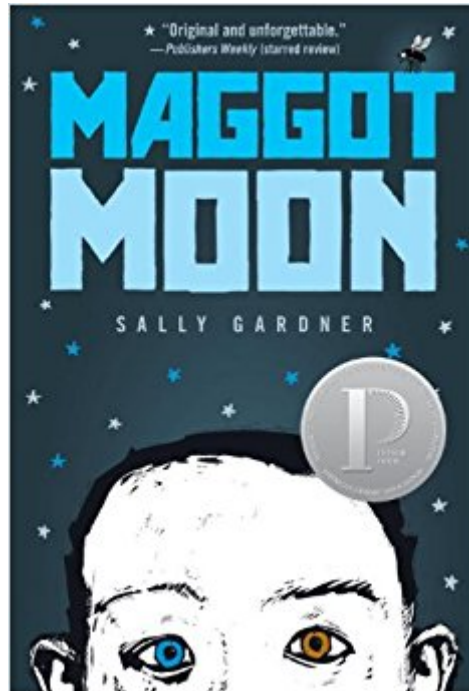




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Maggot Moon



Synopsis

A 2014 Michael L. Printz Honor Book In Sally Gardner's stunning novel, set in a ruthless regime, an unlikely teenager risks all to expose the truth about a heralded moon landing. What if the football hadn't gone over the wall. On the other side of the wall there is a dark secret. And the devil. And the Moon Man. And the Motherland doesn't want anyone to know. But Standish Treadwell "who has different-colored eyes, who can't read, can't write, Standish Treadwell isn't bright" sees things differently than the rest of the "train-track thinkers." So when Standish and his only friend and neighbor, Hector, make their way to the other side of the wall, they see what the Motherland has been hiding. And it's big... One hundred very short chapters, told in an utterly original first-person voice, propel readers through a narrative that is by turns gripping and darkly humorous, bleak and chilling, tender and transporting.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (September 9, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076367169X

ISBN-13: 978-0763671693

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #200,089 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #144 in Books > Children's Books >

Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian #704 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-In a grimly surreal alternate 1950s, 15-year-old Standish Treadwell leads a bleak life under a totalitarian government reminiscent of World War II Germany and Cold War Soviet Union.

Struggling with an unspecified learning disability, he doesn't fit in-he dreams of a land of

Croca-Colas and plans an imaginary mission to planet Juniper with his best friend, Hector-until

Hector and his family are abruptly taken away because they know too much about the government's machinations. Standish's quirky first-person voice and fragmented storytelling gradually reveal that the government is intent on winning a propaganda-filled space race and will go to any length, including a massive hoax, to appear victorious. The story borders on allegory, and the setting is deliberately vague. It is implied that the details that led to this dystopian society are not important; the crucial point is that Standish becomes determined that he, an individual, can take action against a cruel and powerful regime. With brief chapters and short sentences, the prose appears deceptively simple, but the challenging subject matter makes for a highly cerebral reading experience. Stomach-churning illustrations of flies, rats, and maggots accompany the text, creating a parallel graphical narrative that emphasizes key moments in the plot. Though its harsh setting and brutal violence may not appeal to those seeking a happy ending, the story's Orwellian overtones will fuel much speculation and discussion among readers. -Allison Tran, Mission Viejo Library, CA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review The year is 1956. In an unnamed country of obvious allegorical weight, the totalitarian government of "the Motherland" keeps the "impure" in ghettos where they live off scraps and hope not to be dragged away to camps. Standish, 15, lives in Zone 7, a nasty place from which school is no respite "there cruel teachers beat students and, on this particular day, kill one. Standish is expelled in the aftermath, and the next step for him may be the camps. Standish, however, knows a secret. The Motherland is hyping a moon landing that will prove to the world that they reign supreme with interstellar weaponry. But it's a fake: just across the park, accessible via a hidden tunnel, is a building that houses an artificial moon set. And one of the so-called astronauts has shown up in Standish's cellar missing his tongue. Gardner snatches elements from across history to create something uniquely her own: a bleak, violent landscape of oppression, as well as the seeds of hope that sprout there, revealed in Standish's tenacious, idiosyncratic voice over 100 short chapters. Crouch's frequent sketches of flies, rats, and maggots seem unrelated at first, but they emerge as further metaphor for the taking. This is alt-history second; first, it is an eerie, commanding drama. Grades 7-12. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

