



***Anya's Ghost* by Vera Brosgol**

First Second Books, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2011

ISBN: 9781596435520 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 12-17 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 7+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Anya could really use a friend. But her new BFF isn't kidding about the "Forever" part . . .

Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century.

Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anya's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend—even a ghost—is just what she needs.

Or so she thinks.

Spooky, sardonic, and secretly sincere, *Anya's Ghost* is a wonderfully entertaining debut graphic novel from author/artist Vera Brosgol.

This title has Common Core connections.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A natural companion to Gene Luen Yang's Printz Award winner, *American Born Chinese* (2006), and the contrast between everyday high-school concerns and supernatural horror add even further, broad appeal."
—[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "Deliciously creepy. . . . A book sure to haunt its reader long after the last past is turned—exquisitely eerie."
—[Kirkus Reviews](#), **starred review**

"Anya's Ghost is a masterpiece, of YA literature and of comics." —*Neil Gaiman*

"Remarkable. . . . With an attitude and aptitude reminiscent of Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*) who likewise conveyed the particulars of an immigrant adolescence, Brosgol has created a smart, funny and compassionate portrait of

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Contact mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

someone who, for all her sulking and sneering, is the kind of daughter many parents would like to have. And the kind of girl many of us maybe once were.” —*The New York Times*

“Delightful. . . . A beautifully rendered portrait of a zaftig young lass struggling to rid herself of her origins when everyone else wants to define her by them.” —*L.A. Times*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Eisner Award for Best Publication for Young Adults - Winner
- Harvey Award - Winner
- Cybils Award - Winner
- *Kirkus Reviews* Best Teen Books of the Year
- *School Library Journal* Best Fiction Books of the Year
- *Horn Book* Best Fiction Books of the Year

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teacher’s Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Southwest Allen County Schools](#): MSD Southwest Allen County Schools received a review request for “Anyá’s Ghost,” by Vera Brosgol in October 2021, but documents did not detail the reason for the challenge. The review committee wrote that the book has a darker theme but is appropriate for young adults and decided to keep the book in circulation.

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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