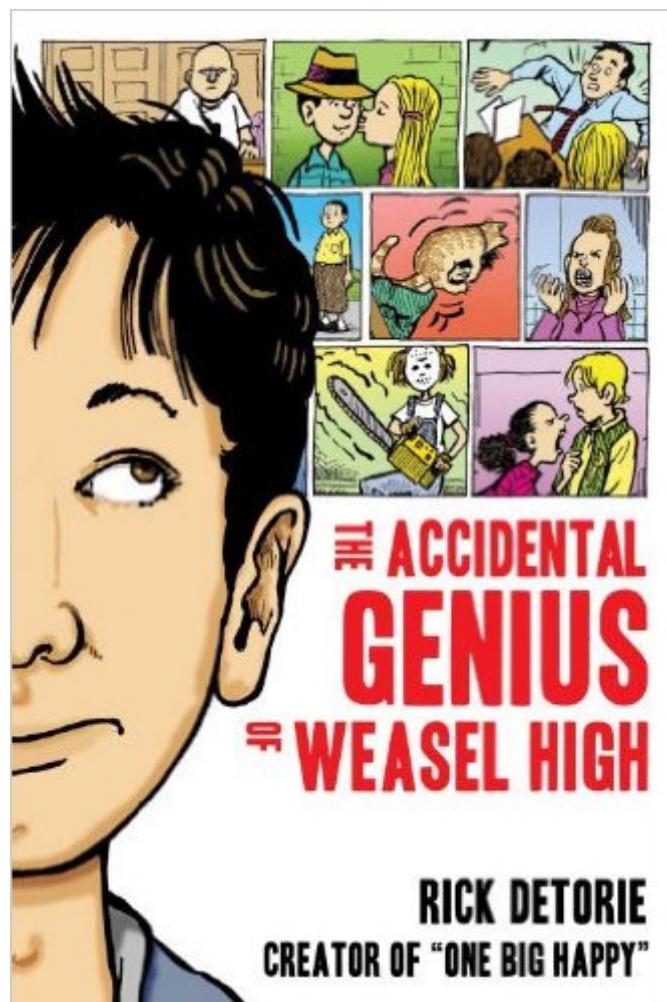


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The Accidental Genius Of Weasel High



Synopsis

A book for the Wimpy Kid who has grown into a Wimpy Teen. Larkin Pace desperately wants a new camcorder. How else is he going to become the next great filmmaker? But his dad won't give him any money, his sister is determined to make his life miserable, and his nemesis Dalton Cooke is trying to steal his girlfriend. Now this height-challenged aspiring director must chronicle his wacky life for a freshman English assignment.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars. See all reviews. (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,100,706 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Film #1143 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #2452 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

According to Larkin Pace, hero of the "Accidental Genius," an accidental genius is a person who has a great talent that is completely useless-like someone who can solve a Rubix Cube in 10 seconds flat. Larkin is an accidental genius, one who can recite movie lines without hardly having to think about it. His goal in life is to become a famous movie director, which does not look like it is going to happen because he does not have the cash to buy a professional camcorder. His sister Kelly and school bully Dalton Cooke aim to make his life miserable. His Mom is cool ex-artist turned handywoman, his Dad is old and into making him watch old movies, and he has around 15 dogs all named "Buddy." His only highlight in life is his girlfriend Brook, who he finds out is not his girlfriend after all. And he's short. The only person he continually tolerates is his best friend Freddie, who dresses like an old man and loves "pickle" sandwiches (crackers with pickle juice squirted on

them) and who shares Larkin's eccentricities. This book chronicles Larkin's family life and school adventures, all with illustrations. There is no real plot or end of the book, it reads like a diary-hence the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" references. This book is a must for "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" lovers or "Big Nate" book lovers. It is ideal for reluctant readers and very funny. It is appropriate for middle school and teenage children-I liked the fact that there were few sex references, no profanity and no alcohol or drug use in the book too. For advanced elementary kids it is excellent-my 9 year old in 3rd grade who has a 6th grade reading level loved it!

"The Accidental Genius of Weasel High, created by Rick Detorie is a hybrid between a novel and a comic -- yes a comic, not a graphic novel, more like the old "Peanuts" or "For Better or For Worse" books than a book of superheroes and anime. The foreword explains how Paul Hawley, freshman English teacher at Weatzle ("Weasel") High School gave each of his students spiral notebooks and directed them to use the notebooks as notebook blogs -- in essence, journals. There are rules that the students had to follow concerning texting abbreviations, profanity, and such, and this assignment would count for 1/3 of the student's semester grade. The student creating the very best of these blogs would earn a grade of 100 for the semester. The grand prize winner is Larkin Pace, and the main part of this work is Larkin's blog. It's hard not to laugh -- and sometimes laugh to keep from crying for Larkin -- as you read his blog. He deals with typical teenage situations -- parents he believes don't understand him and his desire to be a filmmaker, a spoiled, drama-queen older sister; a bully; teachers and pranks on teachers; and a girl who is his friend -- but is she is GIRLfriend? Typical teen situations and teen angst, yes, but Detorie's word choices and drawings bring out the humor of these situations. This is a quick read -- not quite two hundred pages, and the drawings take quite a bit of space. I enjoyed it, and I believe that teens and adults will laugh out loud at some of Larkin's predicaments, too.

high school English class writing assignment. I know that doesn't sound very interesting, but this is not at all like that old, tired topic "What I did over summer vacation." This is definitely not a yawn inducing read. In fact, I started it and didn't put it down until I finished it...chuckling most of the time the Kindle was in my hand. The drawings are also humorous and give the reader a visual idea of what Larkin is experiencing at the time. They do add to the story. O...I don't think this could really be classed as a graphic novel, as one reviewer here saw it, so if you are turned off by them (Like I am.), the drawings won't distract or disturb you. I thoroughly enjoyed THE ACCIDENTAL GENIUS OF WEASEL HIGH and give it 5 stars. Highly recommended

If Bill Bryson (A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America Along the Appalachian Trail; At Home: A Short History of Private Life, etc.) wrote about his experiences as a fourteen year old, it would probably read very like Larkin Pace's life in The Accidental Genius of Weasel High. Presented as a blog written by Larkin, it is the story of his fourteenth year, when he is a freshman at Weasel High. In almost daily entries, he relates the reasons he absolutely hates being fourteen while also describing his relationships and interactions with his family--mother, father, annoyingly dramatic older sister--friends, enemies, teachers, and a girl friend who may or may not be his girlfriend. He writes of his obsession for owning a professional video camera--his plan is to become a famous film director--and toward that goal the chores he performs for an elderly neighbor with whom he also watches classic films. In addition, he must put up with the school bully, with a best friend who never calls him by name, and with a growth chart that fails to show he is growing. Author Rick Detorie apparently remembers what it is like to be at that most awkward and occasionally befuddling transitional age after childhood and before adulthood: fourteen. He has made the character of Larkin engaging, likeable, and believable. Also smart, funny, and occasionally endearing. And, above all, a good kid. Other characters are equally well drawn, particularly the parents who, like most parents, turn out to be wiser and deeper and cooler than their teenage children ever suspect. This book is marketed for young teenagers but is an entertaining read for adults, as well. In fact, The Accidental Genius of Weasel High should, perhaps, be required reading for all parents of fourteen year olds. Particularly if they happen to be boys who dream of becoming famous directors.

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