We started reading this on a writing class and I ended up sitting in the room for two hours to finish it afterwards. It has short chapters that flow seamlessly together even when they are completely unrelated. The relationships between the characters were equally effortless, and didn't feel forced

into it for the sake of familial or romantic bonds. I especially love the interaction of Hector and Standish, which is a large part of Standish's motivation in the book. The setting is equally lovely, a dystopia which is at once a fantasy land and an eerie mirror into real life. The writing amplifies this, with breath-taking phrases and effortless use of made up slang. Would recommend reading, though not on a day or week in which you wish to be happy again. The Kindle version lacks the sequential illustrations of the printed version, which are spectacular but not for the faint of heart. Kind of like the children's series Animorphs, but with more death.

Maggot Moon is deliciously layered and the protagonist Standish Treadwell is as endearing as they come. He's a fifteen-year-old boy, but he can't read or write because he's dyslexic. But who needs reading and writing when you can be as affectionate and intelligent as Standish? When you can see what everyone else can't and feel what others dare not? When you have Gramps and Hector in your life? And then Hector gets taken away and what's on the other side of the wall takes on ominous proportions. The book is set in a dystopian England called the Motherland, very reminiscent of Nazi Germany. And the way the Motherland are going to prove themselves to the world is by putting a human on the moon. This is a powerful novel. Keep a tissue handy if you're going to read it. Did I just say "if"? No, no, you **MUST** read it!

I hated this book. I loved this book. That about says it all. I trusted the conventions of first person narration, and I should have known better based on the surreal story unfolding in these pages. Expect the unexpected. Be ready to experience The Boy in the Striped Pajamas' heartbreak, but also be ready to treasure Hector and Standish and Gramps and all those who fought the fight. Be ready to take a good look at your world of Croca-Cola if you're a North American, and hope you can hold on to it with all its flaws.

Despite its Printz Award, it is tempting to set this little book aside as derivative: Night meets Milkweed meets Holes with a dash of Hunger Games. But I found myself loving it. This is NOT a book for early middle schoolers, even though its Lexile is only 690. Savvy 8's and higher make the best audience. It is the narrative voice that is special. Allow your students the chance to delight, briefly, in similes and metaphors that create some semblance of beauty and joy in what is a terrible alternative-history (England overcome by Nazis). There is much to discuss here and many passages worth closer reading. Just don't recommend that a student read it in isolation...

An engaging 1984 sort of dark sci-fi novel. The story of an alternative future that assumes that the Axis powers had won WWII. Taking place in the late 1950s, we see how politics, culture, technology and space exploration might have played out. Some twists and turns as the story builds a nice small cast of characters surviving in a Nazi-run America. I liked the originality of the premise, the character development, and the pace of the story a lot. But don't know if I would say it was as uplifting as I usually like to read.

There isn't much to say about this book that you can't figure out by yourself by reading a small sample, by reading the descriptions, by looking at the beautiful artwork on the cover of the book. All you really need to know is the book is brilliant, broke my heart, sewed it back together, and broke it again. I couldn't stop reading it, and I have clearly found not only a new favorite book, but a new favorite book I will be reading time and time again. Read it. You won't regret it. EDIT: I also wanted to mention the age appropriateness of this book. As the UK version actually does have a warning on the back for violence and language, but the US one does not, I think it's important to know that this book is probably not meant for 12 and under's.

This dark tale of a totalitarian future society is not for the credulous reader or a those who have no background in dystopian literature. Under the guidance of a skilled/leader or teacher, "Maggot Moon" can be a most worthwhile read for junior high and high school students. But don't give this to a young reader who thinks of other worlds in a Star Wars world.

I love this story you can tell someone put their heart into it. I recommend this book for people 14 and older. This is a must read

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