



***Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka**

Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2018

ISBN: 9780545902489 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 12 and Up (Suggested by Publisher)

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

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The powerful, unforgettable graphic memoir from Jarrett Krosoczka, about growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and two unforgettably opinionated grandparents.

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father. *Hey, Kiddo* is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

- ★ "Honest, important, and timely." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**
- ★ "A must-have, this book will empower readers." —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**
- ★ "This nuanced graphic memoir... tells a story of finding identity." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**
- ★ "Deeply vulnerable, moving." —*Booklist*, **starred review**
- ★ "Krosoczka has meticulously crafted a severely honest portrayal of addiction, resilient familial love, and the power of art, dedicated in part to 'every reader who recognizes this experience.'" —*The Horn Book*, **starred review**
- ★ "This memoir serves as an expression of the richness of [Krosoczka's] gift." —*Shelf Awareness*, **starred review**

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★ “Well-chosen, keenly telling specifics delineate the ongoing travails of an emotionally hard family life.” —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, **starred review**

"The story is a true reflection of the seesaw of life: There are moments of hardship and conflict, but also scenes of joy." —*The New York Times*

"A candid, emotional graphic memoir about life with a heroin-addicted mother and rough but loving grandparents." —*New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice

"Inspiring...poignant and funny...A testament to the power of art and creativity — and a chain-smoking grandfather -- to save your life." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Powerful...Krosoczka movingly reveals the complicated origins of his humor and art." —*Washington Post*

"Deeply heartfelt... Its National Book Award nomination for young people’s literature makes it a must for any teen readers eager for their next graphic novel read." —*Paste Magazine*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- National Book Award Finalist
- Action Book Club Selections
- ALSC Notable Children's Books
- Ann Arbor Kids Read Comics Awards Nominee
- Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year
- BCCB Blue Ribbons Reading List
- Booklist Editors' Choice - Youth
- Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor (Nonfiction)
- California EUREKA! Nonfiction Book Children’s Book Award - Silver Honor
- CBC/ TeenReads.com Teen Choice Awards
- Children's and Young Adult Bloggers Literacy Awards (The Cybils) - Winner
- Denver Public Library’s Best & Brightest Books of 2018
- EBSCO SEE-IT Award (Finalist)
- Golden Kite Honor Book
- Great Graphic Novels for Teens *Top Ten Title
- Harvey Award - Book of the Year Winner
- In the Margins *Recommended Nonfiction Book List and a Top Ten Title
- Indiana Eliot Rosewater High School Book Award List
- Indies Choice Best Young Adult Finalist
- Iowa Teen Award Masterlist
- Iowa Teens All Read Selection
- *Kirkus* Best Books of the Year
- Louisiana State Young Readers' Choice Award
- Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award (Master List)
- Massachusetts Book Award Honor
- Michigan Great Lakes, Great Books Masterlist
- NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People

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- New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award Masterlist
- North Carolina Young Adult Book Award Masterlist
- Oklahoma Sequoyah Masterlist
- PA Young Reader's Choice Masterlist
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award Masterlist
- SLJ Best Books of the Year
- South Carolina Book Award Masterlist
- TAYSHAS *Top Ten Title
- TLA Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- TLA Texas Topaz Reading List for Nonfiction
- TN Volunteer State Book Award Masterlist
- Washington DC Three Stars Book Award – Young Adult Nominee
- Washington Evergreen Teen Book Award List
- Wisconsin Golden Archer Battle of the Books List
- Wyoming Soaring Eagles Book Award Masterlist
- YALSA Nonfiction book Award Finalist
- Odyssey Audiobook Award Winner

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [NPR](#) "Fresh Air," author interview
- [NPR](#) "All Things Considered," author interview
- [New York Times](#), author interview
- [School Library Journal](#), author interview
- [Mackin](#), author interview
- [Audiobook Trailer](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Statement of Support](#): *Hey, Kiddo* is the autobiographical story of author and artist Jarrett J. Krosoczka, who was born of a drug addicted mother and subsequently raised by his old fashioned but genuinely loving grandparents. Using a limited color palette and primary source documents, including actual art from the author's childhood, the story traces Jarrett's development from infancy to his high school graduation and examines the nature of family, love, and purpose. Tracing the impact addiction can have on the parent-child relationship across multiple generations, as well as how Jarrett's love of drawing played a role throughout his life, the book is a balanced look at the struggles and successes that defined Jarrett's childhood. It is a story of loss but also of the tenacity of the human spirit and the importance of a strong support system around us. The book includes an insightful author's note and an interesting note on the art, in which Krosoczka explains the work that went into the book and expands on some of his family's story.

*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

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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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