



How to Survive Middle School

By Donna Gephart

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Fans of James Patterson's Middle School series will root for David as he goes from feeling as insignificant as a hamster to becoming an Internet superstar.

Eleven-year-old David Greenberg dreams of becoming a YouTube sensation and spends all of his time making hilarious Top 6½ Lists and Talk Time videos. But before he can get famous, he has to figure out a way to deal with:

6. Middle school (much scarier than it sounds!)
5. His best friend gone girl-crazy
4. A runaway mom who has no phone!
3. The threat of a swirlie on his birthday
2. A terrifying cousin
1. His # 1 fan, Bubbe (his Jewish grandmother)
- 1/2. Did we mention Hammy, the hamster who's determined to break David's heart?

But when David's new best friend, Sophie, starts sending out the links to everyone she knows and her friends tell their friends, thousands of people start viewing his videos.

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How to Survive Middle School By Donna Gephart Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1160583 in Books
- Brand: Yearling
- Published on: 2010-04-13
- Released on: 2010-04-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.48" h x .92" w x 5.91" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5–7—As a huge fan of comedic TV anchorman Jon Stewart, David Greenberg creates original Talk Time videos starring himself and his hamster, and posts them on YouTube. His former friend, Elliott, used to collaborate on the videos, but now chooses to hang out with Tommy Murphy, an infamous bully who besets David, a lowly sixth grader. Short and scrawny, David is an easy target for Tommy's depredations, yet he simultaneously wins the friendship and loyalty of sweet Sophie, who tells all her friends to view his hilarious videos and post great comments, bringing good publicity to David, who intends to become a famous talk-show host. Then Hammy dies, and after Tommy subjects David to the ultimate indignity of a swirlie, he wonders what good is it to be famous online while being called Lameberg at school. Part of his problem is that he misses his mother, who abandoned the family for another man, as well as the fact that he insulted his older sister by mocking her acne treatments in his videos. Then there's Elliott, whose fickle behavior defies understanding, but who eventually returns to being David's friend. Things start to look up with the exciting news that David's clever videos will be aired on *The Daily Show*. With short chapters and broad humor, this one is for "Wimpy Kid" aficionados (Abrams).—*Susan W. Hunter, Riverside Middle School, Springfield, VT*

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From [Booklist](#)

Oy, but David Greenberg has troubles: he is still missing his mother two years after she moved to another state; his longtime best friend, Elliott, has been behaving like a schmuck since hitting puberty; and even before the first day at Harmon (aka "Hormone") Middle School, he has become a feared bully's victim of choice. On the other hand, though his father is distant, his live-in grandmother is a reliable provider of food and support; his teenage sister Lindsey is always good for a quick hug; and he has really hit it off with new classmate Sophia—a smart, peppermint-scented, and refreshingly unselfconscious ex-homeschooler. Best of all (maybe), the Daily Show–style videos he has been posting on YouTube have gone viral, and suddenly he is a local celebrity. Readers will understand how good David really has it long before he does, and—despite a late, clumsily handled revelation that his mom won't be coming home because she is too agoraphobic to travel—Gephart crafts for her likable protagonist an engaging, feel-good transition into adolescence that's well stocked with tears and laughter. Grades 5–8. --John Peters

Review

"Gephart maps the hormonal, emotionally torturous terrain of pubescent boyhood with realistic dialogue, well-developed secondary characters and age-appropriate humor and insight, placing this title in the same august league as Jordan Sonnenblick's *Girls, Drums and Dangerous Pie*."--***Kirkus, starred.***

With short chapters and broad humor, this one is for "Wimpy Kid" aficionados."--***School Library Journal, starred.***

"A deft balance of clever humor and poignant drama makes for an engaging and thoroughly enjoyable coming-of-age story, one to which many young readers, particularly boys, will find themselves relating . . . excellent cast of supporting characters . . . there are enough laughs, tears and additional contributions from a camera-loving hamster here to make this one appeal to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* fans."--***The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books***

"Gephart crafts for her likable protagonist an engaging, feel-good transition into adolescence that's well

stocked with tears and laughter."--*Booklist*

"This funny, tender novel . . . is relatable and compulsively readable."--*Publisher's Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brenda Carey:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The How to Survive Middle School is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Glenn Remaley:

Often the book How to Survive Middle School has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

Paul Jackson:

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Edith Manning:

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