left confused by their actual form.

I think this was a good read. It's not something I would recommend to pick up the second you get the chance, but I would definitely advise it if a reader had nothing else to read.

Re?i?g?n? Warner [Last Words for The Rogue Bookwolf] says

"It's not like it was just yesterday."

-Taken from the song, Just Yesterday by This Wild Life

This is my 6th Shusterman book read. Hence, I would not question the universe about the sense of clichés but Shusterman inputted a twist from the movie, Zathura. It was like watching a classic children Sci-Fi movie and I'm adherent that I cannot distinguished Shusterman's specialty to shock the readers from the reality that I'm also impressed with an ordinary form of clichéd adventure.

It's very quick and catchy as to whereas I am expecting to land on reading. Overall, Shusterman is well-enhanced with the Children books genre while still employing out characters that have a very keen role and matured attitude towards the situation of the plot.

That, I'd say, might be a relevant upside of his books such as this one. If I were to have that kind of glasses, I'd bother to wish that people should stop complaining about the morals of their own radicals in life and be a face-forward kind of person. So there shall be equality in the parallel universe of their lives.

Heavenly bodies attracts this book with a 4.00 stars of 5. Well, this book is amazing with its own terms of science fiction.

Just... be careful what you wish for if you ever get to have one wish or you may be doped. Happy that I read another of Shusterman's work!

Josiah says

"On its worst days, the world still made some sort of sense, and that was a good thing."

?*The Eyes of Kids Midas*, P. 148

"There was a moment?just an instant in time?when reality and dreams met each other before switching places. It was a moment of absolute insanity..."

?*The Eyes of Kid Midas*, P. 145

Neal Shusterman is good with big ideas. It's hard for me to think of another author who really even compares to him in the dreaming up and management of big ideas, who can match his skill in creating a concept that seems to loom up and off the page as if it's more than just an idea in a story. Robert Cormier, perhaps, does this as well as Neal Shusterman, but I can't think of anyone who does it any better. *The Eyes of Kid Midas* is a *big idea* kind of book, the sort of metaphysically challenging read that one simply did not come across in the young-adult section of a bookstore before Neal Shusterman turned the genre on its head and became arguably the greatest writer of his day. Fear lurks within these pages, but it's not fear of a monster or a deadly paranormal force; it's not even fear of the glasses that Kevin Midas finds at the top of a mountain during a school camping trip, glasses that hold the power to destroy Kevin and everything he knows. It's the fear of our own cognition, of perceiving that all knowledge is illusory and the mainstays of reality seen as most unchangeable of all can be altered with but a single thought. It's the fear of not knowing what has changed when the world all of the sudden become a fundamentally different place; or worse, seeing the change but being the only one capable of recognizing what has happened. Crack the binding on *The Eyes of Kid Midas* if you dare, but be forewarned that what follows will be an intense and personally challenging experience, perhaps like nothing else you've ever read. Be prepared to stretch the limits of your consciousness as far as they can possibly go, and don't be shocked if something rips in the process.

Why is there a pair of glasses at the top of mystical Divine Watch mountain?where few (if any) humans are believed to have ever climbed?sitting like a prize waiting to be claimed at a spot where legend suggests that the sun's rays enter a perfect alignment like no other place on earth? Kevin Midas doesn't care much that the prize at the mountain's peak is only a pair of glasses; to him, beating relentless bullies Bertram and Hal to the top of the mountain is a big deal, and he wants to commemorate his victory with a souvenir. So he swipes the glasses from where they sit and slides them onto his face to replace the ones that Bertram had broken earlier, and is surprised that they fit him so well. Even the prescription is suited to his needs, but what else the glasses provide is beyond Kevin's wildest expectations.

When it becomes apparent that the glasses from Divine Watch are charged with the mysterious power to give Kevin anything for which he asks, the balance of authority in Kevin's life suddenly tilts drastically in his favor. He has power over everyone, now, should he choose to exercise it: other students, teachers, his parents, sister, friends, even complete strangers. With these glasses, the entire world is at Kevin's mercy, and it's up to him to choose what happens next. While there are definite penalties for using the power of the glasses too much, there really are no limits to what Kevin can do with them. He faces the ultimate question, then, that ever confronts anyone possessed of enough power to permanently change the world: will he use it for good, or evil?

The insights that Neal Shusterman has, both philosophical and practical, into the scenario presented in *The Eyes of Kid Midas* are staggering. The brilliance of thought that permeates his later novels is in fine form

here, hitting the outer walls that we think can restrict how far the plot of a story reaches and blowing right through them like they don't even exist, because they don't. Nothing exists for sure in Kevin Midas's world once he crosses paths with these powerful glasses that open up every possibility imaginable, and ones that aren't, for his personal selection. We don't even know for sure that Kevin exists, or that this book exists. All we know is that the world seemed to be a much less complicated place before we began reading this story, but maybe that's just because Neal Shusterman has opened our minds to potentials and realities that we'd never considered. After all, he *has* always been good with big ideas.

