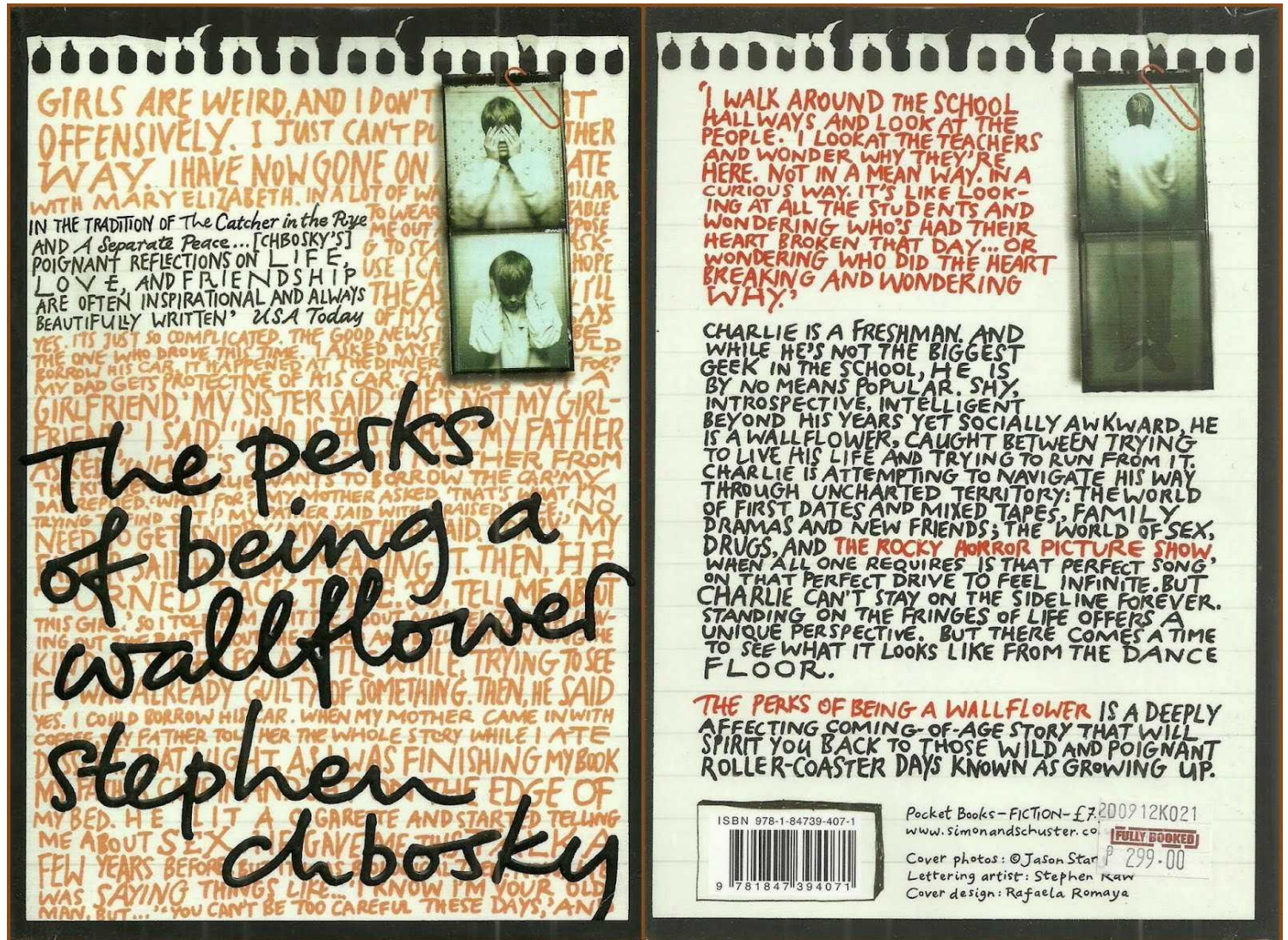




SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CAMARINES SUR
RAGAY SCIENCE AND MATH ORIENTED HIGH SCHOOL
Poblacion Ilaod Ragay, Camarines Sur
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

BOOK COVER PHOTO



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

List to give thanks for....

