



Title: The Best Man
Author: Richard Peck
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Age Range*: 9-12
Grade Range: Gr 4-6
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

BOOK RESUME: THE BEST MAN

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Archer Magill has spent a lively five years of grade school with one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer,; and his uncle Paul, who is just plain great. These are the three he wants to be. Along the way he finds a fourth—Mr. McLeod, a teacher. In fact, the first male teacher in the history of the school.

But now here comes middle school and puberty. Change. Archer wonders how much change has to happen before his voice does. He doesn't see too far ahead, so every day or so a startling revelation breaks over him. Then a really big one when he's the best man at the wedding of two of his role models. But that gets ahead of the story.

In pages that ripple with laughter, there's a teardrop here and there. And more than a few insights about the bewildering world of adults, made by a boy on his way to being the best man he can be.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Peck is at heart a gentle realist, a keen observer of family dynamics who uses the soft power of understated emotion to tack social issues. His latest middle grade novel, *The Best Man* is . . . a reminder that no matter your gender or sexuality, love is love is love."—*New York Times Book Review*

★"A nostalgic slice of Rockwell Americana with a contemporary filling. Delicious—take a bite."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★"An indelible portrait of what it looks like to grow up in an age of viral videos and media frenzies, undergirded by the same powerful sense of family that characterizes so much of Peck's work."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★"Rise and toast *The Best Man* . . . We're not done needing books like this. Comic, easy to read, swiftly paced, and matter-of-fact, Peck's latest steps out to lead the way."—*Horn Book*, starred review

★"A witty, engaging novel from a master storyteller."—*Booklist*, starred review

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★“The Newbery Award–winning [Richard Peck] explores what it means to love and what it means to be a man. A modern, funny, and realistic tale featuring strong, nuanced, and unforgettable characters . . . Essential.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Sweet. . . The award-winning Peck has often written from the past, but here he applies his humor and humanity to the present, where it is so sorely needed.”
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Author Richard Peck relates the years between the weddings with his signature humor, using the intimacy of the first-person point of view to provide Archer’s take on his world—sometimes clueless, always earnest—as he grows up and seeks role models. . . [An] endearing, full-of-life story.” —*BookPage*, Top Pick Review

“Insightful and witty...There’s plenty of homespun wisdom here, but no hint of preaching. . . Peck’s wandering, anecdote-rich narrative is set in Chicago, and told in the dryly funny voice of an immensely likable, if slightly oblivious boy named Archer Magill. . . A modern-day delight with a satisfyingly old-fashioned feel.”
—*Shelf Awareness*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *A Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor Book
- *A New York Times* Notable Children's Book
- *A Horn Book* Fanfare selection
- *School Library Journal* Best Book selection
- *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book selection
- Chicago Public Library Best Book selection
- A Texas Bluebonnet Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Book Award selection
- A New Hampshire Great Stone Face Children’s Book Award selection
- A Wisconsin Just One More Page! Selection
- A Maine Student Book Award selection
- A Georgia Children’s Book Award selection
- An Illinois Reads selection
- A Delaware Blue Hen Book Award selection
- A Connecticut Nutmeg Award selection
- An Oregon Reader’s Choice Award selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Richard Peck Educator Guide](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League Book of the Month Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)

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