



BOOK RESUME: DIG

BOOK SYNOPSIS

"I've never understood white people who can't admit they're white. I mean, white isn't just a color. And maybe that's the problem for them. White is a passport. It's a ticket."

Five estranged cousins are lost in a maze of their family's tangled secrets. Their grandparents, former potato farmers Gottfried and Marla Hemmings, managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now they sit atop a million-dollar bank account—wealth they've refused to pass on to their adult children or their five teenage grandchildren. "Because we want them to thrive," Marla always says.

But for the Hemmings cousins, "thriving" feels a lot like slowly dying of a poison they started taking the moment they were born. As the rot beneath the surface of the Hemmings' white suburban respectability destroys the family from within, the cousins find their ways back to one another, just in time to uncover the terrible cost of maintaining the family name.

With her inimitable surrealism, award winner A.S. King exposes how a toxic culture of polite white supremacy tears a family apart and how one determined generation can dig its way out.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"King's fierce empathy for young people is evident throughout, matched by her gift for a brand of weirdness that somehow manages to capture the intensity, wonder and pain of being alive. Anyone who thinks YA books can't also be great literature needs to read this author."—*Irish Times*

★ "[King's] trademark surrealism and trenchant prose will speak profoundly to a generation of young people who are waking up to the societal sins of the past and working toward a more equitable future."—*The Horn Book*, starred review

★ "This visceral examination of humanity's flaws and complexity [...] cultivates hope in a younger generation that's wiser and stronger than its predecessors."—*Booklist*, starred review

★ "[P]urely mesmerizing ... the most haunting exploration in youth literature to date of the advantage and poison that is white privilege, and the resentment of young people at the toxicity of what they inherit. King fans know to expect the unexpected, and they'll be richly rewarded with this intricate, heartfelt, readable concoction."—*BCCB*, starred review

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Penguin Random House

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers 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 range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

★ “Sometimes, once you start digging, you find the poisonous parts, but you also find the fruit that will keep you alive.”—*School Library Connection*, starred review

★ “A.S. King’s novels...are in another solar system entirely.”—*BookPage*, starred review

★ “This combination of masterly storytelling, memorable characters, and unexpected twists and turns make this book into an unforgettable, lingering read.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“[This] strange and heart-wrenching tale is stunningly original.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“[P]rofound ... offers hope that at least some of these characters will dig themselves out from under the legacy of hate they have unwillingly inherited.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“No apologies necessary. *Dig* is writing at its finest.”—Book and Film Globe

“[T]aut, mesmerizing...The story fearlessly navigates intellectually and emotionally challenging terrain—racism and whiteness, abuse and assault, misogyny, and other violence—as the teens consider and confront painful truths.”—Cooperative Children’s Book Center

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A Michael L. Printz Award winner
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book selection
- A *Horn Book* Fanfare Book selection
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book selection
- A BCCB Blue Ribbon Book selection
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection
- An Illinois Abraham Lincoln High School Book Award selection
- An Indiana AISLA Read Aloud selection
- An Iowa High School Battle of the Books selection
- A Nevada Reading Week Book List selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
- A Vermont Green Mountain Book Award selection
- A Wisconsin Battle of the Books selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [LA Times High School Insider: Why ‘DIG’ by A.S. King is the most relevant YA book right now](#)

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