



Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life

James Patterson , Chris Tebbetts (With) , Laura Park (Illustrations)

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It's Rafe Khatchadorian's first day at Hills Village Middle School, and it's shaping up to be the worst year ever. He has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix, but luckily he's got an ace plan for the best year ever--if only he can pull it off. With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct. Chewing gum in class--5,000 points! Running in the hallway--10,000 points! Pulling the fire alarm--50,000 points!

But not everyone thinks Rafe's plan is a good idea, especially not the teachers, parents, and bullies who keep getting in his way. Will Rafe decide that winning is the only thing that matters? Are things about to go from magic to *tragic*? Find out in this hilarious--and heartwarming--#1 *New York Times* bestselling hit! Includes a FREE POSTER, a teaser to the upcoming *I Funny*, and over 100 illustrations!

Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life Details

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From Reader Review Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life for online ebook

Cheryl says

[eventually, a happy or at least hopeful ending (hide spoiler)]

Bonnie says

Overall: Blah. I picked this up thinking that my 11 year old would think this was amusing since she's going into middle school next year. Turns out this book is anything BUT amusing. It's about a kid who decides to break all the rules as a part of a game. Dumb. Plus I ended up worrying about the mom far more than Rafe who I just wanted to "fix." In the end, Rafe is punished for his ongoing behavior and graffitiing but then rewarded for his creative gifts by sending him to art school. Seriously. And don't get me started about how the book unnecessarily uses a non-character (Leo) and misses a very important character; his sister. The boyfriend only plays the role of a source for Rafe's \$ and is completely undeveloped. The only good thing about it is that like "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books, it heavily relies upon cartoon graphics but this is nothing new in YA lit. I'm somewhat glad we kept reading this and didn't give up halfway thru (which we were close to doing) but the paper used in this book was a waste of a beautiful tree. Sheesh. Mr. Patterson, stick to books for adults.

Samantha says

Have you ever picked something up just because you've been told the author is amazing, and then after you start reading/listening to it begin to wonder if the world is crazy or if you just have no taste? That is what happened to me when I first started listening to this middle-schooler geared audiobook. Patterson is supposed to be a genius. So many people in my town rave about how amazing his stuff is. So what's wrong with me? Why can't I get into his stuff?

I knew I was in trouble when the intro music (an annoying electric guitar piece) continued even after the narrator started the story which made it difficult to focus on the words. The reader's voice (Bryan Kennedy) was beyond annoying, but I'll say more about that in a minute.

I picked this book up because I have 2 middle-schoolers; my oldest son (who now loves to read) has been stuck in the high fantasy/middle-ages genre. I was hoping this story would be suitable for him to read to get him out of the reading rut. I'm not sure if this book is actually in print or if it is only in audio format (I'm guessing the latter as the main character references the fact that he is talking to me--his listener--through his story on an audiobook--a device I found quite annoying personally) but it doesn't matter. I won't be getting this book out for him. It wasn't anything like what I expected.

What did I expect? Well, this is a James Patterson story, so I expected super short chapters. Score one for me. One chapter was only 1 sentence long. I also expected some cheesy, cliché-laden scenes and dialogue. Two-for-two, go Samantha! What I didn't expect was just HOW cheesy and clichéd this story would be. I absolutely HATED the plot. The main character is annoying. Just about all the characters are annoying. Maybe it was the reader's voice that made them that way, but I have a feeling it was just the way the

characters were written.

I think there are a few points I should make to explain why I feel this story is so bad.

