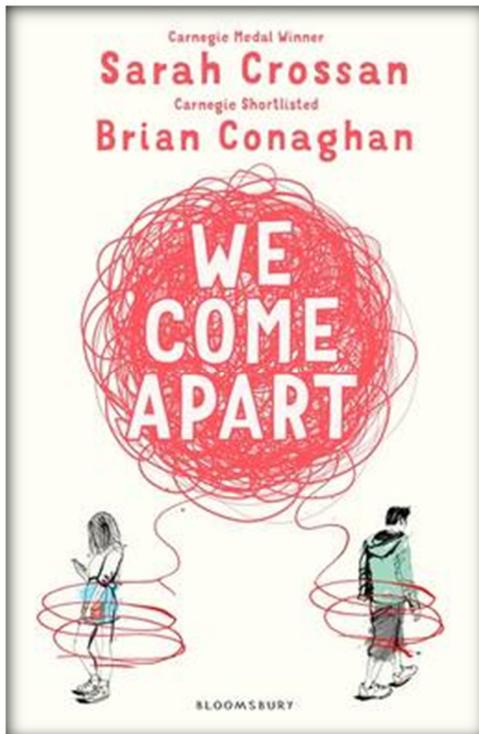


Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **We Come Apart** By Sarah Crossan & Brian Conaghan

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



Sofia, age 17

A heart-breaking portrayal of friendship, love and being different.

I loved this book. I love stories told in verse because they're so easy to get obsessed with and read non-stop. This story was beautifully heart-breaking as well as being relevant. I loved the depiction of the racism that European migrants experience in the UK, especially after Brexit. If this book isn't on your list for 2017 releases, it should be.
thereadingfangirl.wordpress.com

Edel Waugh

This book is told by two people, Nico is the male in the story and Jess is the female.

Nico is Romanian and he is finding it hard to adjust to England and his well-planned future.

Jess is living in a very troubled home and her life there is unbearable. Both these characters are suffering in their own way.

At times it can be hard going reading the pain these characters are going through, both alone in their worries and fears.

*We never truly know what other people's lives are like as we look in from the outside so the importance of friendship for survival through the tough times comes across strongly in the story. **I recommend this to all fans of a good tearjerker.***

Bethan Scarr, age 15

*A great read by two fabulous authors. **A read in one sitting, with intriguing characters who you really get to know.***

Having already enjoyed books by both of these authors I was really looking forward to reading this book and can't say I was disappointed. The format is unlike other books but it helps to absorb you into the characters and gives a real pace to their story. The characters themselves are intriguing and you feel an immediate empathy towards them. While reading, you can't help but feel that the words have been so thoughtfully chosen to give an authentic voice to both Jess and Nicu. A very quick read, I did want more when I reached the end.

Humaira, age 18

I think this book is an important one. It's more than two kids falling in love. It's about how we see people and accept them for who they are; whether they are good or bad. Nicu is a one in a million character. I loved the distinct voice. I love that no words were wasted telling this story. Truly beautiful and captivating.

Rosa Boran, age 17

A wonderful love story featuring two very damaged young people who blossom when they find one another. A gem.

This is a truly amazing novel. It's a story told in two voices - one a boy the other a girl. The boy, Nicu, is an immigrant from Romania who worries all the time about being sent back while the girl, Jess, lives in a house where violence is an ever present reality.

The book is written in blank verse which makes it a very quick read but the writing itself is really strong and very beautiful. Nicu has only broken English and yet it is written in a way that makes him vulnerable and very likable.

I had read books by both of these authors before and enjoyed them. They make a great team here and the book speeds along being both exciting and also thoughtful. There is a lot of bullying and racism and some very sad moments but ultimately it is a love story. I thought it was great.

Rebekah Marsh, age 14

I was unable to loosen my grip on it for hours - a totally inspirational and unique read that will never be topped by another young adult novel.

At first glance, I had doubts about the book because poetry books are not a personal favourite and I was weary of how the two authors would mix. However, the poetry enhanced the magical words of both authors as well as both authors enhancing each other's poems and characters to create a truly magnificent read that I will never ever forget.

Ruth Ward, Library & Resources Manager, Great Torrington School

*Credible characters that you are just willing to succeed, guaranteed to be popular with anyone who loves free verse and style. **The writing flows with a beautiful rhythm yet the story is as bittersweet as it could be. Recommended!***

Kirsty Wray, age 13

Written in poetry, this novel is a beautiful, heart-breaking and bittersweet story of friendship. Jess and Nicu sacrifice their own chances for each other which is narrated so brilliantly well.

Jess and Nicu are from completely different lives, but they have more in common than they think – for a start, they're both stuck picking up litter for community service and have home lives they'd much rather be away from. Nicu doesn't want to go back to Romania and find a wife, and Jess doesn't want to stay in her house with her stepfather. But it isn't like they can leave. Or can they?

Jess is a delinquent child, who's arrested for shoplifting and when her friends let her take the fall she doesn't believe she's ever getting out of this place. Nicu wants to stay in England, to learn and have a better life, and is enthusiastic about everything – even picking up litter in the park. They're unlikely friends, who bond despite their differences.

Nicu is an easy target, and shows how much damage prejudice can do. His innocence is slowly being corrupted but he remains strong, and his love for Jess powers him through the book.

Jess and Nicu sacrifice their own chances for each other, and 'We Come Apart' shows that, with determination and meeting the right person, nothing is

hopeless.

You can follow Kirsty on Twitter: @MillenniumLRC

Great Torrington School, Year 9 Student

I thought this book was interesting. The storyline was shaped well around the characters' lives and everything seems vividly realistic. The ending was quite sad, (and on a cliff-hanger) so I would love for there to be a second book.

Aimee Sweet, age 15

We Come Apart is a novel narrated in poetry that I have been excited to read for a while now. The cover is effective and stylish, but as I'm sure you're all aware it's what inside that counts! Fortunately the content matches the cover and exceeds all my expectations of Crossan and her amazing writing.

*The introduction of Conaghan and a very different writing style brings the two characters to life on the page. With Sarah's being quite brutal and honest, Conaghan depicts Nicu as sweet and loved-up. Two very different personalities ending up in quite similar circumstances proves that we can all do wrong, but can also find love within ourselves. We are all capable of loving, and being loved, however hard it may be. I loved Jess' and Nicu's relationship; young love is displayed here as raw as it can get and I love that. I love reading about things that can relate to me and I think this book can relate to all of us- whether that be children or adults trapped in our society where there is nowhere to run when it's all too much. **'We Come Apart' is a refreshing read that brings to mind the hardships people face every day and the fact that we do NOT have to face them alone. Brilliant.***