



***Drama* by Raina Telgemeier**

Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2012

ISBN: 9781338801897 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 10 to 14 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 5–8 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

From Raina Telgemeier, the #1 New York Times bestselling, multiple Eisner Award-winning author of *Smile* and *Sisters!*

Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon over Mississippi*, she can't really sing. Instead she's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier!

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "The full-color cartoon-style illustrations are graceful, assured, and, along with the twists and turns of the plot, guarantee an entertaining and enlightening read." —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

★ "Another dead-on look at the confusing world of middle school." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

★ "With the clear, stylish art, the strongly appealing characters and just the right pinch of drama, this book will undoubtedly make readers stand up and cheer. Brava!" —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

★ "Telgemeier is prodigiously talented at telling cheerful stories with realistic portrayals of middle-school characters." —*Booklist*, **starred review**

"An unabashedly sunny, funny, and warm-hearted read." —NPR

"The better Telgemeier's books sell, the less hand-wringing to do over the next generation. If this is what the youth of America are into, the kids are all right." —*New York Times Book Review*

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ABC Best Books for Children

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- ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens (\*Top Ten)
- ALA Notable Children's Books
- ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Readers (\*Top Ten)
- ALA Rainbow Project List (\*Top Ten)
- ALA Stonewall Honor
- ALSC Graphic Novels Reading List
- Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award
- Arizona Grand Canyon Reader Award
- *Booklist* Editors' Choices
- Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens
- Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" Children's Books
- Chicago Public Library "Children's Books for Year-Round Gift Giving"
- Children's Book Committee, Bank Street College of Education "Best Children's Books of the Year"
- *Kirkus* Reviews Best Young Adult Books of the Year
- New York Public Library 100 Books for Reading and Sharing
- Oklahoma Sequoyah Book Award
- *Publishers Weekly* Best Books of the Year
- *School Library Journal* Top 10 Graphic Novels of the Year for Kids
- Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award
- Texas Maverick Graphic Novel List
- Virginia Readers' Choice Award

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Discussion Guide \(Spanish Language\)](#)
- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- [School Library Journal](#), author interview

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Statement of Support](#): Raina Telgemeier's *Drama*, a graphic novel about the joys and tribulations of a middle school drama troupe, received universal critical praise upon its publication in 2012. The book received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, Kirkus Media, *Booklist*, and *School Library Journal*. It also made "best of the year" or Editors' Choice lists in *Publishers Weekly*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Booklist*, and *School Library Journal*. Finally, it was nominated for a Harvey Award and was a Stonewall Honor Book.

Although most readers of all ages found *Drama* to be just as endearing and authentic as Telgemeier's other books *Smile* and *Sisters*, a small but vocal minority have objected to the inclusion of two gay characters, one of whom shares a chaste on-stage kiss with another boy. Negative online reader reviews have accused Telgemeier of literally hiding an agenda inside brightly-colored, tween-friendly covers, but in an interview with *TeenReads* she said that while she and her editors at Scholastic were very careful to make the book age-appropriate, they never considered omitting the gay characters because "finding your identity, whether gay or straight, is a huge part of middle school."

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## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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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.

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