My mother, who encouraged me to move forward through tough moments in my life.

My Father, who gave me his full support that gave me the boost that I needed.

Stephen Chbosky, for writing this book that helped me to find light in my darkest moments.

The anonymous individuals online at the r/YABooks subreddit gave their honest opinions on

The Perks of Being a Wallflower.

Lastly, my friends who helped me understand the poem.

THE BOOK AND ITS COVER

Title: The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Author: Stephen Chbosky

About the Author:



Stephen Chbosky was born on January 25, 1970, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. He graduated from the University of Southern California. He is a writer and producer, known for *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), *Wonder* (2017) and his most famous work, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012), which is based on his real-life experience. He has been married to Liz Maccie since September 18, 2010. They have two children.

Date of Publication: February 01, 1999

Place of Publication: Pocket Books, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, Rockefeller Center, New York City

No. of Pages: 256 Pages

Setting:

The Perks of Being a Wallflower follows a story of an observant and introverted 15-year-old Charlie as he faces his first year of high school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Main Characters:

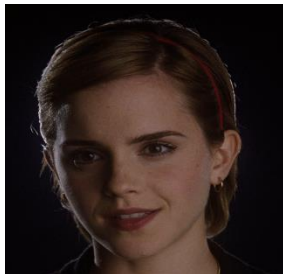
The Main Characters of Perks of Being a Wallflower are:

Charlie:



The fifteen-year-old protagonist of the novel. The novel is told through a series of letters that Charlie is writing to an anonymous “friend,” and the whole story is narrated entirely from Charlie’s perspective. Charlie is a quiet, withdrawn, intelligent, observant high school freshman dealing with a lot of trauma in his childhood. Charlie comes out of his shell through the relationships he develops over the school year, but it isn’t until the very end of the book that he uncovers the repressed memories of sexual abuse that are at the core of all the trauma he has been through processing the whole time.

Sam:



A high school senior, Patrick’s stepsister, and one of Charlie’s best friends. Charlie has a huge crush on Sam throughout the entire book. Sam was sexually abused when she was a child, which connects her to Charlie, although neither realizes the connection until the very end of the novel.

Patrick:



Sam’s stepbrother is a high school senior, and one of Charlie’s best friends. Patrick is in a closeted relationship with Brad, the football team’s quarterback. Patrick accepts Charlie for all his quirks and makes him feel like he can be himself.

Bill Anderson:

Charlie's English teacher and mentor. Bill recognizes and nurtures Charlie's talent for reading and writing. Bill is the most stable, reliable adult figure in Charlie's life, and he helps Charlie develop self-confidence.

Craig:

Sam's boyfriend throughout the bulk of the novel. A male model putting himself through community college, Craig is essentially everything Charlie is not: muscular, older than Sam, unfaithful, and not very bright.

INTRODUCTION:

“And in that moment, I swear we were infinite.”

Wallflower, someone with an introverted personality type or social anxiety who will attend parties and social gatherings, but will usually distance themselves from the crowd and actively avoid being in the limelight.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is written in a sequence of letters, or an epistolary, and while it has a subject, the book is more of an account of the main character's experiences. You may disagree with the main character Charlie and his companions in the book's conflicts. This part of the novel makes the characters feel more real because most things in the actual world aren't right or bad, but rather exist in a grey region with pros and downsides to practically everything.

Charlie, a high school freshman, is the protagonist of the novel. Charlie doesn't talk to anyone the first few days of school, preferring to observe people. This all changes when he meets Patrick and Sam, two seniors. Charlie soon finds himself making friends with Patrick, Sam, and their circle of friends.

The books depict serious teen life subjects, complex characters, and thought-provoking commentary from Charlie. This novel conveys a wide spectrum of feelings. It's realistic and complex personalities allow you to experience the same feelings as the characters. The use of journal entries to narrate the tale in the book helps the reader identify with Charlie and adds to the realism.

