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## Between the lines book nikki grimes summary

Review & Photo featuring Laura Gardner @librarianmsg Instagram and Twitter. Thank you to the publisher for providing us with a review copy of this title! Between the lines is an accompanying novel by Nikki Grimes (Nancy Paulsen Books – February 2018) between the lines is an accompanying novel by Nikki Grimes and Coret Scott King winning the Bronx Masquerade Award, a book about a group of students who found the power of singing together in their English class. Now Mr Ward has a new group of students in his English class between the lines and once again they find that poetry has the ability to bring diverse groups together. First of all, those covers! I like the new look. I have the original cover of the Bronx Masquerade in my library and the student on the cover looks a little young. I love the juxtaposition of the words with the young teenagers on the updated bindings; The Bronx Masquerade looks like it has graffiti on it, and between the lines is covered with newspaper headlines. I can't wait to see these hugging hard! The Bronx Masquerade was published 16 years ago, but in a reread this week it still felt as relevant and raw as the first time I read it. Between the lines he's just as strong. In his pages we meet Darian, an ambitious reporter convinced that learning to write poetry will hone his writing skills. Darian tells between the lines, sharing his title for each of his friends. We also meet Li, a Chinese-American student who wants to prove she's more than just an academic. We also meet Genisys, who lives in 13 different foster homes and has walls built to protect her heart; Freddie, a young girl who cared for her drug-addicted sister's youngest child, as well as her alcoholic mother, Marcel, who carries his anger like a shield, among other things. Each student opens through his verse and begins to bond with their partners, eventually coming together to do a girls' poetry slam against boys at the end of the book. These types of books can be difficult for some readers who are struggling to keep the different students straight or wish there was more plot. Nevertheless, characters in both books grow and change, connecting with each other and their poetry has a profound effect in many cases. Issues addressed include race, police brutality, immigration, foster care and other important issues in sensitive ways. I'd love to do it in a little group reading with students looking to write their own poetry. It would be a great book to read in preparation for performing poetry slammng at school. I recommend these two books (buy a new Bronx masquerade so you can get the new cover!) for all high school libraries. Must purchase! Laura Gardner, a certified national board teacher at Library Media, is a teacher librarian at Dartmouth Middle School in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Laura won the School Library Journal Award (SLJ) in 2016, he won the 2016 Finalist Award and is The 2017 Ambassador for 2017. She's on Twitter and @LibrarianMsG. She reviews books for the School Library Journal and KidLitExchange. In her spare time she reads. A lot. She lives in Massachusetts with her two children, her husband and family dog, Frankie. Reviewed by: Grimes, Nikki between the lines. Paulsen/Penguin, 2018 [224p] Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-399-24688-3 \$17.99 E-booked. ISBN 978-0-525-51717-7 \$10.99 review from Galleys Ad Gr. 7-10 followed up this Bronx Masquerade (BCCB 3/02), Grimes returns with a new group of eight teenagers at the Bronx School Poetry Club, preparing for a singing slam to its climax. Darian Lopez, an ambitious newsman and resentful poet, is the author's thread, summarizing the experiences and poetry of his classmates in terse headlines. However, all teenagers get a chance to tell their stories in prose and poetry as they negotiate complicated domestic and parental pressures, explore their relationship with their fellow poets, and get used to the competition. The poetry is articulate and appealing, giving voice to a struggling girl who cares for her alcoholic mother and functionally pregnant niece, a light-hearted veteran of childhood heart surgery who pushes against his over-protective parents, a young woman preparing to grow old outside the foster care system, and so on. Unfortunately, the prose sections are less successful: teen experiences are on the unnecessary side (social media is particularly absent), and the characters, diverse in race and experience (but undoubtedly all heterosexuals), tend to be programically presentable. It's still an accessible and symetic look at some common youth challenges, though, and has the potential to inspire young people seeking to write their hearts out or take the microphone themselves. Rights © 2018 University of Illinois Board of Trustees \*Thanks @kidlitexchange #partner for this review copy of Between the Lines: An Accompanying Novel to the Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes. Photo by Michael Frost. Posted by Penguin Teen. All opinions are mine.\* I didn't read a masquerade in the Bronx so I have nothing to compare this novel to, but I loved the sense of uniqueness to this book. Parts of it are read like a book, parts of it read like a poem, and then parts like a newspaper with headlines. Grimes created a diverse group of realistic adolescent characters; Readers will be able to identify with at least one of them. The main character is Darian Lopez who dreams of becoming a journalistic journalist. He loves most of the characters in the book and has faced difficulties in his short life and has something he struggles with. His story begins with signing up for the Poetry Club to do a newspaper article about it. From there the narration passes among the other characters in the story. In parts of the book, he says it ends with This sums up what just happened, emphasizing the power of some carefully chosen words. I liked it when he said, a good headline only has a few words, but if you pick the right ones, a headline reveals the heart of the story. A character from the first book, Tyrone Bittings appears as a mentor in a poetry club. It is the first poem read in the book and the inspiration for the rest of the group. A song can remove fear, leave a messy mind clear to understand what's going on deep inside the heart, the only part of