

Twerp

Written by Mark Goldblatt

Reviewed by Christopher Roseo –age 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of *Be the Star you Are Charity*

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Twerp was a book about a sixth grade boy named Julian Twerski. The story starts with us learning that Julian is writing a book about his year in sixth grade. Julian “writes” the book to get out of doing a report on Shakespeare. Early in the story we learn that Julian was suspended from school, as he tells the story of his year and the important things that have happened to him we eventually learn the reason he was suspended. Though he references his suspension multiple times throughout the book he doesn’t actually explain why until the second to last chapter.

Twerp writes about his time in sixth grade, he talks about the time he spends with his friends, they are very important to him. They have a lot of fun but things tend to go wrong for *Twerp*. One day *Twerp* and Lonnie test the hypothesis that if you throw a rock at a group of birds they will fly away. *Twerp* actually hits a bird with the rock and though he tries to nurse the bird back to health it dies. Another time *Twerp* and a few of his friends are playing with firecrackers and his friend Quentin gets his eyebrows burned off when he gets too close. One day *Twerp* and his friends are walking across the top of a fence and Howie falls off and has to go to the hospital. Even though they get in troublesome situations they have fun and like spending time together until a girl comes between them. Lonnie asks *Twerp* to write an anonymous letter to a girl named Jillian for him. Instead of realizing the letter is from Lonnie she thinks it is from *Twerp*. Lonnie thinks *Twerp* did this on purpose and stops being *Twerp*’s friend. *Twerp* winds up going on a date with Jillian to get revenge on Lonnie and during the date *Twerp* realizes Jillian is only using him to go to an amusement park where she can see the guy she really liked in the first place. *Twerp* and Lonnie forgive each other and go back to being friends.

I did not enjoy this book and would not recommend it, it was like reading a boring diary of a kid in sixth grade that wasn’t written in any order, the story went back and forth but I never found any real plot to follow. The story was dark and I didn’t find an uplifting message or morale. *Twerp* wasn’t really a likable character and nothing stood out to me. I would say the book is good for sixth graders but I think it is too dark for them and too immature for older kids, so I guess I just wouldn’t recommend it.