The novel depicts all aspects of adolescence and is not hesitant to address mature topics. To relate to teenagers, the book employs more mature situations. Many teenagers have personally experienced or heard about these difficulties. The characters engage in behaviors that some may

consider risky. These are used in the novel to induce realism, show real experiences and uncensored feelings.

You will laugh, weep, and continue reading if you read this narrative. It should not be missed. Charlie will teach you that if you have the appropriate friends, high school can be fun, and that becoming a teenager isn't as scary as it appears. Charlie goes on an emotional rollercoaster and discovers that he has the best friends he could ask for.

PLOT SUMMARY

The story is written in four parts which focuses on the development of the story and each character throughout the story.

Part 1: The Perks of Being a Wallflower is written in the form of a set of letters from Charlie, a troubled high school freshman, to a "friend," yet these letters are more akin to journal entries. Charlie is composing these letters to help him process two highly horrific experiences from his childhood: the recent suicide of his best friend, Michael, and the loss of his Aunt Helen when he was seven. When Charlie enters high school, he feels lonely and friendless, and Michael's suicide makes him feel like a strange outcast. Patrick and Sam treat Charlie as a little brother, but not necessarily in a patronizing way. Bill makes Charlie feel special intellectually, and Patrick and Sam make Charlie feel special socially.

Part 2: Charlie's family life is gradually revealed through the letters he cites in his letters, particularly as the holidays approach. Although Charlie doesn't reveal much about his parents, his letters convey the impression that they are concerned about him and attempt to be as helpful as possible. Charlie loves Patrick and Sam, and they love him. "Love" in this context does not always refer to sexual love. Charlie can come out of his shell thanks to this kind of affection and these close ties. He doesn't always have something to prove, and he doesn't always need to hide. They accept him for who he is because he embraces his friends for who they are.

Part 3: Charlie's mood improves nearly immediately after the holidays. Charlie attributes many of his troubles to his use of LSD at a New Year's Eve party. The improvement in his mood from his low state towards the end of the year is encouraging, but it does not appear to be lasting.

Throughout the *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, several separate relationships ravel and unravel at the same time. Charlie's relationship with Mary Elizabeth appears to be an exciting step ahead in his maturation journey. Charlie rarely brings up the most important things of his life because he tends to bury them. Charlie is smitten by Mary Elizabeth because she appears to like him since he is a good listener and can function as a counterpoint to reflect her brilliance. In some ways, the relationship is beneficial to Charlie, but it ultimately drives him towards the negative aspects of being a wallflower. Charlie's inability to make a white lie prompts him to self-sabotage the relationship when he and his pals play Truth or Dare. In the long run, though, honesty is the best policy; he could not have lived with the lie. That the one he truly loves is Sam.

Part 4: Patrick and Brad's relationship has been repressed since its inception. Brad can only see a negative conclusion from going out in the open, as he will be beaten and taken to rehab. One of the main themes of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is that the truth will eventually be out. After Brad rejects Patrick in favor of Charlie, Patrick subliminally sublimates his feelings for Brad onto Charlie. Charlie recognizes that Patrick does not want Charlie, but Patrick is lonely and confused. Part of Charlie's lack of shock arises from his lackadaisical attitude toward sexual experiences. Charlie's psychiatrist is assisting him in developing his own nuanced perspective.

Charlie creates mix tapes for himself and his buddies to commemorate key situations or to assist generate a certain state of mind. Bill's letters are offered as a possible future for Charlie, as well as an illustration of Charlie's influence on others around him. Bill, his mentor, is not personally intimidating because he never advances toward Charlie. Having Bill as a mentor also helps Charlie deal with the grief of losing Aunt Helen.

Charlie's final two letters to his anonymous "friend" are incredibly emotionally charged. Emotions and incidents, he suppressed throughout the novel explode like a volcano. Reading between the lines, the letters reveal Charlie to be a genuinely troubled young man. The reader hasn't been able to come to terms with Charlie's emotional wounds since he hasn't allowed himself recognize the extent of them until now. Charlie rises from his childhood and leaves everything behind, much like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon. Charlie must be reborn in many ways in order to progress. The image of Charlie driving through the tunnel and standing in the wind represents his journey through his past and into the freedom of his future. However, the only way to get to the other side is to go through: not to hide, repress, or pretend that the past doesn't exist, but to face the music and be brave enough to accept the truth, for the truth is the only thing that will set one free.

