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Dog Days: The Carver Chronicles, Book One



Synopsis

It's tough being the new kid at Carver Elementary. Gavin had lots of friends at his old school, but the kids here don't even know that he's pretty good at skateboarding, or how awesome he is at soccer. And when his classmate Richard comes over and the boys end up in trouble, not only does Gavin risk losing his one new friend, he has to take care of his great aunt Myrtle's horrible little dog as punishment. To make matters worse, Gavin seems to have attracted the attention of the school bully. Will he be able to avoid getting pounded at the skate park? And how is he ever going to prove he's cool with a yappy little Pomeranian wearing a pink bow at his side?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710 (What's this?)

Series: The Carver Chronicles

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544339126

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,859 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure #87 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #147 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Third-grader Gavin knows you have to start over whenever you change schools. • He has made one new friend so far "Richard" but there is still so much his new classmates don't know yet, like that he is practically a soccer star and really good at his times tables. Gavin's attempts to fit in are further hampered when he has to spend a week walking his great-aunt Myrtle's Pomeranian so he can pay back his older sister for the snow globe he and Richard broke. How

Gavin survives the weekâdespite unwanted attention from the school bully, the undignified picking up of poop, bossy girls, a stolen chew toy, and a lack of snacksâmakes for a tale of small triumphs. The story is told in the present tense, which gives immediacy to the events; each injustice stings sharper, but so does each triumph feel mightier. Black-and-white spot illustrations break up the text and make this an accessible book for emerging chapter-book readers. While there is some crossover with Englishâs previous Nikki and Deja series, this story belongs to Gavin. Grades 2-4.

--Kara Dean --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"English returns to Carver Elementary, the setting of her Nikka and Deja books, in this strong kickoff to her Carver Chronicles series. Freeman's upbeat spot illustrations and English's accessible storytelling target the book to emerging independent readers."ÂPublishers Weekly

"Black-and-white spot illustrations break up the text and make this an accessible book for emerging chapter-book readers."ÂBooklist

"Chapter book readers have few options if they want to read about urban boys of color; here's hoping for more about Gavin and his friends."ÂThe Horn Book Magazine

My sons loved this book.

Good transaction and product

SINCE I AM ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THIS AUTHOR'S WORK I AM NOT CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY THE GREY SCALE ILLUSTRATIONS. VERY POSITIVE AND UPLIFTING SO I RECOMMEND THIS TO ALL SEEKING MORE POSITIVE LITERATURE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

Like

Great reading for young readers. Art work supports story exceptionally well.

My son thoroughly enjoyed this story. It was engaging and entertaining for a 10 year old!

Great book! Especially for young African American boys!

Karen English is one of those writers who knows her audience in the sense that she's taught them.

She understands how kids act and think and how they learn. In *Dog Days*, she starts a series of books that follow students at Carver Elementary School. This book follows new kid Gavin. He's made friends with Richard and after getting in trouble because of Richard ends up having to walk his aunt's dog to pay back his sister. Along the way Gavin learns that trying to do the right thing is the best option even if one has to make sacrifices to do it. The writing is not overly involved though it does seem a step up from English's Nikki and Deja books. If you've been following the exploits of those two, you kind of know what to expect and they even make a cameo appearance. The main difference is that Gavin and his friend Richard are the main players in the Carver Chronicles and the books seem geared more toward those readers who are a bit more confident in their abilities. Sometimes the transitions and lessons feel a bit stilted and forced in *Dog Days*. It's not always the most exciting book to read and kids will probably pick up that Gavin's skateboarding hobby has not been researched and depicted very well. Plotwise it's fine, just not the most thrilling or involved and jumps around from time to time without a clear sense of where it's headed. Good, not great, but kids who want a book to read on their own or maybe with a bit of help will be able to get through it.

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