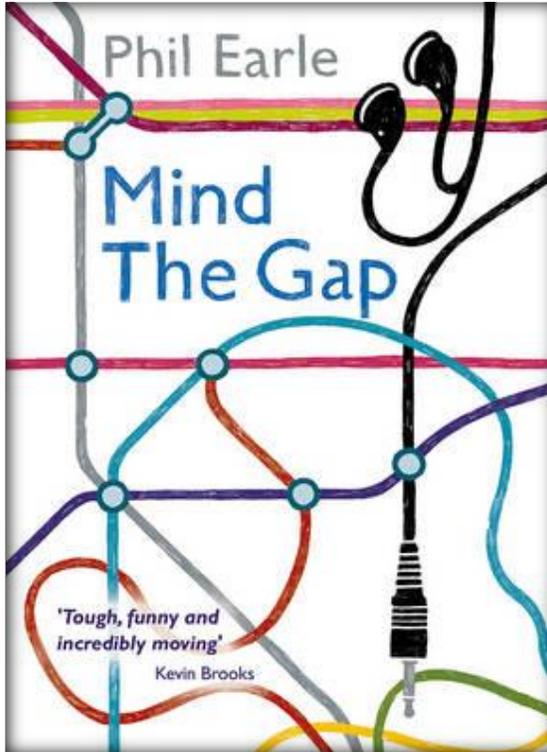


## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Mind The Gap** By Phil Earle

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



**Natalie McCalla, age 18**

*A brilliant and heart-felt story put into the lives of fifteen year old boys, living in a tough estate and dealing with a lot of things, but always being there for each other. No matter what comes.*

*This story was very touching and only took me an hour to read, as I was hooked onto the story line. It really shows how much true friends will be there for you, even if it means getting hurt themselves. The relationship that is shown between Mickey and the author is very inspiring and shows me how much you should be there for others. It isn't just about yourself. A brilliant*

*story put into the lives of two fifteen year old boys, living in a tough place and dealing with a lot of things, but always being there for each other.*

Twitter: @NatalieMcCallax

**Lara Craig, age 13**

*Mind the Gap is a short but lovely book about friendship and a father and son relationship.*

*Mikey's father has died and he admits to his best friend that the worst thing for him is not remembering his father's voice.*

*What I particularly liked about this book was how it presented two very different sides to the fathers' character, Vinny. As a son, Mikey seems to have a*

*very high opinion of his father whereas when we go on to meet the other characters who knew him, we see a very different side. He was hated and resented by others who were once close to him.*

*My favourite character was the best friend; he shows what it is to be empathetic, loyal and kind. I like that we never know his name; it adds a sense of mystery about him. He puts Mikey first despite being beaten up as a result of trying to help him.*

**Overall I thought this book was fantastic, it put into perspective how one might feel when a friend is swallowed by grief.** *Mikey is so badly grief stricken that he loses himself, getting into fights and drinking, and dragging his best friend into it too. My favourite scene was the ending when Mikey finally hears his Dad voice again. It leaves you with the sense of hope that Mikey will be okay and he will be able to find comfort in the fact his dad will always be there telling him to 'Mind the Gap'.*

### **Ruth Ward**

**Characters that you care about from the outset, strong emotions, language and actions. Inspired by a true story that will tug at your heart. Recommended**

### **Melanie Chadwick**

***If you've got a friend as good as Mikey's then you're really lucky.***

*Mikey's dad died and since then, Mikey hasn't been right. He's picking fights with the meanest bully in town, drinking heavily and doesn't care about anything. His best friend is worried about him and sets out to get the old Mikey back at all costs. He starts the search for clues about Mikey's Dad so he can fill in the missing picture for his friend and this leads him to some of the rougher characters of London and some unwelcome discoveries. Set over the course of just a few days, the story is very immediate and has the usual high quality writing and impact we expect from Barrington Stoke. It also has a satisfactorily hopeful ending. **It's a testament to the value of strong friendship and love.***

### **Dylan Sweet, age 13**

***Mind The Gap is a great and emotional book where two best friends***

**go through a bad time together.** *Mikey's dad has died however the loss of his dad is killing Mikey too. His best friend sets out to find something to bring his mate back. He goes on a journey through London to find anything Vinny, Mikey's dad, even a voice...I love this book because it is brief but tells an interesting tale. My favourite character has to be Vinny's agent, he is tough and down to business. It is incredibly funny but leads a mature story. It shows the bonds between friendships and how close young children are. I found the book easy to read but has an original plot. I would rate this book four stars. Enjoy reading.*

**Jess Wagstaff, age 16**

***Quite simply wonderful - a true YA gem that is witty and moving at the same time. I loved it.***

*For quite a short read, this book was incredibly moving. A simple tale of friendship, love and loss but extremely hard hitting and personal. An absolute gem. I loved the characters - specifically Mikey's best mate who has such unrelenting kindness and compassion for Mikey in a way that really is inspiring. In addition to this, the concept behind the book really is excellent. Having spent a lot of time in London recently after reading this book I have listened carefully to the voices at the platforms and it really helps me appreciate the smaller things in life. Phil Earle has done an excellent job of writing a beautiful story, contained into 94 pages. Marvellous.*

You can follow Jess on Twitter: @jessiewagstaff

**Marianne, age 13**

This book gives a taste at a life you are unfamiliar with. I loved reading the book 'Mind the gap', it was a really well written book and the characters were presented well. I enjoyed reading the book as whenever I had to stop you were left on a cliff-hanger, I just wanted to go back to reading the book. **It put me in a certain mind, it showed me a different side of life. Whenever I was reading it was like I was caught up in the actual book.** I can imagine everything written in my mind like I was living among them. The backing behind the book is difficult topic to write about but I feel as if it was written perfectly, the way he wrote about the situation makes you feel sorry for Mikey. The language he writes it in is strong and emotional it is very well written!