- 1) The story is about a boy who is bored in school and decides to play a game he created to make school more fun. The game is to break every rule in the rule book. I know it's a work of fiction meant to entertain our youth, but could you send a worse message? Yeah, you could, but this one was bad enough. And the ending made it even worse.
- 2) The game the boy creates (Operation RAFF) is ridiculous. My 6th grade son started listening to this book with me and he looked at me and said, "Is this for writer for real? Does he actually think a sixth grader would be like that? The kid seems more like a third or fourth grader to me." My 6th grade daughter chimed in her agreement. I just about fell over at that. My daughter AGREED with her brother! And what they agreed on was that this book was ridiculous. She opted not to listen to it any more after disc 1 and asked me to turn it off when she was in the car with me. This from the book's target audience guys!
- 3) More about the game...the *point system*. ????? Really? And the rewards for a million points(?) are absurd. To be honest, I can't even remember them as they were only mentioned once and were so off-the-wall, over-the-top insane, it's just crazy. At this point, even my third grader was scratching his head trying to understand the point system and just what the point was for earning the points.
- 4) The reader's voice. Oh, the reader's voice. Grating. Annoying. I could say more unpleasant things, but I'll leave it at that. My first grader said the voice reminded him of Shaggy from Scooby Doo. I disagree with that but found it an interesting comparison.
- 5) If you look past the idiotic game (plot) and were able to suffer through the sound, you come to my next big issue...the ending. Okay, so the kid is a delinquent who is failing out of school, getting into fights, and trying to break rules. So, what should we do with a kid like that? Let's REWARD him with art school. Sure, he gets a punishment of getting expelled and has to complete sixth grade in his mother's diner, but he gets a huge reward with minimal punishment. The supposed authorities let a family tragedy which happened nearly a decade before excuse the kid's behavior and bad choices. I just feel this is giving a really bad message to our kids. Do whatever you want and, no matter how bad/illegal your choices are, everything will work out.

I wasn't the biggest James Patterson fan to begin with, but after this story, I'm even less of a fan. I listened to his Witches & Wizards story (The One Who Is The One - my hubby and I still joke about that) and read a couple of his adult books, but am just not impressed. I think this may be the last J.P. book I pick up.

Jacob says

Middle school worst years of my life by James Patterson

Realistic fiction

281 pages

1 book

I have read the book Middle schools Worst Years of my life by James Paterson. This book is about a kid named Rafe he is a dorky kid who has a goal of breaking every rule in the school code. H has a system of points that go with it. He also only has 20 life's which means he can only get caught 20 times. While he is doing it he started getting a reputation that made the school bully mad. He also got hated from most every teacher in the whole entire school. the bully stole his notebook which had all of his points written down. He

charged him a lot of money for it back. \$1.50 a page from a 70 page note book. Rafe then got his notebook found out about from the principal and then got him in a lot of trouble he got expelled for the rest of the year.

I did not like this book very much and I think it was a little bit under my reading level. I also thought it skipped a round a lot. I am not a big fan of his writing like the Maximum Ride series. I think that the plot wasn't that great and it was not a very good book either. He is not that good at making it very realistic and the way that they have the classes it does not sound like a middle school and it sounded like a elementary school. I did not like this book at all and it was way easy to read.

Louise Wilson says

Rage Katchadorian is in 6th grade. He has an imaginary friend called Leo who tells him he should do something cool. He should break all the rules.

I quite liked this funny story about a boy who's imagination is bigger than he is.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Random House Uk, Cornerstone and the author James Patterson for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Camryn Harness says

So far in the book, It's just been a mess of things. Just Rafe getting into trouble breaking rules we have at our own schools. It hasn't really been exciting. The chapters are very short. A few funny parts here and the but otherwise it's just been dull.

Amber says

Rafe Katchadorian is now in the 6th grade and his imaginary friend Leo tells him that he should do something cool that would make his whole year: He should break the rules. Rafe agrees and creates Operation R.A.F.E. . Will he succeed or will everything he does all go up in flames? Read this and find out for yourself.

This was a pretty good audiobook and the first book I've checked out by James Patterson. If you enjoy middle school stories, def check this out. It is available at your local library and wherever books are sold.

Lilit says

Middle School: the Worst Years of My Life is a mind blowing realistic fiction book by James Patterson. The main character in this book is Rafe Khatchadorian who is starting his Middle School year. Rafe has a annoying sister named Georgia and a wonderful best friend named Leonardo. Rafe also has a caring mother named Jules who might be getting married to a man named Carl he is also known as the bear. Carl is very rude and demanding to Jules kids. On the other hand Rafe really doesn't want to go to school because he thinks it is going to be awful. Rafe had so many mean teachers like Ms. Donatello her nickname is the

Dragon lady. Also Mrs. Ida the vice principal who controls every breath the children take at HVM's Middle School. So Rafe thought these years we're going to be horrible until Leonardo thought of a plan for Rafe, to break all the school rules to make the years of school fun. They both make this game consisting on the harder the rule is to break the higher points the player gets. The quote I love the most is "Even with the homework and the cleaning jobs, there was still a lot of just sitting around, staring at the walls and waiting for summer school." This quote basically means from all the trouble he made Rafe is going to go to summer school. The authors style is written In a diary. This book caught my eye because the cover of the book looked like the Wimpy Kid. I recommend this book to people that like like realistic fiction.

