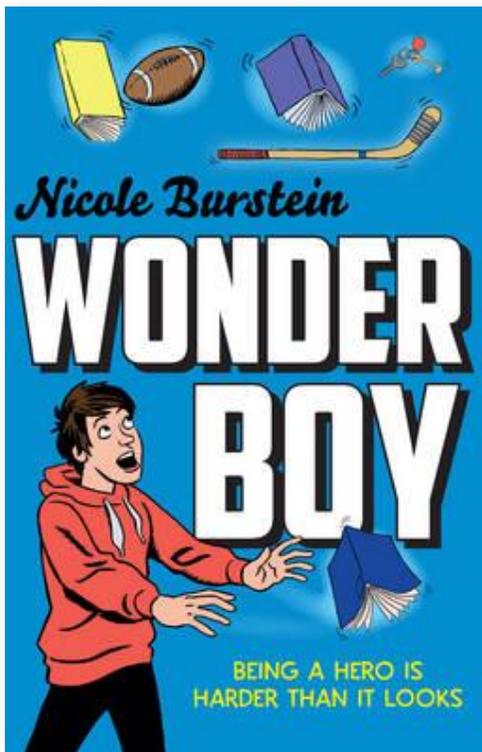


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Wonderboy** by Nicole Burstein

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



Jess Anderson, age 13

The book is extremely fast paced and there is never a dull moment.

When I was sent this book I didn't want to read it at first. I usually dislike this type of book, and although Other Girl had been a great read, I was sceptical of Wonder Boy being as good.

However, I was wrong. I found this book just as engrossing and gripping as Other Girl, and I read it in one sitting! The book is extremely fast paced and there is never a dull moment.

The characters in this book were a lot more relatable than in Other Girl. Wilco is the scholarship kid to a private school. His mum works two jobs just to pay for his

uniform, and has no idea that her son is a 'nobody' at school and is physically bullied.

Even when Wilco discovers that he has a superpower, and that he can control and levitate people and objects, his schoolmates still think of him as pathetic and weak.

This book was not quite as dark as Other Girl, and I would have preferred it to have more of an edge to it. But, I just think this because I am older than the audience that this book is aimed at (I think...).

Overall, I really enjoyed this book as an easy read and I will definitely recommend it to some of my friends and to my younger sister.

Grace Spear, age 14

This is a great book and it was amazing how I could picture all the characters in my head, as though they'd jumped off the page.

Joseph Wilkinson is a normal teenage boy struggling to get through high school at Gatford house. He's believed in superheroes and the vigils for half his life, and when changes start to happen to him, he realises his life isn't as normal as it once seemed. This story will have you wondering what's going to happen next, with every word you read.

Adam Goodman, age 13

A great, gripping read leaving me desperate for more...

'Wonderboy' was a great book with a very creative plot. It is about a young boy called Joseph, who isn't extremely popular, and has the nickname 'Wilco', short for will comply. For example, if someone needs homework to be done, he'll do it for them. Everyone knows about a special group of people known as 'Vigils', who have superpowers. One day, Joseph realises that he has levitation powers and hopes that it will change his life for the better...

I really enjoyed this book and loved the way in which it was written. It kept me excited and gripped all the way through from start to finish and became more 'unputdownable' as the story progressed. I loved this book so much that it lead me to one wish about it - I found the end was a bit short and sudden which was disappointing seeing as it was the best part. I would really like a sequel as a result of this.

Khadijah, age 20

I've read average-teenager-turned-superhero stories aplenty. They're usually interesting because superpowers have a tendency to be fascinating and who, I ask, hasn't imagined having a superpower or two of their own? Nobody, that's who. Joseph 'Wilco' Wilkes is no different from you and I. He too dreams of having superpowers. Except, unlike you and I, he actually gets them.

