

## **Finish Line**

**James Ross**

**Reviewed by: Tauhid Jackson, 16**

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In James Ross' novel, *Finish Line*, many emotions and thoughts are provoked from the reader through the author's creative storytelling. The novel is part two of a three-part series, and is about two young boys who get themselves into trouble for vandalism. They are forced to pay for their actions by performing summer jobs at a golf course in St. Louis. The author cleverly pulls the reader in to make them feel as if they were a member of these boys' family; this smart trick of provoking emotion and empathy keeps the reader interested throughout the story.

Although the reader's first impression may be that this novel is one about golf, they quickly realize that it serves a deeper purpose than education in the sport. In fact, this story is more about the transformations and lives of these young boys than it is about golf. James Ross does a great job of keeping the reader interested by adding a number of subplots that provide unexpected twists and ideas to the story. Through the ideas and thoughts of past characters, whom Ross reintroduces in *Finish Line*, the boys learn valuable life lessons that can easily be translated to today's society.

The story told by James Ross in *Finish Line* is one that I can speak highly of. This book was not boring for me to read, and was full of substance that kept me entertained. I thoroughly enjoyed the subtle yet present messages that Ross implicated throughout the text; these qualities make this novel a great choice for young teens who are looking for a book full of self-understanding, learning, and growth. A common misconception is that this book is solely based around golf, but I highly recommend it to boys and girls alike, as it is definitely more than a story about a sport.