our world where we can possibly be sensible... Rap and rhyme are one way to buckle up your strength for at least an hour. So slide a pen in your vagina, lock and load the words you choose. Use them to cry, to scream, to whisper whatever. Just get in their way, let your truth fly, loud, proud, raw. There's Mr. Ward, the teacher who started the poetry club and the children's mentor throughout. He's the teacher they make movies about. We all have complicated lives, we all have wounds, and we all have struggles... Some of the best songs, the songs that touch us the deepest, are personal stories. It creates a safe place for children to express themselves, to learn to trust and support each other. Marcel Dixon, another character, faces a father who was wrongfully arrested for a crime and return home has changed for the worse and a mother who works too hard. The system broke my father's heart when she taught him that justice is only for people without dark skin. Too much melanin can be as deadly as cancer. The unfair treatment and discrimination against his friends and family has created disbelief and distaste for the police, authority or anyone who has dealt with him and is easily nervous. His trauma is ignored and he's labeled a troubled child. What do people and their labels have, like the way they mark me makes them realize who I am or why? ... Stop asking why I'm angry or I'll tell you. After that, you'll have to change your ways, only you don't want to because the system works for you just fine as it is. His home life isn't ideal, he finds it hard to feel positive about the future, and he finds solace in the singing club. And then there's Val Alvarez who doesn't like to call her Valentina because it sounds too Latin for her. Her songs run back and forth between two languages without skipping. She's mad at the world for treating her immigrant father disrespectfully. My father, Ignacio, is a book you haven't read. It's full of poetry that can curl its fingers around your curzon and squeeze joy... You scribble a review that borrows the man's size, but you never peeled off the pages of his biography. She's struggling to fit in. Be an American. We live in the same city, go to the same school, but we each have a different story. What we have in common is trying to figure out how to tell it. Then why am I going crazy, sleeing parts of myself, trying to fit in? No one fits in. We're all separate parts, stitched together with words and friendship mostly, and somehow, it works. Maybe that's what being an American is about being different, standing up, but standing together. I have Chang who was born in the United States but her parents are both from China. Although bilingual, they insisted that she knew only English and would train in American ways. She hangs out with Chinese friends and feels disconnected. I envy the easy laughter of my Chinese friends, using their well-trained tongues to share stories in language that has been denied me like a secret. My point is that my parents left me jealous of all the ni-hao-ma... That falls from lips that fall like mine... Sometimes I wish I didn't understand the math of being different. It becomes a sweet love thing that is briefly touched throughout the book with the main character Darian - they bond over poetry. I like language. I like the way every word feels differently on the tongue, and how every word sounds... Poetry and the newspaper have in common... Truth. A song that isn't true is simply a manipulation of beauty. Kyle is a boy who at an early age had to deal with severe medical trauma and has a heart condition. His family fears for his safety and checks, but he does not believe in not living life to the fullest. He's brave considering his life can end sooner than most and he connects with Angela who is the opposite and fears everything. An uptight Angela understands whether people like me or not. I'm afraid people won't take me seriously, or they'll take me too seriously. I'm afraid I'm too smart or not smart enough, or brave enough, or pretty enough... Kyle replies, it sounds to me like you're afraid of not being enough... You know it's just stupid. Of course you're enough. They're all enough. I have a fake heart valve, and I still have enough. Then we have Freddie who lives with her single mother who was paid with alcohol. Her sister left her daughter with her mother, but because her mother is unable to take care of herself, the responsibility of taking care of her niece falls on Freddie's shoulders. She takes very good care of herself with all this, I'm angry, sometimes, I just don't have it... There's no percentage of it... It's better to use my energy to hold on to hope and fight for something better. The last character is Genisys White, who grew up in the foster care system. Over the years, she has learned to protect her heart, not trust anyone, and to maintain vigilance. She didn't come in. A club with high hopes of everything going on but it ends up making friends and finding hope. Love is real, though. Companies. I felt their magic multiplication, the way a friend's love could inflate the heart. The author makes an important note at the back of the book especially about this character. She draws from her own experience as a child who went through foster care and was lucky. It sheds light on the difficulty foster children face as they approach their 18th birthday and age from the system, often in front of homeless people, human trafficking, incarceration, pregnancies and more. Grimes lists organizations across the country that offer help and resources online with words of encouragement, and the world needs the gifts you have to offer. Stay strong. It's an unlikely group of people who will end up being friends, but that's what happened in that story. Poetry helps them tell their truths and that's how they find their strengths, hopes and imaginations. I quoted the book well above because it's really a beautiful book to read and I couldn't say it better! I look forward to going back and reading the Bronx Masquerade and hoping for the third in the series! The book ends with the girls and boys competing in a Slam poetry competition. Their group songs are down and they're both amazing. Personally I think the girl song is amazing but the boys are inspiring! I'm not going to tell you who wins the book, you're going to have to read it! It

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