



# Finding the Worm

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**The *New York Post* praised *Twerp* as “reminiscent of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.” *Finding the Worm* is a sequel that stands on its own--an unforgettable coming-of-age story about life, loss, and friendship. Perfect for fans of *The Sandlot* and readers who love books by Jennifer L. Holm, Andrew Clements, and Rebecca Stead.**

*It's not a test unless you can fail. . . .*

Trouble always seems to find thirteen-year-old Julian Twerski. First it was a bullying incident, and now he's been accused of vandalizing a painting. The principal doesn't want to suspend him again, so instead, he asks Julian to write a 200-word essay on good citizenship. Julian writes 200 *no*'s instead, and so begins an epic struggle between Julian and his principal.

Being falsely accused is bad enough, but outside of school, Julian's dealing with even bigger issues. His friend Quentin has been really sick. How can life be fair when the nicest guy in your group has cancer? Julian's faith and friendships are put to the test . . . and the stakes have never been higher.

**Praise for *Twerp*:**

**A Bank Street Best Book of the Year**

**A Junior Library Guild Selection**

**A Summer Top Ten Kids' Indie Next List Pick**

“Reminiscent of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. . . . You don't have to be a twerp to read this book.” — *New York Post*

“A vivid, absorbing story about one boy's misadventure, heartache, and hope for himself.” — **Rebecca Stead**, Newbery Medal-winning author of *When You Reach Me*

“[Fans of] Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* who have matured beyond the scope and gravity of that series will find a kindred spirit in Julian.” — *School Library Journal*

“Reminiscent of movies like *The Sandlot*. . . . Well-written and funny.” — *The Advocate*

“Alternately poignant and comical. . . . A thought-provoking exploration of bullying, personal integrity and self-acceptance.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Funny, poignant, and an effective commentary on bullying and its consequences.” — *The Horn Book Magazine*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Finding the Worm Details

Date : Published February 10th 2015 by Random House Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780385391092

Author : Mark Goldblatt

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult, Coming Of Age, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Finding the Worm for online ebook

### Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says

Goldblatt, Mark Finding the Worm, 344 pgs. Random House Children's Books, 2015. \$16.99. Language: G (1 swear, hell); Mature Content: PG; Violence PG.

Julian Twerski is a 7th grader in the fast track at McMaster's Junior High during the 1969-1970 school year. Twerski has a lot going on as he tries to prepare for his bar mitzvah, deals with a school bully, takes on a school assigned essay for a crime he didn't commit, and deals with the illness of his friend. Julian Twerski has some great friends in the Thirty-Fourth Avenue gang, a group of kids hailing from the same zip code, except that one of their number, Quentin, is dealing with a brain tumor.

Goldblatt takes some difficult topics and makes them engaging and accessible. This book was delightfully written. Finding the Worm is totally readable without having read Twerp, which comes first.

MS-ESSENTIAL. Michelle in the Middle

<http://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2016/...>

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### Lily says

Very sad

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### Navya says

Sad, but also funny. It was a pleasant read.

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### Aidan says

In the book "Finding the worm" a young boy named Julian, has learned that being trustworthy is from relationships and not just from saying "I am telling the truth". After Julian was accused of marking his initials into a very nice painting. He had to write a whole story about Citizenship and instead of writing him 200 worded essay, he wrote the word "no" 200 times. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in climactic story plots and emotional meaning. I feel like this book deserves four at of five stars because although it has such a great story plot and is very entertaining to read, I feel like they could have changed some parts to really hook the reader to keep going.

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### Lily says

really intreaguing with and intresting twist.!

## **Sarah says**

This was terrific. I was hooked (like a worm, ha ha) from the get go. Although I have yet to read Twerp, I felt an instant connection to Julian. His narration is spot on. The way he describes his thoughts and feelings is highly relatable. The book tackles a potentially depressing topic and manages to squeeze in bits of joy and beauty. Mark Goldblatt does an excellent job painting an accurate picture of Queens circa 1970. I will definitely pick up Twerp and recommend this gem to future customers.

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## **Ellyn Lem says**

Reading Mark Goldblatt's first semi-autobiographical novel Twerp with my adolescent son was an unexpected pleasure; when we stumbled on a second one recently, with the same characters, to say we were delighted would be an understatement. The books center on Julian Twerski, a middle schooler living in a NY borough with a tight posse of friends. He writes both books episodically with some levity, great "voice" and believable action. Twerp definitely had more humor, which my son appreciated more than this one, but I might have preferred this second one a bit better since its treatment of childhood cancer in one of Julian's friends as he prepares for his bar mitzvah with the rabbi allows for introspection that I appreciated. The age old question of bad things happening to good people is addressed with insight that I had never pondered in quite that way. Goldblatt is an emerging and welcome addition in books for middle school students who might want something other than dystopian fantasy. He reminds us that storytelling from the heart can be most powerful of all.

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## **Melanie says**

I loved Twerp and was excited to hear that there was a sequel. I read this book with my children and we all loved it! This book is great as a standalone. There are some references to incidents that happened in Twerp, but you won't feel lost if you haven't read it.

This book is set in 1970 so times were simpler. There's a group of boys who are best friends and hang out together. Their friend, Quentin, has been sick and in the hospital and they learn that he has a brain tumor. They are worried about him but are told he'll be fine so when he comes home, they treat him like they always have, but are a bit more careful with him. There are some funny things that happen, some of which involve a pinball machine and, separately, a wheelchair. He seems to be getting better and then gets sick again and it's not until the end that we find out what his diagnosis is. There were a few tears shed while reading this book.

There's also a girl involved with their group this time around. Her name is Beverly and she's anxious to race Julian to show him she's a faster runner. He has a reputation as being the fastest runner and she feels a need to beat him but he doesn't want to race a girl. It was fun to see how that storyline wrapped up. There are also some great storylines that include Julian's principal and Rabbi Salzberg.

This is a book that made us laugh, cry and think. When we were finished, my daughter (age 11) asked to read Twerp because she wanted more of this group of boys and their friendship. This book is a little more serious but I enjoyed it just as much! If you enjoy coming-of-age stories, these are ones you'll want to read!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

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### **Jennifer says**

I previewed this book for our school library. It is excellent! Much better than the first book. I think it is because the first one tries too hard to teach you a lesson and falls short because of the story, while this book just has a great story that happens to teach a lesson.

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### **Bonnie says**

When Julian is wrongfully accused of defacing a painting at the school his principal asks Julian to write a 200 word essay on what good citizenship means. Julian refuses to write the essay on general principles, but gradually comes to understand the deeper meaning of the essay. Set as a back drop to the story, one of Julian's friends is diagnosed with a brain tumor, and he is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah

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### **Susan says**

Not just for kids - made me cry...that's all I'm going to say.

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### **Brandy Painter says**

Way too long and is yet another depressing dying/dead friend story. It's the year of dead friends in MG fiction and I've read too many now.

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### **Kaiden Bruehling says**

It was pretty good, I didn't understand some parts of me not being Jewish but overall a really great book.

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### **Hossain says**

Twerp was a great book and and I liked that very much. So I had great expectations, but it was just a terrible book.

I mean it wasn't written terribly, like the previous book it was very well written. It was just so manipulative, a tearjerker really and I don't think I am going to really like another book about cancer after reading Fault in our Stars, just like that book, this book was just so clinical in approach and has no heart, also I tend to dislike books laden with life lessons like this one. So no thanks.

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## Walt says

A delightful book. Funny and poignant at the same time. Thanks to my daughter Sarah for recommending it to me.

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