Austin says

Have you ever wanted to break every rule in the book in middle school? The book, Middle School, the Worst years of My Life, is a great book that takes you through the twist and turns in the life of Rafe and his plan to make it through sixth grade. Rafe is challenged by his friend Leo to break every rule in his school's code of conduct. Along the way he has to fight dragons, try not to look like a loser in front of his crush Jeanne and fight the bully that has been out for him all year.

The game may be more than Rafe expected as he has to face the truth about his life.

James Paterson usually writes mystery or fantasy books but this book is a realistic fiction book written for kids in middle school. This is a great book for anyone going through middle school and I could really relate to Rafe. One of the best parts of the book is the illustrations because they help tell Rafe's story through pictures. This is a good book to read on Kindle, which is how I read it. You can find out more information at www.middleschoolbook.com.

Kristen says

A funny, engaging book. I read this with my 7th graders every year, because they seem to really be able to identify with the narrator! There are so many fun activities to do with this book, so teachers and librarians take note :)

Gina says

I read this book with my 4th grade son to work on comprehension, plot, character traits, and some more advanced literary elements. He picked the book because I wanted him to enjoy the book that he would be reading on his own time with me and do extra worksheets that I found to push him to be a better reader. He has been identified as an advanced reader but has become lazy with his school work and I wanted to work with him to change that trend. I wasn't sure if I would like it, but once we got into the story, I really liked it. To be honest, it was a mix of reading a book with my son and reading a fun book. I highly recommend this to middle grade readers and parents who may be looking to do the same thing I did with my son. 4 Stars.

Lexi says

This was a really fun book to read because it was full of adventure. Rafe, the main character, is in middle

school just like me, so it's interesting to see his point of view on what middle school is like for him. At the beginning of the book, Rafe is dreading starting the new school year as a sixth grader. He has no friends except one named Leo. Leo urges Rafe to break every rule in the schoolbook by the end of the year. Rafe and Leo create Operation R.A.F.E which stands for Rules Aren't For Everyone. Every rule that Rafe breaks, he earns points. Leo challenges Rafe to get a certain number of points each day. Rafe can get bonus points by the type of punishment he gets and for who sees it. One rule he makes for himself is the No-Hurt rule which is basically that no one else can get hurt or in trouble for Rafe's pranks. Throughout the book, Rafe takes on tons of rules and records/ draws them in his journal. At the end, there is a major twist about Leo, so read the book to find out what. Also, find out what happens when Rafe's mom discovers what he has been doing.

Andrew says

It was okay, now that I think about it- But it was incredibly boring. And, weirdly enough (since it's rare I say this), I feel the movie was a whole lot better than this book.

<https://andyswonderlandblog.wordpress...>

Full review above ^^

Donna says

Rafe and his best friend, Leo the Silent decide to make middle school more interesting by breaking every rule in the Code of Conduct handbook. They have a very elaborate system for scoring points, losing points and even losing lives of which you are only allowed three before you fail. They call this OPERATION R. A. F. E !!

It is a funny at times yet serious book about bullying, first love, friendships and much much more. The art work portrayed in the book is quite good and adds humor to the overall story.

I quite enjoyed reading this James Patterson book and will be checking out more of his work in this series.

Sara says

Okay, I'm a librarian, but I think this book tried too hard. I just never believed in the main character or the situations. And even though it tries to be funny, it's not funny. The drawings will appeal to kids, and I did like the surprise about Leo at the end, but overall, I was a little bored. Also, pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense in schools and gets kids caught up in the criminal justice system. Not very funny.
