

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky is a very well written coming-of-age book, which is now also a major motion picture, starring Emma Watson! This book contains a lot of mature content considering it is taking place in the life of a modern teenager. With the harsh memories of sexual abuse and the current peer pressure of sex, drugs, and alcohol, you will read the life of Charlie from his very own perspective of it.

This book is written in individual letters by Charlie, but are sent anonymously to an unknown person. Charlie starts the letters in one of the biggest steps in a teenagers life, starting high school. Charlie is the youngest of three kids. His older brother is a successful, handsome, football player at Penn State and his sister is one of the smartest, most beautiful girls at school, who's life revolves around her relationship problems. Charlie seems to be the simple one of the family, but more secrets come up as the story progresses. He doesn't seem to fit in at school much and doesn't really have many friends, until one night he meets Sam and Patrick, who open him up to the most exciting and crucial experiences of being a teenager. The three of their lives' soon become completely wrapped around partying, drinking, sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Charlie ends up falling for Sam, but even though nothing much really happens between them, she helps him grow so much as a person. Patrick struggles with his sexuality and falling in love with a boy who is embarrassed to be himself. Charlie soon goes through the huge transformation of that once shy, unknown nerd to a wild, anxious teen at the peak of his life. Charlie's inability to really open his thoughts caused his first ever relationship with Mary Elizabeth to not end so well, but one thing Charlie is good at is listening. Everyone comes to him for advice, even though

under his front he may be the one with the most problems. He even becomes closer with his sister after helping her in a bad situation in which ended with her getting an abortion. The most shocking part of this book is when Charlie reveals that his Aunt Helen, who up to this point he has explained her to be the closest person to him, had sexually abused him in the past. The main conflict in this book, I would say, is Charlie vs. society. He has a hard time from everyone. His parents baby him and just don't get it, his siblings never really paid attention to him, and he is always just trying to find his place with his peers. I would also say, though, that there is a big conflict between Charlie and himself. Old memories and the lack of confidence in himself cause him more problems than anything. My favorite character in this book is by far Sam because she knows who she is and doesn't change for anyone, but she also teaches others to do the same. Especially in your teenage years, it is important to have someone to always stand by your side and your decisions no matter what and help you stand up to peer pressure and Sam is the prime example of that. Mainly, she just teaches everyone how to be a good friend. Readers, teens especially, should most definitely use this book as a guide for their life because there are amazing values shown, and there are also prime examples of consequences for bad decisions. The main thing this book teaches is how important it is to be yourself and that it's ok.

I really related to this book so well because as a teenager who just started high school, it's kind of nice to just realize that you're not alone with a lot of things. It gives great advice in order to stand up to peer pressure just by showing real life consequences that really make you realize how your decisions can really affect you at this age. Most of the time, I could relate exactly to what Charlie was going through

because of my own experiences and just having to help friends out with the same kind of things. I think any teenager can get something good out of this book.

This book has to be one of the best books I have read so far just because at this age it's so relatable and realistic. I also really enjoyed the way it was written and I would say it was a huge strength because even though it was written in letter form, it almost felt like you were reading a diary. Also, just the content of this book is the biggest strength. The only weakness I thought this book had was how what Aunt Helen did was revealed because it was really confusing and took a while to finally get the gist of what actually happened. It also ended kind of abruptly. Something I would change about this book is most definitely the ending because it just felt like there should of been more to it than that.

I would most definitely recommend this book to anyone, but especially teenagers because I think it could really help out some young kids that are going through the same types of things. Adults, I think, could also relate to this book really well because it will make them look back on their past.