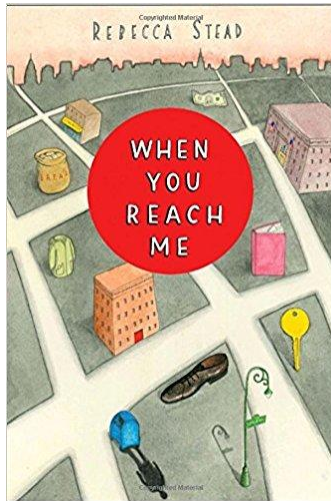


When You Reach Me Book Review

By Charlene V. Martoni

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Nobody has proven that time travel exists yet, BUT nobody has proven that it *doesn't* exist either. If your kid reads *When You Reach Me*, they will follow Miranda as she discovers the truth about time travel—and how it changed everything. This winner of the Boston Globe Horn Book Award for Fiction and the Newbery Medal is a must-read. *When You Reach Me* is for your kid if they liked *A Wrinkle In Time*, if they're into time travel and other science fiction motifs, or if they're a New Yorker, through-and-through.

With a strong sense of place, Rebecca Stead sets her book in New York City. Many of the scenes feature kids walking down the streets of the city, whether it's walking home from school or walking to the sandwich shop during their lunch period. Your kid will laugh-out-loud when they get to chapter eight, when Miranda lists “mom’s rules for life in New York City,” because THEY ARE SO TRUE. The city also makes its way into the storyline in subtle ways, like, for instance, when it’s revealed that one of the kids uses the buildings—instead of a watch—to tell time.

Rebecca Stead’s use of *A Wrinkle In Time* throughout the novel helps to emphasize a time travel motif, but it also helps the reader to draw comparisons and notice contrasts between the two novels. Time travel makes this book’s ending a huge surprise! SPOILER ALERT: The strange “Laughing Man” (or “Quackers”)—who would lay with his head under the mailbox and who frightens the kids throughout the novel——ends up being the person leaving Miranda notes from the future, all because he is trying to travel back in time in order to save her best friend Sal’s life. What’s even more surprising is that he’s one of the kids, all grown up. Sacrifice like that, when shown in children’s and young adult literature, can powerfully teach children/young adults what it means to be selfless.

With a lexile level of 750L, this *New York Times* bestseller and notable book is developmentally appropriate for children ages 8-12/in grades 3-7.

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