



Mimi

John Newman

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Despite Mrs Lemon's extra sweeties, and sneaky peaks at her sisters' diary, Mimi is struggling. Her dad is always sad, her sister has a horrible secret, and 151 days ago her Mammy died. What is Mimi to do?

Mimi Details

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Author : John Newman

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Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Death, Family, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review Mimi for online ebook

Lubianka Carrillo says

The story is about a girl named Mimi who lives in Boston with her dad, sister, brother and her grandma and grandpa live two blocks away from her house. There is problem that Mimi is facing and problem is that her mom died and know she feels alone. Even if she has a sister her sister has changed since her mom died she turned into a goth. My opinion about this book is that its a good book and sad because her mom died. My evidence for my opinion is on page i on paragraph 5 which says " Mrs.Lemon has been giving me free sweets every day since mammy died. The person who should read this book is my elementary school teacher named Ms.Aaron. Another of my opinion about this book is that its very powerful and wonderful.

Alycia says

Great for middle readers, especially ones who like dark and sad books about real topics, like your mom getting run over by a bus.

Joanna Glaze says

3.5

Colby Sharp says

Things I loved about this book:

1. Mimi reading her sister's diary
2. Her sister knowing that she was reading it
3. That it takes place across the pond
4. The growth in all the characters
5. I loved when Mimi told off the bully

Don't miss this book. I'm guessing that it would make a great addition to your classroom or school library.

Karen says

I did like SO much about this heartbreakin near-perfect novel for the MG crowd. My only problem was Mimi, and since she is the main character, that kind of a big problem.

I have no idea how old Mimi is. If I were guessing, I'd say around 10, but at times she acts very young -- younger than my six-year-old son -- and at other times she acts like she might be around 12. Since I couldn't get a clear picture of Mimi, I couldn't get a clear voice for Mimi, and that murkiness flaws the otherwise near-perfect writing.

I gave this book four stars because of how beautifully the very difficult topics of death and the continuation of life were handled.

Jennifer says

This was an excellent novel both for elementary school children and adults about coping with the loss of a loved one. Although *Mimi* has a happy ending, as you would expect in children's book, I didn't feel like the author was attempting to sugar-coat anything or magically pull a happily-ever-after out. Although the ending is happy, I don't feel as though Newman was promising a quick fix; rather he conveyed, particularly by initially marking the chapters as days after Mimi's mother's death, the long slow struggle for adjustment and the eventual light at the end of the tunnel. *Mimi* was written in a candid, realistic way that doesn't "talk down" to children, but which is also hopeful.

It was also clear that Newman has an understanding of children (likely because he teaches elementary school), their feelings, and quirks. There was enough humor in *Mimi* that made me crack a smile that I wasn't bogged down with the seriousness of the main topic.

As a last random note, I thought it was interesting that Mimi is actually an adopted Chinese-Irish girl, but that this is only referenced obliquely a few times in the novel until the very end. Personally, I think that it's a good thing that there could be a story out there with a protagonist that is not only adopted, but of a different race than her adoptive family, and not have it be the issue of the novel.

Hera Diani says

Sometimes a book approaches you, and at the perfect time. This one did just that when I wasn't looking for a particular read. I was drawn to it at a children library yesterday, thinking it was a graphic novel from the look of the cover. It's not and I got hooked immediately. Had to leave after reading only half of it, but thankfully it's available on Kindle so I read the rest of it at home. I bawled, and smiled, and bawled some more. It's both heartbreak and heartwarming only a good children book can do. With loads of dry British (or Irish) humor, it helped clearing some of the clouds on a particularly gloomy day(s).

Chelsea Couillard-Smith says

Mimi knows exactly how many days it's been since her mother was killed in a bike accident. The youngest and only adopted daughter in a close-knit Irish family, she has become comfortable in a new life shaped by her family's grief. Her father does nothing but stare into space and burn frozen pizzas nightly while Mimi and her two older siblings neglect their homework, stay up into the early hours of the morning, arrive late at school, and generally ignore each other and the situation. If not for a team of caring aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents, the kids probably wouldn't even leave the house.

At first, I was just appalled at how neglectful a father could be - he is essentially unaware of his children's existence. But everything fits together so realistically, from his early behavior and the obvious effects it has on Mimi and her siblings to his relationships with other people and his slow development as a more defined character in his children's lives. Mimi adores her afterschool hours with her family members (who remain unaware of just how bad things have become in the children's home), and dreads showing up late to class with more excuses. This whole family is drawn with care and complexity and affection, and readers can't help but fall right into Mimi's mind as she relates all their little quirks. Even her father has a simple but realistic journey as he goes from abandoning them to becoming a stern taskmaster to finally allowing the four of them as a family to come together and pull themselves out of the darkness.

A beautifully written story full of delicate but memorable characters, and a realistic portrait of grief at its darkest and what can come out of it.

Ryoka Hirasawa says

Book Share Assignment

Directions: When you finish typing this, copy and paste your answers into Goodreads.com. Enter it in the "Review" section for your book.

