

Erskine Kathryn. **Mockingbird**. 2010. 232

Recommended for Grades 7-12

Realistic Fiction

Closure. This is what Caitlin wants for both her father and herself. Ever since her brother Devon was killed in a school shooting she wants to find a way for her dad to be happy. Caitlin is very special. She has Asperger's syndrome. Her talent is reading high leveled books and drawing. Though she doesn't like drawing with colors besides black and white. She also has to deal with emotions and making friends. A lot of the kids in school tease her and think she's weird. There's one kid Justin and his cousin was one of the shooters so no one talks to him. He became a bully after the incident. Her father has a hard time dealing with his son's death. He never smiles and cries every night. Caitlin wants to find a way to help them be happy again. She just doesn't know how. Caitlin walks into the living room and is always reminded about Danny. He always wanted to be an Eagle Scout. On the side of the living room is a chest that Danny and his father were making. Caitlin's dad covered the chest with a sheet and never looks at it. This chest has a lot of meaning to Caitlin and her dad.

The author uses so much emotion that you feel horrible for the characters and what they're going through. To make the book be less confusing, when Caitlin talks the words are italicized so you can read the book better. This book shows the steps and stages on how Caitlin and her dad grieve and find closure. The author also shows how Caitlin has a hard time in school and how the teachers helped her. The details in this book make very vivid and clear pictures in your mind as you read.

Mockingbird will leave you thinking long after the book is finished. This is an amazing book and is not a hard book to read. Erskine really makes you want more and I'm glad I had a chance to read this book. This is a must have book to read.

By Gabriela R.