



[New Kid](#) by Jerry Craft

Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins, 2019

ISBN: 9780062691194 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 8-12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4-7 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Funny, sharp, and totally real! Jordan Banks is the kid everyone will be talking about!”

— Jeff Kinney, Author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

★ “Possibly one of the most important graphic novels of the year.”

— [Booklist](#) (starred review)

★ “An engrossing, humorous, and vitally important graphic novel that should be required reading in every middle school in America.”

— [Kirkus Reviews](#) (starred review)

★ “This is more than a story about being the new kid—it’s a complex examination of the micro- and macroaggressions that Jordan endures from classmates and teachers. Highly recommended for all middle grade shelves.”

— [School Library Journal](#) (starred review)

★ “This engaging story offers an authentic secondary cast and captures the high jinks of middle schoolers and the tensions that come with being a person of color in a traditionally white space.”

— [Publishers Weekly](#) (starred review)

★ “Award-winning author/illustrator Jerry Craft confronts elitism, microaggression, racism, socioeconomic disparity and white privilege in a familiar setting. His preteen audiences will undoubtedly recognize and empathize with Craft’s memorable cast.”

— [Shelf Awareness](#), (starred review)

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"Craft's full-color comics art is dynamic and expressive. This school story stands out as a robust, contemporary depiction of a preteen navigating sometimes hostile spaces yet staying true to himself thanks to friends, family, and art."

— [Horn Book Magazine](#)

"*New Kid* is at once tender and tough, funny and heartbreaking. Hand this to the middle-grade reader in your life right away."

— *The New York Times* Book Review

"This story captures the tensions that come with being a person of color in a traditionally white space."

— *Publishers Weekly*

"Genuine characters propel this funny, warm, biting, fearless story. Entertaining and insightful, it will surely offer affirmation for some readers, revelation for others."

— Cooperative Children's Book Center

"An honest and compelling read for any kid looking for a place to belong."

— Scholastic Teacher Magazine

"This beautifully crafted work captures 'tween angst, recognizes everyday and systemic injustice, and challenges everyone to do better by every kid."

— *The San Francisco Chronicle*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- SLJ Best Books
- YALSA Quick Picks for Young Readers
- Kirkus Prize
- Texas Bluebonnet Award
- Illinois Suburban Mosaic Book of the Year
- Virginia Readers' Choice List
- New Hampshire Great Stone Face Children's Book Award
- Texas Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- Kirkus Best Books
- PW Best Books
- Massachusetts Children's Book Award
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best
- NCTE Charlotte Huck Award
- New York Public Library Best Books
- Shelf Awareness Best Books
- BookLinks Lasting Connections
- CSML Best Multicultural Children's Books
- Nebraska Golden Sower
- Nerdy Book Club Nerdies graphic novels
- ILA Notable Books for a Global Society
- Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Awards
- Newbery Medal
- Coretta Scott King Author Award

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- ALSC Notable Children's Books
- YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards
- D.C. Capitol Choices
- Wisconsin Golden Archer
- Pennsylvania Lyn Ward Graphic Novel
- Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award
- NCTE Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts
- Maine Student Book Award
- Connecticut Book awards
- Missouri Readers Award
- Tennessee Volunteer State Award
- Iowa Children's Choice Awards
- Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award
- International School of Beijing Panda Award
- Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award
- Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award
- BCALA Best of the Best Booklist
- Harvey Award
- Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice
- Wyoming Indian Paintbrush Award
- Arizona Charlie May Simon Award
- International School Librarians of Thailand SIAM Book Awards
- North Carolina Children's Book Award
- Hawaii Nene Award
- Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award
- Michigan Great Lakes Book Award
- Minnesota Maud Hard Lovelace Award
- Alaska Battle of the Books
- Ohio Buckeye Children's and Teen Book Award
- New Jersey Garden State Children's Book Award
- New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award
- Missouri Mark Twain Award
- Texas Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- North Carolina Young Adult Book Award Middle School
- Massachusetts Quahog Book Award
- Pennsylvania Reading Olympics Book List
- Vermont Golden Dome Book Award
- Wisconsin Battle of the Books
- New Jersey M. Jerry Weiss Book Award

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Harper Kids interview](#)

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- [“The Farce Awakens” *This American Life* \(starts about 60% of the way down the page\)](#)
- [“Banned Books: Author Jerry Craft on telling stories all kids can identify with” *Connecticut Public Radio*](#)
- [Interview with Don Lemon on CNN](#)
- [Interview with Joy Reid on MSNBC](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Add responses to challenges whenever possible, including links if available. Relevant information includes official responses from a board of education, library statements of support, or other statements of support from relevant organizations like PEN America or the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.

- [“The Farce Awakens” *This American Life* \(starts about 60% of the way down the page\)](#)
- [“Banned Books: Author Jerry Craft on telling stories all kids can identify with” *Connecticut Public Radio*](#)
- [Interview with Don Lemon on CNN](#)
- [Interview with Joy Reid on MSNBC](#)

*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.