



[The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) by Stephen Chbosky

ISBN: 9780671027346 (Trade Paperback)

MTV Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 1999

*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, *Perks* follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

A years-long #1 *New York Times* bestseller, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and Best Book for Reluctant Readers, and with millions of copies in print, this novel for teen readers (or “wallflowers” of more-advanced age) will make you laugh, cry, and perhaps feel nostalgic for those moments when you, too, tiptoed onto the dance floor of life.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“In his letters to a never-identified person, 15-year-old Charlie’s freshman high-school year (1991–92) and coming-of-age ring fresh and true. First-novelist Chbosky captures adolescent angst, confusion, and joy as Charlie reveals his innermost thoughts while trying to discover who he is and whom he is to become . . . Charlie is a likable kid whose humor-laced trials and tribulations will please both adults and teens.” —[Booklist](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults - Top Ten
- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- #1 *New York Times* Bestseller

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Velshi Banned Book Club Stephen Chbosky interview](#)

Updated 1.23.24

Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing
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RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[NCAC DEFENDS PLACE OF THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER IN IOWA CLASSROOMS; UPDATE: COMMITTEE VOTES IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THE BOOK](#)

[Author Responds to Attempts to Ban *the Perks of Being a Wallflower*](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“This book is my love letter and wish for every kid who is struggling with identity, because at the time I was writing it, I was struggling with my own.”—Stephen Chbosky

“Banning books gives us silence when we need speech. It closes out ears when we need to listen. It makes us blind when we need sight.”—Stephen Chbosky

*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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