Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of
See You In The Cosmos
by Jack Cheng

Below are the complete reviews, written by the Lovereading4kids members.

Jasmin Sherrett, Year 9 - Great Torrington School

*I really enjoyed this book. From the first chapter I was hooked on the story and on the charming main character. It was lovely seeing how Alex tried to pursue his dreams while interacting with other characters and dealing with his problems. I would definitely recommend it.*

Annika Patel-Price, Year 7 - Dormston Secondary School

*I absolutely loved this book. It is amazing and full of emotion. The story follows a boy called Alex who is trying to send his golden ipod into space but with a troubled mother, a long dead father and a brother who is never around, he runs into some problems. I couldn’t stop reading this book and think it will appeal to readers aged 9 upwards and anyone who enjoys sci-fi and plots with a bit of tragedy.*

Emma Stephenson, age 13

‘See You in the Cosmos’ is a wonderful, heart-warming story. You can really feel what the characters are feeling. Alex who is just starting to find himself in the busy world that we live in wants to send his golden iPod into space. Along his journey to doing so he finds his half-sister and meets some great friends. As an older reader I found this story filled my heart with joy, especially the happy ending. Any reader of about the age of 8+ will enjoy reading ‘See You in the Cosmos’. If you have read ‘The Curious Incident of the
Dog in the Night time’ then this book would appeal to you. After reading this story I have realised how much it takes for a family to bond and how hard it is for families with members that have mental health issues. This book was interesting to read because I felt for the characters as if they were real. I definitely recommend ‘See You in the Cosmos’ if you are looking for a fun read with an important message.

Alex Nicholson, age 10

‘See You in the Cosmos’ by Jack Cheng is a gripping story about an 11-year-old boy called Alex who is inspired by his hero, a scientist named Carl Sagan. Alex wants to launch his golden iPod into space with the intention of aliens finding it and learning about life on Earth, but it fails. He decided to double his efforts and try again next time SHARF (Southwest High Altitude Rocket Festival) comes around. This sad but slightly witty story makes you feel sympathy for Alex and involves you in the journey as he learns to persevere and pursue his dreams to achieve his goal in life. I would recommend this book to people who have big life ambitions as it should inspire them to carry on, even if it takes 1000 tries. A great read!

Sue Wilsher, Teacher

'See You in the Cosmos' is funny, poignant and inspiring in turns- a book which will leave you thinking long after you have finished it.

Space-loving eleven year old Alex spends much of his time looking after his troubled mother. His older brother hardly ever comes to visit and his dad is dead.

Determined to launch his rocket into space and with it his iPod, Alex is recording a message for any aliens to hear. So what does he record? Absolutely everything!

And so we are taken with Alex to the rocket festival in New Mexico with his dog, Carl Sagan (named after Alex's personal hero). He records all his thoughts and feelings; conversations with the new friends he makes along the way; everything he wonders about. Being an inquisitive boy, when he gets a notification from Ancestry telling him about someone with the same name and birthday as his father, Alex just has to investigate. His new friends end up taking him on an amazing journey where he loses Carl Sagan, finds family and finally, returns home.
'See You in the Cosmos' is a lovely book which explores relationships and the complexities of family life. Through Alex's recordings, the reader sees and hears events that he is not central to as well as those he dictates, offering an original and fascinating way of viewing the novel's events. Alex is a unique character with a very strong voice, resilient and resourceful, yet vulnerable and endearing. As he goes on his quest to find his 'maybe father', he realises that family can be the people who care about him, not just those he is related to. The book is funny, poignant and inspiring in turns, one which will leave you thinking long after you have finished it.

http://www.northsomersetteachersbookaward.com/

You can follow Sue on Twitter: @Scoobiesue2

Ian Eagleton, adult

An inspiring, uplifting tale of one boy's quest to launch his words into space. The book manages to be touching, devastating, funny and heart-breaking in equal measure. 'See you in the Cosmos' by Jack Cheng, is the uplifting and moving story of a young boy called Alex Petroski. The book follows space obsessed Alex's quest to build a rocket and launch his golden iPod (containing Alex's words, musings and reflections on life) into space. This is a nuanced, poigniant book that follows Alex's adventure and his heart-warming discoveries about friendship and family. The book ultimately succeeds because Alex is such a wonderful, original character - bright, curious, funny, quirky and innocent. His reflections on society and the people he encounters on his trip are insightful, funny and often heart-breaking. This is a terrific, inspiring tale that will encourage readers to reflect upon their own lives and aspirations and the true meaning of love and bravery.

You can follow Ian on Twitter: @ieconsultancy

Ethan Owen, age 11 - Little Sutton Primary School

This emotional roller-coaster will always make you want to read more and more and really opened my eyes up to what the real world is like for others.

This book is amazing and extremely good for people who like a book which challenges them to think - and for people who are enthused by the topic of space.

This emotional roller-coaster will always make you want to read more and
The main character is an eleven year old boy called Alex who dreams of launching his iPod into space, with recordings about life on earth for other life forms to find.

This book is unusual in that it is a series of recordings made by Alex on his iPod. He has a dog who he named after his hero Carl Sagan, who was an astronomer. His father is dead, his brother is away working in Los Angeles and his mother does not seem to be able to care for him, so he has to do all the work around the house. Alex decides to go to SHARF, a rocket festival, which is a long journey away but there is no one to tell him he cannot go. He plans to launch his iPod there on a rocket he has built himself. He meets various people along the way and makes some good friends, who help him on his adventure. He also decides to see if his father is really dead and travels after the festival to Las Vegas.

I really enjoyed this book. Alex is a likeable, brave character and I would definitely recommend this book to readers who like stories about road trip adventures and family.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 11

A space and rocket obsessed 11 year old boy who wants to send his iPad into space to find the answers to his questions. A good read if you want something a bit different.

I was really looking forward to reading this as I had read the blurb and I really liked the cover. I liked the way that instead of chapters, it was split into recordings. There were also lots of pages which were just like a screenplay script. This made it different from a lot of other books I have read. Alex, who is eleven sounds a lot younger in the story and he is quite reckless and doesn’t think about what he is doing and if it is dangerous or not. I think the book answers lots of questions from a child’s prospective as you can relate to Alex so easily the way it is written in his words. I think if anyone is obsessed with space
they will enjoy this, especially if you want a book that is different to anything else you have read before.

Alex, age 11

*The book is about a boy called Alex who is 11* (Like me!) and *he is a space engineering enthusiast, he goes on a journey across the US to accomplish his dream of sending a rocket into space*. When I received this book, I was quite excited. The cover and the bookmark were very appealing to me. Once I started reading it, I understood the plot but as I read on the plot became too complex and I found it hard to follow. I think the book would appeal to older teenagers rather than my age group.

Lucy Keaveny, age 11

*A story that tells the tale of family love and the support people can give you. A sad yet happy story.*

The beginning of the book was quite hard to get into but once I did it was a good story. It is a story of loss and heartache. Alex has lost his dad and his mum is ill in hospital. He is trying to make sense of what is happening to him. The story is made up of a series of video recordings that he will launch into space. This can sometimes be slightly confusing as different characters are talking.

I enjoyed the story and I think Alex manages to make sense of what he needs.