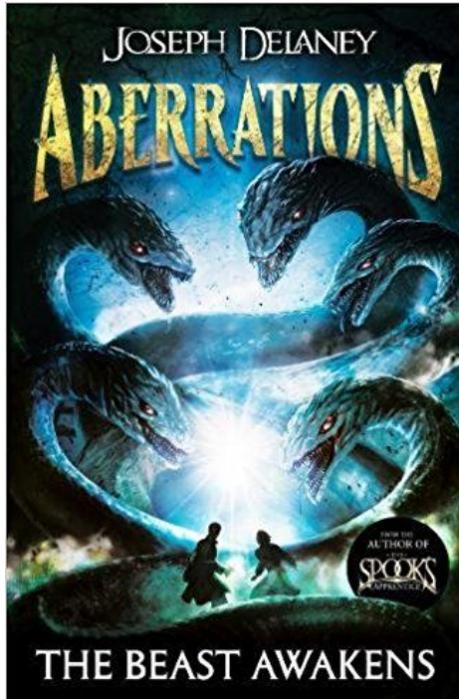




## Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of The Beast Awakens Written by Joseph Delaney

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



**Sam Harper, 13**

***Packed full of scary creatures and chilling characters, I only wish this had been much, much longer. This is a must for all fantasy and adventure fans.***

*When the massive entity of the Shole advanced and engulfed Crafty's home, he lost his mother forever. His father's attempts to keep Crafty and his brothers safe failed and now Crafty lives secreted away in the cellar of his family home with only the whispers of his dead brothers and a friendly aberration called the Bog Queen to keep him company. Protective spells have hidden him for almost a year but they won't last forever so his father takes him out of the Shole to Lancaster Castle. Here a group of people led by the Duke bravely venture into the Shole, searching for ways to stop its advancement across the country. Crafty's father is a courier, transporting objects to places inside the Shole, and Crafty is a Fey which means that he may develop his*

*own magic abilities as he grows up. He is therefore able to train as a gate grub, working for the gate mancans, opening magical gates into the Shole to allow people to enter and take samples for research. Crafty's father is sent on a crucial mission inside the Shole to rescue the Duke's son but it goes terribly wrong and he and the other couriers disappear. Now Crafty must use all his skills to find his father but not everyone is fighting against the Shole and not everyone can be trusted.*

*This is an amazing start to the Aberrations series. It sets the scene well and introduces us to Crafty's world and the sinister entity that is the Shole. Packed full of scary creatures and chilling characters, I only wish it had been much longer. I can't wait for the second book. This series is a must for all fans of fantasy and adventure. If you like Angie Sage's Magyk series or Joseph Delaney's Spook's Apprentice you'll absolutely love this.*



**Fiona Sutherland, 14**

***The Beast Awakens' is a fantastic book which you will find hard to put down once you have started to read it.***

*This is a brilliant installment in what I hope to be an enthralling series. We are immediately transported into the world of Crafty and the Gate Grubs who have to fight a battle against an unknown entity called the Shole. The Shole is gradually spreading over Lancaster and the Gate Grubs and Gate Mancers have to find out why and how.*

*Delaney makes us feel like we are right there with Crafty and facing the dangers that he is. The plot of this book had me gripped and wanting to read the next book. One thing for certain is that this book will take you through all the possible emotions you can feel whilst reading a book: sadness, fear, anticipation and excitement.*

*However 'The Beast Awakens' would not be suitable for people under the age of 11 as it is quite scary with the use of figurative and imaginative writing techniques to portray the Aberrations within the Shole.*

*My favourite character after Crafty (who lives up to his name) has to be Leticia Crompton-Smythe otherwise known as 'Lick'. Lick is a high willed and a highly intelligent boffin. Although she gets herself into predicaments she always finds a way to get out of them and help her friends.*

*To sum up, 'The Beast Awakens' is a fantastic book which you will find hard to put down once you have started to read it.*

**Brodie Greenslade, 12**

***Aberrations: The Beast Awakens is a thrilling fantasy novel full of monsters, action and intriguing characters – I highly recommend it!***

*This is a thrilling novel about Crafty, a boy who has to survive against the Shole, a mist-like cloud that, in most cases, kills those who venture in. If anybody does survive, they are anything but lucky. They become the horrifying Aberrations, terrible beasts who seek to feed on raw flesh. Crafty's home is partly submerged in the Shole, but he makes his escape to Lancaster Castle, where he assists the gate mancens in studying the Shole, in the hope they can destroy it. But as the Shole advances towards the castle, Crafty worries they will be too late...*

*I liked this book a lot as the plot was well thought out and full of suspense, and the monsters were very diverse and interesting. I really liked Crafty as he seemed both brave and clever.*

*The book was gripping, and I liked it so much, I read it in one day! I would highly recommend it to people who like exciting fantasy books, and I am looking forward to reading the next one.*



