**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

For Mike Muñoz, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and still doing menial work--and just fired from his latest gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew--he’s smart enough to know that he’s got to be the one to shake things up if he’s ever going to change his life. But how? He’s not qualified for much of anything. He has no particular talents, although he is stellar at handling a lawn mower and wielding clipping shears. But now that career seems to be behind him. So what’s next for Mike Muñoz?

Funny, biting, sweet, and ultimately inspiring novel, bestselling author Jonathan Evison’s coming-of-age novel evokes the lives of working class people with compassion and honesty.

**REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

“Mike Muñoz is a Holden Caulfield for a new millennium.” — *The New York Times Book Review*

“Jonathan Evison takes a battering ram to stereotypes about race and class in his fifth novel, *Lawn Boy* . . . full of humor and lots of hope . . . Evison has written an effervescent novel of hope that can enlighten everyone.” — *Washington Post*

★ “Moving . . . Evison convincingly evokes the small disasters and humiliations that beset America’s working poor. Mike’s gradual growth into self-awareness is punctuated by moments of human kindness and grace that transpire in and among broken-down trucks, trailer parks, and strip malls. Focusing on the workers who will only ever be welcome in gated communities as hired help, Evison’s quiet novel beautifully considers the deterioration of the American Dream.” — *Publishers Weekly, starred review*

★ “[A] deeply real portrait of an everyday Joe just trying to find his way. Evison combines humor, honesty, and anger with an insightful commentary on class that’s also an effective coming-of-age novel.” — *Library Journal, starred review*

★ “In his bighearted portrayal of Mike Muñoz, Evison has created an indelible human spirit content to live authentically, which just might prove to be the true American dream.” — *Booklist, starred review*
“Evison brings genuine humor to Mike’s trials and tribulations. The writing is razor-sharp, and Evison has an unerring eye for the small details that snap a scene or a character into focus. The first-person narration turns Mike into a living, breathing person, and the reader can’t help but get pulled into his worldview.” — Kirkus Reviews

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A 2018 Booklist Editors’ Choice Pick
- 2019 Alex Award from the YALSA Adult Books for Young Adults Task Force

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Author interview with Katie Couric Media

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Fairfax County Public Schools review committee recommendation: A committee made up of a high school administrator, two high school librarians, two parents of high school students, two high school students, and a specialist from the Office of Equity and Family Engagement met on October 27, 2021 to review the request for reconsideration of the book Lawn Boy: A Novel by Jonathan Evison and its inclusion in FCPS libraries. The committee reviewed and discussed the concerns in detail and determined that this book constitutes literary work and that access to the book in school libraries is appropriate.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)


*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.