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Tyler and Lymie, eighth grade misfits, discover a dead body in a quarry and work to uncover the mystery behind it.

Trouble with Lemons Details

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Author : Daniel Hayes

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Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Realistic Fiction, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Coming Of Age

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From Reader Review Trouble with Lemons for online ebook

Anna says

Age:9-12

Young adults really enjoy this book because they can relate to many of the sub-topics. It is fun and a good insight into pre-teen mindset.

Uses: Literature circles, journal response, family relations, death, friendship, truthfulness, child/adult relationships, decision making, prediction

Michael Beblowski says

I remember being assigned The Trouble with Lemons for eighth grade English, probably because the novel made passing references to Albany, New York and also had a wry protagonist suffering through middle school and a murder mystery. Frankly, I am surprised that middle schools do not have higher fatalities, because those were not the best years...From a stylistic perspective The Trouble with Lemons is composed mostly of sentence fragments and dialogue. Other reviews praised Daniel Hayes for his attention to adolescent speech, but since the novel was published in the early nineties the slang is a bit dated. The use of humor tends to rely heavily on extended fat jokes and smug insults about others' intelligence which can be attributed to adolescence and the fact that Tyler has relocated from Los Angeles (where you are fat if you are not macrobiotic) to upstate New York (where no one was eating tofu in 1991). Despite a lack of complexity in style, The Trouble with Lemons was accessible, fast paced and insightful. Tyler had so many moments of devastating doubt and insecurity that still managed to affect me as an adult re-reading an otherwise undemanding book.

Alyssa Nelson says

The Trouble with Lemons is a young adult/middle grade coming-of-age mystery from the early 90's. It focuses on Tyler McAllister, a boy who suffers from severe allergies; his mother just had them move to a small town, because she thinks it'll be better for him; however, his mother and brother are both in the movie business, so his primary caretaker is a nanny, which causes some concern with the principal of his high school when he starts getting into trouble as he attempts to solve the mystery of how a man was killed.

The story itself is interesting and I think that the feeling of being out of place will remain true to pre-teens and teenagers, no matter what decade they live in. When Tyler sneaks out with his friend at night, they witness a body being dumped, so Tyler feels responsible to find out how that man ended up being killed and who did it. However, he gets himself into trouble because he's a new kid and doesn't always get along very well with the students at his school. This novel has some nice action moments and also deals with social/emotional stuff, like feeling out of place and trying to make friends.

The basic premise holds true today, but I don't think that this book ages well. The characters use a lot of 90's slang, which might make it difficult for today's teens to connect with the characters, because it's hard to see themselves in them. However, it's a quick and easy read, hits on some interesting concepts, and has the

intrigue of the mystery, so it could serve as a decent gateway book if the slang stuff isn't a problem. This is something I would have picked up as 10 or 11 year old if I had nothing else to read; decent, but not an amazing, must-read book.

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

Angela says

Twelve-year-old Tyler McCallister is a “lemon.” He’s allergic to almost everything, suffers from nightmares, and lives in the shadow of his mother and brother, both of whom are famous movie stars. He can’t even manage to sneak out of the house for a midnight swim without finding trouble. Normal kids don’t swim into dead bodies while skinny dipping in the quarry! But Tyler does, and he reports it anonymously. Now he is obsessed with solving the puzzle of how it got there.

- Mild language
- Narrative diverts on a tangent at times

Heatherberkebile101 says

It's an exciting story about a kid who gets mixed up in madness... when his school's janitor BooBoo goes missing. But, he thinks that the principals kids were the ones that did it... so the question is... how is he going to go about turning them in? He is undecided. Finally, he tries to tell the principal, and he thinks he is going inane! What will the kid do now? will Mark and his brother come beat him up from trying to turn them in?????

Kat Elizabeth says

It is so important, when crafting a character as heavily affected by trauma and an uncomfortable family situation as Tyler is, to toe the line between believable and obnoxious. I did find Tyler slipping into the latter territory a couple of times throughout this book, but, all things considered, that's not entirely unexpected. Overall, it was an enjoyable read.

Yingfang says

P24 the trouble with lemons ?????????????????????????????trade in a kid on a new one.

Made in the shade, ????? ??

Use enough soap, you can practically scrub all your troubles and worries away.

Chris: ????? ?????how I feel, if I am happy

In a second i am going to let you go, and ?????????? ?????????????? ?????? ??????

Mrs. Sauces: good boy, when it came to the big things , the things that really matter. ?????????????????????
don't take things too seriously. ????? ?????????? you are normal, and you are special too.

???????????????????????

chuckie: ????????????? ??????????????

???????????? conceited???????????????? ?????? ??????????

???????????????????????? ?????

??? guilty conscience : guilt is crying out inside them all the time, bad enough, they will confess to save the mental agony. Permanent hold.

too sensitive for your own good, makes you a hothead, a reactor. ???? who reacts to???????? ?????? ?????? ?????
????call the shots, ??????????

?????stay in control and call the shots yourself, ?????????? ?????? don't flying the handle without thinking.

decisive????

mad? angry

Boo boo: care, ????????? ?????????? ??????dumb?????????????you are bad.

Danielle Sanzone says

This is a good book for teens. I had the author as a high school English teacher. He's a great writer.

Colleen Babowicz says

I read this book while taking a YA literature class. The instructor had the author come into our class for a Q&A session as he is local to the Capital Region.

He's a school teacher that got inspiration from his students. I enjoyed this book a lot, compelling main character. Thought I would give support to a local author. :)

Carolanne Strong says

I read this in seventh grade English. It was alright, but I was in love with the boy on the cover. I thought he was the hottest guy I'd ever seen. I spent almost as much time memorizing this picture as I did reading the book. Oh, to be 13 again! The only thing I really remember about the story was that his mom was a movie star and she complained about how her son always left a ring in the bathtub.

Janitzia says

i'm read these book and i like because he felt like one.he already been in and out of more allergy doctors offices than he could count. he been plagued by nightmares ever since his father died.and to top it off, his mother were both fabolous, famous movie stars. if it weren't for his best friend,lymie, he have no one like himself.

Richard Haas III says

I had to read this for an accelerated reading program at my high school and I remember not being too particularly excited to read it but ultimately I was able to enjoy it. I just didn't understand if 8th grade bully, Chuckie, was supposed to be a student, gardener, or both. But that's a light criticism. Maybe I miss read it.

Christiaan Osborn says**It is a good story**

This is a good mystery story. I read this for class and finished it 5 days. This is a good book

Sarah says

I read this book for school. I loved the mystery side of it. I love how the book started out with action and mystery that just pulled you in. I did not expect a lot of things and I did expect some things. I think the author made the outcome too obvious. You basically know the whole time who was the murderer. You just don't know how exactly he died. Overall though, it was a great book with emotional and serious concepts in it.

Elizabeth says

I read this teen novel in junior high, and I enjoyed it very much. I would recommend it for anyone aged 11 to 14.
