

Zulkey, Claire. **An Off Year**. 213p.

Recommended for Grades 7-12

Realistic Fiction

Everybody has a path that they have chosen. Cecily though, was different. She had chosen the path that she wanted to take and chickened out of it at the last minute. She was 18 and planned on going to Kenyon University. Cecily went to her dorm and turned around and went home. She didn't know what got into her but decided to take the year off to focus on what she wanted to do with her life. Her relationship with her sister was suffering and her brother was away at college. Her mom travels the world and is divorced from her dad. Her dad tries to help her figure out what she should do. Also, she's embarrassed to reconnect with her friends and feels embarrassed about what she chose to do.

Zulkey has portrayed Cecily to be a tough girl who is confused on aspects of life. She uses great detail which makes you feel like you are there. Zulkey also gives Cecily great character. She shows how Cecily changed from the beginning of the story to the end and her growth throughout that one year that she took off.

An Off Year is an aspiring story about a girl recognizing who she is and what she wants to become. She learns many lessons during her year off and repairs friendships and develops different attitude regarding college and life. This book is a must have book to read.

- *Gabriela*