Despite the transcendental nature of *The Eyes of Kid Midas*, there's plenty of solid wisdom to be taken from it. The presentation of the dilemma of great power requiring great responsibility is as forceful as in pretty much any other story I've ever read, bringing it home in a way that won't quickly be forgotten. In fact, I think I can safely say that readers aren't likely to forget much of *anything* about this book, and I don't give that compliment lightly. As "out there" as anything ever published by Neal Shusterman, *The Eyes of Kid Midas* fits in well with the rest of his body of writing work, and I'm sure that it will be read and talked about among readers of all ages and backgrounds for a long time. I would give it two and a half stars.

"It seemed the more he had, the more he felt was missing, and now that he had everything, he felt as if he had nothing. An overwhelming sense of emptiness cried out from inside him. *I need...I need...*, but he didn't know what he needed anymore."

?*The Eyes of Kid Midas*, PP. 136-137

Dustin Reade says

I read this book when I was around nine to eleven, and I remember it floored me then, and it has stayed with me ever since. Scenes here and there, mostly, nothing definite anymore, but the whole FEEL of the book stays with me, and the knowledge that reading it was a great time. It was fun, and I think this was one of those books that taught me how fun and exciting reading could be.

Tammy says

Well this book was good and a quick read of only 146 pages. I love Neal Shusterman and in his style the book was interesting. Some of the fantasy elements were a bit much for me, but overall I would recommend this book. I also think it's a great book for some reluctant readers especially since it's such a quick read.

Neil (or bleed) says

The Eyes of Kid Midas is similar to the books I've read and shows I've watched that if you abuse a magical item, everything will/can go wrong after, though this book is kinda different to others because of a plot twist that was unbelievable in a good way and a kind of breath-gasping. And the characters were witty and snarky in their own ways. Anyway, it raises all sorts about bullying, friendship, family, reality, selfishness, revenge that left a lesson-mark in my heart and I had fun.

Lunamoth says

For 13 year old Kevin Midas life sucks. Bullied and a social loser only his friend Josh could make things better, until Kevin finds a pair of sunglasses on top of a mountain. Then everything changes as Kevin wears the glasses, things he thinks and things he wants start appearing but not everything comes out for the better. It's a classic case of 'Be careful what you wish for' and shows how someone can be so corrupted by Greed that a simple answer is often the farthest from your mind.

The eyes of kid midas was.. just okay. Really, it could not compare to Shustermans other books like Dreadlocks and The Shadow Club. It has its moments, Kevin is convincing and his friend Josh is as well, The bully is predictably mean and nasty and his older sister is in his eyes predictably annoying. The real meat of the story is the thought process behind the story, what if everything were a dream? What if you could create your own dreamworld? What would happen and would you like it? Could you change it if you could, or would you want to?. These are the question I was asking myself when I was done reading this book and I think that is what the author wanted to happen.

While it may not be as good as some of the authors other stuff, this was a fun, easy and short read and im never entirely disappointed with Shustermans work.

Cassy says

I have yet to actually read a Neal Shusterman book and think, "Nope, didn't like that." This book gets really wonky, but in that awesome way towards the end. And I love how the book is a lot about control and the control that Kevin has over his life. This is the first time that he can actually control what is happening to him.

I also like the relationships in the book. His parents aren't really perfect. In fact, they kind of ignore him. But his sister, though she can be mean at times, doesn't. She listens to him, loves him, supports him when its really important.

Really, the glasses show how easily his life can spiral out of control, even without the glasses.

It's fun and well written and I finished it in a day, so that should be a good indication of how much I liked it.

Todd says

I read this book long ago when I was in jr.high. (first read in like- 1994 when the author came to our school.) I realize it is strange to write a review soo long after reading, but i must.

This book is the reason I like to read today. I was not into reading -at all- as a kid and actually wasn't a big reader after -but for laziness alone. I always wanted to read more- because of my enjoying this book so much.

I love the impossible-brought-to-life type of story, and this one certainly qualifies. The main character Kevin Midas is a loser with a capital L and by chance finds a pair of magical sunglasses that allow all of his dreams to come true. It is a very cute adventure story with a moral. I loved it as a kid and read it many times over the years (as you would re-watch old childhood movies later in life). I still own a copy and flip through it once in a while.

If you have kids who don't seem into reading, this is a great introduction to literature! I speak from experience.

Mom says

Seventh grader Kevin is a short scrawny kid with only one friend, Josh. On a camping trip, they climb to the top of Divine Mountain and find a pair of sunglasses. Kevin puts the glasses on and quickly discovers that they are magic, capable of granting his every wish.

The story proceeds as expected; Kevin wishes for (and gets) cool clothes, candy, stereo sets, video games, lambourginis.... But then the glasses begin to steal power from wall sockets, becoming stronger and stronger. Soon the glasses grant Kevin's wishes, even when he doesn't speak them. Kevin becomes physically addicted to the glasses and cannot stop using them. Terrible things happen because of his wishes, but he cannot undo anything. The plot intensifies and things get quickly out of control.

I read this book thinking of my 9 year old grandson, and found myself swept up in the drama. He has the book now, and is totally entranced as well. This is one of the most exciting fantasy books I have ever read (I haven't read many). In addition to being exciting, the book raises all sorts of deep questions about desire, selfishness, revenge and addiction. A recommended book for middle and high schoolers that should spark deep thoughtful discussions about some important issues.

On the negative side, the writing was not exceptional and the ending was disappointing, but the excitement level and big ideas made up for those lacks.