1.) Book Title: Mimi

2.) Author: John Newman

3.) Total pages: 186

4.) Rating (1-5 stars): Four

5.) Two-three sentence summary: Mimi is a girl who lost her mom. Her dad, brother, and sister are sad, so she is trying to make them happy. One day Mrs. Lemon, who usually gives Mimi some free-snack finds that Mimi's sister, Sally stole some stationery from Mrs. Lemon's shop. Then Sally runs away. Whole family even her brother, Conor who doesn't talk much with anyone try to find Sally. Taking this opportunity, their bond deepens.

6.) Favorite character and why or favorite scene and why (at least 4-5 sentences): My favorite character would be Orla who is Mimi's best friend. After Mimi's mom died, many Mimi's friends leave from Mimi because of Sarah who teases Mimi. However only Orla stays with Mimi. Orla is so clever and courageous.

7.) Blurb (a one-sentence description that you would see on a book cover; for example: "A page-turner--be sure to wear your seatbelt while reading this!") A portrait of loss, compassion, and the power that comes from sticking together.

Susan Dunn says

This is a sweet little book. 149 days ago, Mimi's mother died. Since then it's been a hard adjustment for her father and older siblings, as well as the rest of her close extended family. Mimi's dad makes frozen pizza every night (and always burns it), her siblings are off in their own worlds, and no one is paying attention to whether or not Mimi is doing her homework or brushing her teeth. It takes a crisis for the family to finally pull together again.

I highly recommend listening to this one - the author is Irish, so the narrator reads the book that way. Fun!

Lauren says

Her family reeling after her mother's unexpected death five months previous, Mimi struggles with her unwelcome new reality.

There's a lot to like about this import from Ireland. Mr. Newman manages a pretty dark subject in a way that's accessible to children without sugarcoating anything. Mimi's family is a mess: her father has shut down, her older sister has gone goth, and her brother's taken to locking himself in his room and playing the drums late into the night. And then there's Mimi, no longer doing homework, mocked for crying in school, counting the days since her mother's death, and trying to make the best of the situation.

One other great detail: Mimi is Chinese and adopted. It's a small part of the book, and Mr. Newman did a great job of not making it a big deal.

That said, Mimi's a bit all over the place agewise. Sometimes she reads at around seven or eight, other times closer to ten or 11. I'm still not sure what age she is.

The bigger problem is the narrative feels like a whole section of the book was removed. There's a jump in time from the family having a mini crisis to six months later and everything being fine. That jump omits the very part that matters in a story like this: the family coming together and healing. We get the beginning and the end of that journey, but not the middle. It's a very weird decision. Quasi-recommended.

Isabel says

I read this book because it came highly recommended by my eight-year-old. She was on to something, too.

With a tone reminiscent of Junie B. books, Mimi narrates her experience of life after her mother's death. Unlike Junie B. books, though, Mimi isn't annoying and her mistaken pronunciations and bits of confusion are legitimate in a little girl whose world has lost one of its moorings. It is told in a matter-of-fact way, complete with diary reading, bad jokes, embarrassing events and struggles with difficult kids at school.

Mimi has very human qualities that keep her from being a caricature like Junie B. I love it that even though she often misses the punch lines to her friend's jokes, she has her own sense of humor that is authentic and child like. (Her role playing as an old man, Dag, with her cousin who plays an old woman, Dig, are funny and quirky, and very believable, too.)

Mimi's struggles and triumphs make for a great plot. We also get elliptical portraits of how the rest of her

family is dealing with the pain of losing a loved one. Her sister, Sally, becomes Goth and distant with a "dark secret" that also drives the story along. This is a sweet story about a family coming together to heal after a loss.

Initially I was disappointed (as I know my daughter was) that there aren't more of these books, like Junie B. (What number are they on now, anyway? Volume 124?) When I finished it however, the story was so neatly told and completely finished that I think it would be a disservice to write more. Or, if John Newman does write another one, he can't crank it out in serial form like the JB books. Books like this take time, thought and careful crafting and you can detect all of that when you read Mimi.

Susan says

A student recommended this book to me. It was good but very sad. It involves the loss of a mother and how a family copes with this loss.

María Paz Greene F says

Me encantó cómo partió, aunque es un poco duro... encontré que estaba bien escrito, que podía tomar de una manera inteligente temas difíciles y que además había personajes adorables. Por ejemplo, la amiga de Mimi, la protagonista, es bacán :)

El final encontré que fue más torpe, lindo poco forzado, por la manera en que esá escrito, y tampoco me causó gracia que molestaran tanto a la abuela por ser gordita... pero, en resumen, el libro fue un aporte para mí. Aunque fuera para niños/adolescentes. Hay temas que son universales y siempre es interesante ver cómo son abordados.

No en vano dicen los religiosos que Jesús hablaba en paráboles. A todos nos gustan las historias sencillas.

Kelly says

Read this book with my daughter for her school required reading list, she loved it! Such a sweet and sad story all at the same time.