Unfortunately, things don't go according to the plan for this unsuspecting hero, whose hopes of being popular and wooing the girl of his dreams are crushed by the cruel hand of Fate (also known as Bad Decisions) in a string of excruciating yet comical events. What stood out to me in 'Wonderboy' was the characterisation of the "hero", Joseph. I thought he was nicely fleshed out with vices and virtues that make him both likeable and relatable, and enough

character development to keep him interesting. The pacing of the story was good, the plot simple yet satisfying, and very character-driven. The bottom line? **'Wonderboy' is comedic without overdoing it, believable without being boring and above all; a thoroughly enjoyable read.**

Jenna, age 13

From zero to hero, from loser to cruiser, Josseph Wilkes, best known as Wikc is the homework go to guy as long as he gets paged!

But one day things change, can Joseph really be another UK vigil?

This is a gripping book by Nicole Burstein which will turn the pages for you. I would recommend this book to 7-15 year olds as it is fun - you hardly have time to breathe!

Sophia Ufton

This was a really funny story. I couldn't stop laughing, so I had to read it all. It was just too good to miss out on.

Joseph is one of life's loser, he gets picked on, pushed around and beaten up by the posh kids. Joseph (wilco) learns he can move things with his mind. Will this change things for him or will everything fall apart before his eyes?

Dylan Sweet, age 13

*I enjoyed this book very much as it took a little turn on the superhero characters. First of all, Wilco (Joseph) is the biggest loser in school – he does everyone's homework, no one really knows him but then he starts to get headaches and his asthma starts to go and he realises he can move thing his mind. His life has been changed for ever. However, Wilco starts to use his powers for bad reasons – firstly crushing a bully's hand, then breaking into a house to steal a phone. He chances of being a vigil became very slim. Kesia, a new girl, is apparently not who she seems either. A spy sent by the secret agency (vigil) helps Wilco alter his ways and he uses his powers gradually to help people. **I love this book because it has a very interesting plot and it was an exciting read chapter after chapter. I would rate a full five stars and recommend it to anyone who likes adventure books with superhero. Enjoy reading.***

Jade

*Having not read Nicole Burstein's 'Othergirl', I felt a bit out of the loop coming into 'Wonderboy'. Even though it is clearly a separate story in its own right, there did seem to be some background that perhaps is better gleaned from having first read 'Othergirl'. Having said that it's easy enough to slip into the story of Joseph 'Wilco' Wilkes within a few pages. A somewhat hapless hero, his journey to becoming Wonderboy is charming and uplifting and it's nice to see the underdog succeeding. But I also liked the way Burstein kept Wilco as a modest hero, the sort who you really root for, rather than transforming him into an entirely different character. Indeed, **Burstein's novel asks what it means to be a hero, and provides an answer that applies to us all: "Being a hero comes from somewhere else entirely. Powers are the start of it, but it's what you do with them that counts."***

Michelle Armstrong-Harris

A story based around the 'birth' of a superhero. This is a sequel to 'Othergirl' which I admit I have not read but that did not affect my understanding of this story. Both books are about recruitment of young superheroes to a group called The Vigils. Joseph (aka Wilco; so called because he will always do what you ask him to) becomes aware that he has unusual powers and in experimenting with these powers gets himself tangled up with an undercover covert operation by The Vigils. Wilco is not one of the popular kids at school and has experienced being picked on by Godfrey and his cronies and so enjoys the fact that he can do things to overcome them. **Written in a very accessible style with a plot that keeps moving forward. There is some humour, minor love interest and lots to appeal to younger teenagers here.**

Olivia, age 13

Funny, Clever and Exciting. A good read!

*This is a clever, funny book about a boy called Joseph Wilkes who is a nicknamed Wilco he seems like a nice guy but when he discovers he has a superpower things begin to change. **I am not a fan of superhero books but I really enjoyed this one.***

Isaac Phelan, age 12

One of the best books since sliced bread. *Have you ever dreamt of becoming a superhero? Then had the awful realisation that this would never happen? Well for Joseph (or more commonly known as Wilco), dreaming is in the past. Before as asthmatic complier, now an amazing boy who can levitate things with his mind! But will his efforts award him a place in the Vigils and win the heart of his true love? Read the book to find out.*

My favourite part was when Joseph first levitated a pencil in his bedroom at night as it gives you an insight onto what his new power might hold.

I would aim this book towards children of 8 and upwards.