

Breadcrumbs

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Reviewed by: Robert Toumbs, 17

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This is a great book, in which a 5th grader named Hazel, struggles with her changing friendship with her best friend Jack. Hazel and Jack have been best friends for about five years. Together they are able to dream, play, and share their most secret thoughts. They're both having family problems at home. As they're getting older, society is telling them that because they are a boy and girl, that maybe they shouldn't be best friends. Hazel isn't ready to give up on this important friendship; she just needs to make Jack realize this!

As the book begins, Hazel and Jack are best friends, who live next door to each other. They enjoy sledding together, snow ball fights, and best of all, share their love of each other's imaginations. This is the most enjoyable part of their friendship, as they play superhero baseball, draw mythical characters and share their love of what could be, not just what is. As they are getting older, kids at school begin to give them a hard time and ask them if they are boyfriend and girlfriend. They've been friends since they were six, and Jack is starting to believe that maybe they shouldn't be best friends because they are a boy and girl.

When Hazel and Jack have their first true fight, Hazel throws a snowball at Jack and it hits him in the eye. Hazel didn't know, but the snowball she throws at Jack has a piece of glass in it, and Jack ends up getting a piece of glass in his eye. After this fight, Jack tries to distance himself from Hazel. Between his problems at home and his confusion about his best friend being a girl, Jack's imagination takes him places where he can escape and never be found. His latest story takes him to a place where he is invisible, no one can see him or find him and there is a villain that takes his soul. He decides to hide away in this mythical world, so no one can find him.

Hazel isn't ready to give up on their friendship, and she fights to save Jack from growing up and losing his faith in their friendship and the mythical worlds that they make up. As this battle to save their friendship begins, the story takes us to a mythical world in which the White Witch has taken Jack under her spell and Hazel must save him. She battles wolves, witches, elves, deep freezing cold, bird keepers, and many other elements to save their friendship. During her battle, Jack is also battling to make sense of the changes around him and realizing that without Hazel, the pieces don't fit correctly. In the end, Hazel saves Jack from the White Witch and the arctic mystical mountains that tried to separate them. In the end, they both realized that in order to be best friends that need to let each other grow, yet remain the best friends they've always been.

This was a great book. I recommend reading it. It is a great story about friendship and what true best friends have to go thru, in order to remain best friends. Anyone who enjoys reading about friendships, mythical worlds, and adventures would like this book. Readers in the age range of 11-15 would like this book. This would be a wonderful book to give as a Holiday gift.

Recommended Titles:

The Shadow Thieves by Anne Ursu

The Immortal Fire by Anne Ursu
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls