

“It’s Kind of a Funny Story” Review

How the book relates to young teenagers

BY AUSTIN BRACKINREED

It’s Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini is a book depicting the trouble many teens battle, depression. You learn about the life of Craig Gilner and his own battle with depression, and as the book continues you feel more and more connected with him. You see who Craig is and what it feels like to know him on a personal level. We see Craig before the main events of the book, which allows us to see why he is in the position he is. This makes the beginning a bit slow, but only because you want to hear more about what’s going on in the present.

In the book, there are many cliches and stereotypes of certain characters. You have the unexpected genius, a man who thinks he is from ancient Egypt, and a lady who is paranoid of everyone. Craig himself is a cliché who at the same time tries to avoid being common. Some characters feel real and others just seem unnecessary.

The character development is limited in the beginning and at the end it speeds up very quickly. It was difficult to keep up

with all the changes. The ending felt very quick, and it didn’t allow for much closure, but does leave you feeling better about everything.

It’s Kind of a Funny Story may look a little long from a glance, but no moment is dull. The language, however, may be a bit colorful. Ned Vizzini based this book off of a brief hospitalization for his own suicidal depression, and Vizzini’s way of showing depression is so surreal, you can actually feel the steady mental decline of the main character. The added humor within the book allows a quick break without ruining the entire mood and style of the book. His style of writing is comprehensible for any teen or young adult, but is complex enough to keep you interested in the story. The story does get explicit. Vizzini teaches an important lesson that everyone is

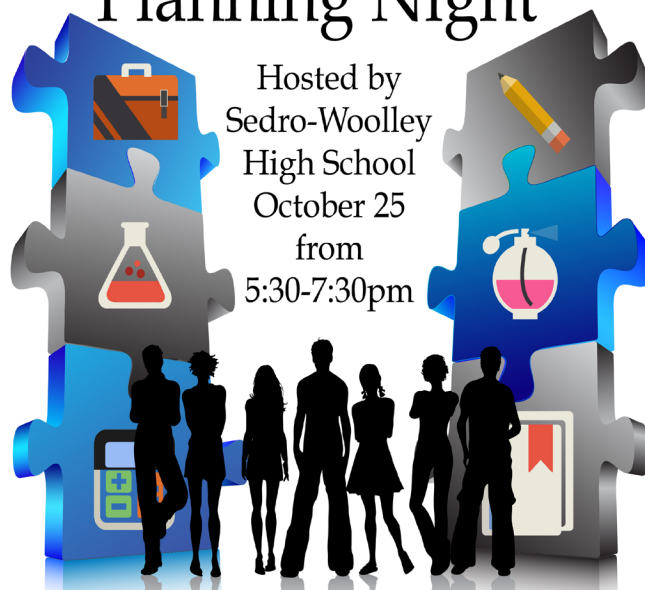
screwed up and every teen should realize this.

Overall It’s Kind of a Funny Story shows a good example of depression and how it effects our youth. The book does have many sad points,

and may be difficult to read the first time, but it also won a well deserved award for 2007 best book for young adults. I recommend reading through at least the first chapter.

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