CONCLUSION:

Have you ever sensed things that gave you the feeling, whether good or bad, to just disappear from the world? At times I wished I did disappear because of the events that happened to me. I wished to feel peace in times of need but my senses would lead me to go numb from seeing what I wanted to, or feeling when I needed to; like my body would just shut down and become robotic. The Perks of Being a Wallflower offers me that escape from reality, to have friends during the time when I don't have any. The Perks of Being a Wallflowers offers readers a story, a world in the eyes of Charlie as he progresses through first year of high school. Faced by the recent suicide of his best friend, and the lingering past of his Aunt Helen.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is conflict between the person versus a person, and a person versus himself. Charlie experienced some traumatic experiences as a child that left him damaged for life. He tuned them out, but the inner sadness lingered, making him socially awkward and lonely. He has no idea how to act or react in these instances. Outsiders vs. insiders, as well as despair and anxiety, are the conflicts.

We are not alone. Charlie's feelings of loneliness generally are something we've all experienced to some degree, which some people don't admit. For some, the feeling of loneliness and despair can pretty last far too long. However, we are not facing the world alone because there will friends who always support and care for you.

What I think, mostly is ironic about the book actually is that it tells the perks or advantages of being a wallflower, even though the protagonist gets caught up in many different situations that doesn't define a wallflower. His aunt Helen is another irony. Charlie says she is his actually favorite person in the world but mostly hates talking about her. The fact is, Charlie

really was abused by her when he was a little boy. Charlie struggles through many situations he must essentially learn to cope with.

When do you feel melancholy, sadness, loneliness or afraid? Have you ever felt that way? Has anything caused these emotions to show? I have felt these emotions more than I can count. To feel melancholy was the start for me to feeling afraid. Sadness made me feel like I was the one who didn't belong with anyone. Loneliness came when I wanted to cry out and tell people everything that has happened to me but couldn't. Being afraid was a feeling I wished I could overcome or ignore; to put on a smile and say everything is going to be alright.

This book will tell you that in life, the terrible experiences, abuse and isolation won't shape and build us to who we are today but on how we face and overcome those challenges is when we will truly see our real selves.

PERSONAL REACTION (REFLECTION)

The book kicks off with an ethereal sequence that puts you in a dreamlike trance both the writing and the characters. Letting you know right off the bat that these characters are going through some bad things but also setting the standard for the rest of the book. The book feels insanely powerful, the writer is incredible for creating a setting that is lively and meticulously detailed.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower also well conveys the feeling of solitude and isolation. Occasionally, you'll read some informal writing and grammar mistakes that just reminds you that this book is a set of letters written by a teenager, it just breathes an air of authenticity into the story. Finally, when the story starts picking up and Charlie finds his way into the world, you are graced by the feelings of happiness and the once sad memories just disappear.

Is it a romance? Not really. Is it a sad book? Some people say it isn't. What I think the writer wants is the characters to struggle and have development. What I really enjoy in a good Young Adult or Fantasy books is when the funny or detached character gets really serious. Like when a weak guy becomes stronger or when a person starts achieving his dreams, and I like it when the characters develops their personality, and their real self. The story starts of with Charlie being a wallflower then, he finally ends the story saying that he'll participate in life. During that path of development, Charlie forges relationships, memories, mistakes, redemption, and little hints of romance.

The story feels like a guy who really have mental problems and have that eat away at him. The problems each character's face feels realistic. The author doesn't spoon feed you with exposition and you have to focus to find little details. Every character has a lore and reasons why

they act the way they act. It's a book about social anxiety, isolation, abuse, bullying, and self-development.

