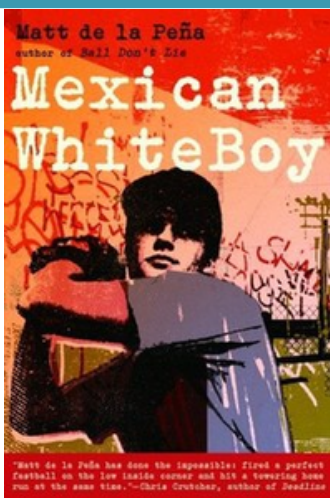


BOOK REVIEW



De la Peña, Matt.
Mexican White Boy
2008
247p.

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Danny's dad left him when he was a child. Now he has the chance to go meet his dad's side of the family during summer vacation. Danny is a shy, smart boy that lives with his mom and sister in San Diego. Danny's school, Leucadia prep, has a majority of white kids and he feels he is different from all of the other students even though he has only a slightly darker skin color. During this summer he went with his cousin Sofia to meet his Dad's brothers and family. After only being in the National City for a few hours, he is already one of the best baseball players in town. One person who did not agree with this was Uno, a dark skinned teen who thought he was the best at baseball. After an incident causing Uno's foster brother to have a bloody face, Uno punched Danny in his face causing Danny to need stitches.

A couple of days later, Uno and Danny made up and ended up becoming best friends. Uno and Danny would go out to a field near by and they would play baseball all day. Danny would pitch and Uno would catch. Uno and Danny were very similar in many ways. Both of their parents were divorced and they both lived with their mothers and hoped one day to live with their fathers. One day they decided to go around the city and challenge other teens to a Home Run Derby type of game. By the end of these games, Uno had enough money to go live with his father and Danny had enough funds to go visit his father at nearby prison after he was transported there not too long ago. At the end of the story, Sophia decides to join Danny back home except she goes to the nearby public school with Danny's sister as Danny goes back for his junior year at Leucadia prep finally being able to join the baseball team.

I thought of this book as being a good inspirational book. Due to the use of disrespectful and racist language, this book is recommended for teenagers over the age of thirteen. Overall this book was an excellent choice because it taught me not to judge people on their race or religion, but based on their personality alone.

- Alex T., Teen Reviewer