**Rebekah Marsh, 15**

***This book was utterly unputdownable - I loved each and every second of time I spent reading it! I was torn between wanting to find out what happened and not wanting the book to end!***

*Aberrations was based around such an amazing concept that I plan to read it over again so many times! It was a truly sensational read!*

**Nick Kaleniuk, 12**

***I think that the Beast Awakens is a fabulous read because it lulls the reader into a never ending journey through the magical kingdom, the Shole, and the people involved. The idea that this had happened in places we know today in our country makes the story more believable, while you remain spellbound to the fictional story. I enjoyed learning the roles of those who fight the Shole, and the hierarchy determined by the Duke of Lancashire. It was enticing to discover that there were grey hoods involved in the movement to fight the Shole, which meant you felt the characters were on edge the entirety of their time in the castle after they too learned of this news. I especially liked the prophecy made by the witch because at the moment it has a chance to come true. I loved the Beast Awakens and can't wait to read the next book in the Aberrations series.***

**Natalie Hunter**

***This is a book I would recommend to reader's aged around 13 years old, even those who don't particularly enjoy reading. The plot is intriguing and the idea of the aberrations is very well- rounded, I just wanted to know more about all these different monsters and 'The Shole' that created them. Personally I didn't relate very well with any of the characters but I believe that this is probably because the book was aimed at slightly younger readers, and if you were thirteen, the same age as the characters, they may be slightly more relatable.***

*Overall all I believe that this book would be particularly good for those who aren't massive readers, especially those who have read and enjoyed Joseph Delaney's other series, The Spook's Apprentice.*

**Daisy Pritchard - Williams, nearly 14**

*In my opinion, I did not really like Aberrations very much. Now, that may be because I am a little older than the intended audience, or that I have read books before like this, but it just seemed quite samey. Over all, I did think this was a rather good book, the plot was good and the book was well written, but some parts did seem to drag I think that to do with the intended audience probably being 2 years younger than I am. I did think that the concept and idea of the book was well thought out and I particularly liked the silver gates and the way that they were able to travel into the Shole. I did find the whole idea was hard to grasp at first, and some elements of the story weren't very well explained but I got it after a couple of pages. **Overall, I thought that this was an alright book, and would be good for children that like fantasy adventure stories that are about 11 or 12.***

**Matilda Greenacre, 11*****A page turning story that kept you hanging on edge.***

*This story was a brilliant story that i would 100% recommend. It is not the sort of book that i would normally go for but i loved it all the same. I never knew what was going to happen next and i loved the danger that was alway there throughout the whole book.*

*I would definitely recommend this book to both boys and girls from age 11+. I will certainly be reading other books from this author and found this story truly amazing.*

**Felicity Kerswell, 15*****I would recommend this book to anyone who likes mystery and magic. I hope there is a sequel to this book as it was brilliant!***

*This book was so amazing that I couldn't put it down. The main character, crafty, has a likable personality and as the book goes on he just keeps get better! I also love the mystery surrounding the Shole.*

**Grace Spear, 15*****The beast awakens was an amazing book to read as it really held you in another world making you feel immersed in the story.***

*The beast awakens was an amazing book to read as it really held you in another world, with everything feeling real. It tells the story of crafty who is living in his family's cellar, stuck in the shole for nearly a year. However his life suddenly changes when he's ordered to become a gate grub working at the castle. As a gate grub he has to operate a portal that allows the gatemancers to gather information on the shole. The job holds many dangers, if Crafty wants to stay alive he'll have to live up to his nickname.*

*I felt immersed in this book, as though I was part of it. It had such an interesting story line with it having loads of twists and turns. My favourite character was Lick, and I loved the relationship she builds with Crafty and Lucky. There's so many mysteries with crafty not being able to trust anyone. As you read you are forever trying to figure the characters out. I really enjoyed this book and hope there are more in the series.*

**Dylan Sweet, 14**

*The Shole has covered parts of Britain which is a dark mist that either kills living things or mutates them into monsters; aberrations. This novel starts off with a young boy named Crafty hidden in a dark cellar, protected by magical candles, alone. This is the start of an adventure which leads him down a dangerous path. Even though he is immune to the Shole's affects, he is at risk with aberrations roaming the land. His father works in the daylight world, places where the Shole hasn't reached yet. This is where Crafty starts his new job helping people learn more about the Shole and the creatures that dwell within it. I loved this book because it incorporates a darker, more dangerous plot with ordinary characters. The friends Crafty meets along the way seem to come and go but he has other problems to worry about. Even those not affected by the Shole. The writer has created a fictional world that many readers will*



*enjoy. An easy going book to read means that it is accessible to anyone over 11 years old. I would recommend it due to the fast pace plot. Although it was quite difficult to understand at first due to the narrative, I grew to comprehend the world in which the characters lived in. **I would give this a full five star and will be sure to read it again!***