What message the story conveys? This is the questions I always think is different for each person but for me, the message the author is trying to send is that so many bad things happen to so many good people. But that didn't make them bad people. (Aunt Helen became a bad person. Sam and Charlie didn't.) So, it shows us, that we decide. "We accept the love we think we deserve". So, accept yourself and love yourself. The Perks of Being a Wallflower promotes and celebrates inclusion and tolerance by demonstrating how people may thrive when they are accepted for who they are, as well as how difficult life can be for those who are neglected or abused.

There's a lot to enjoy about this book. I say all these words but at the end of the book, I have a real nice and cozy feeling. I find it easy to relate to Charlie and be invested in the story and his character. I can't recommend this book enough.

Quotable Quotes or Notable Statements/Lines (that struck you the most)

“I just remember walking between them, and feeling for the first time that I belong somewhere.”

-Charlie, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Stephen Chbosky*

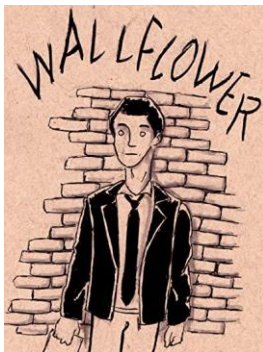
This line gave me goosebumps and a slight cringe, in a good, embarrassing way. In this line, I realized that for the first time in Charlie’s life, he truly has a place where he belongs.

Words to Ponder:



Coax /kōks/ verb

: To gently and persistently persuade (someone) to do something.



Wallflower wall·flow·er /'wōl flou(ə)r/ verb.


: someone who remains on sidelines at social events



Pragmatic prag·mat·ic /prag'madik/

: dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.

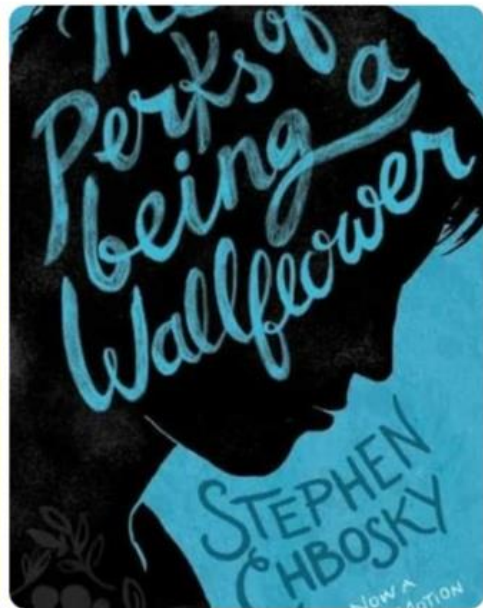
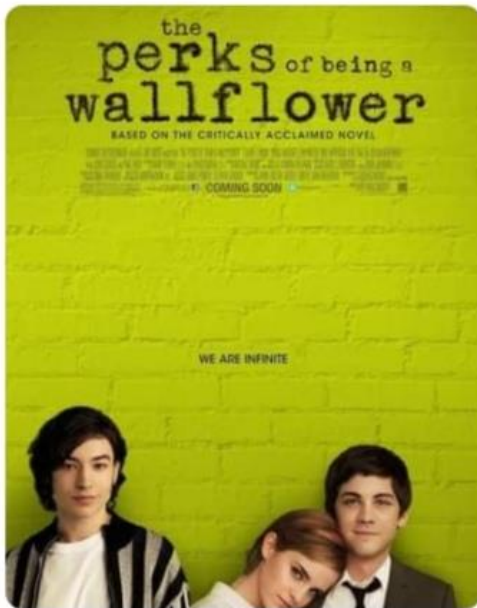
Social Media Integration: Post a quote or a notable line on your social media account/s and take a screenshot.






Mark Lime Dela Cruz is with **Mary France Dela Cruz** and **4 others**.
Just now • ⚙

"If somebody likes me, I want them to like the real me, not what they think I am. And I don't want them to carry it around inside. I want them to show me, so I can feel it, too. I want them to be able to do whatever they want around me. And if they do something I don't like, I'll tell them."

-Stephen Chbosky, Perks of Being a Wallflower



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The Critic:



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Sinuknipan National High School
2020-2021

Elementary:

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