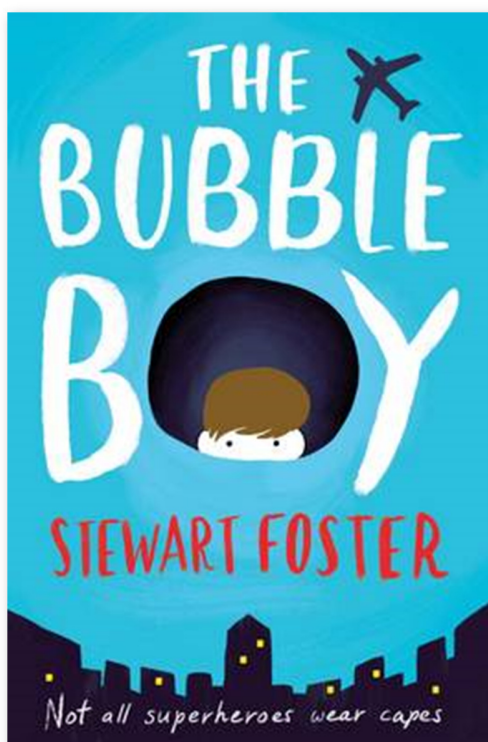




## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Bubble Boy** By Stewart Foster

SIMON & SCHUSTER

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



**Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 11**

***A truly inspirational and unique story. Joe is an eleven year old who has an immune disorder and has spent all his life in hospital. Amir arrives and this is where the story comes to life. Fabulous!***

*This was witty, heartwarming and tearful all rolled into one! It is certainly a book I will always remember reading. Joe lives in a hospital and his only link to the outside world is via Skype and messaging. He has a best friend called Henry who he has never actually met. I really liked the way this book was written with daily pages from the Bubble Boy Forum and chapters that went day by day. Amir is a great character, probably*

*my favourite, he gives Joe hope that he could one day experience more than just the hospital. This story really made me think a lot about how people cope with a life long illness. Highly recommend this to boys and girls and young adults too.*

**Emily Yates, age 9**

***'The Bubble Boy' is the best book I have reviewed so far and by far the most realistic. It makes you think about the world around you and the problems some people face.***

*'The Bubble Boy' is about a boy - Joe, who has been in hospital since he was very young and the doctors cannot find a cure for his illness. He doesn't know*

*what it is like outside and he really wants to be Spiderman up the Empire State Building!*

*Joe has a friend in America who is also ill and can't go out but...he has a spacesuit which allows him to go outside.*

*The story has fantasy elements linked into it and uses medical things that happen like having a blood transfusion to add to the plot.*

***A surprising, thought provoking book which makes me realise how blessed I am. I really enjoyed it!***

**Sam Harper, age 11**

***A heart-wrenching, emotional character study of a boy in a bubble who lives life through his screens and his dreams.***

*11-year-old Joe has severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) which means that if he catches any disease, even something as minor as a cold, he could die. Joe has lived in a sterile hospital room since he was 2 months old. His parents died in a car accident and now his only visitors are the doctors, nurses and his sister, Beth, who all have to enter via a transition zone where they are thoroughly disinfected. Joe lives his life through his screens and his dreams. He's never been outside, it's too dangerous, and even in his room he still needs blood transfusions and lots of medication. All Joe wants is to be able to go outside and live normally. He wants to know what the sun and the rain really feel like and to do normal things like other kids his age. He Skypes his friend in the USA, Henry, who has the same condition as him. Henry is always there to talk to, he knows what it's like to live in a bubble and he always manages to cheer Joe up. NASA is developing a special suit for Henry to allow him to go outside and Joe's new nurse, Amir, wants Joe to be able to do that too. Amir seems crazy at first, with all his talk of aliens. He sets up 12 screens covering an entire wall for Joe to monitor the hospital security because Amir has a plan, a plan to bring Joe closer to what he's always wanted.*

*This is a heart-wrenching story which really made me think about children who have this condition and what their lives are like. Joe's dreams, nightmares and text messages helped me to understand his hopes and fears. It's a very emotional character study that left me feeling both sorry for anyone stuck in hospital like Joe and glad that my own life is more 'normal'.*

**Rose Roberts, age 12**

***I loved this book. I could happily just read about Joe's everyday life without anything particularly exciting happening, and was hooked from the start. When I did get to the truly thrilling bit: wow!***

*'The Bubble Boy' is about a boy named Joe who, as the name of the book suggests, is not allowed to go out of his 'bubble' in a hospital in London. A new nurse comes into his life and truly changes Joe's life. But other things happen too - sad things. So I recommend that you get some tissues ready around chapter 20! I greatly recommend this book to fans of 'Wonder' and the like, but also to anyone - adults and children - who want to read more books like this. I loved this book and I hope you will too.*

**Hattie Benton, age 10**

***This is a great book which keeps you anticipating what is to come. The characters make you laugh and cry but above all, make you happy and appreciate what you have.***

*The book is cleverly written as the first half sets the plot for the remaining part of the story. Joe, aged 11, is stuck in a bubble, unable to leave his hospital room from the age of two months. He has a friend, Henry, in America who is in the same position as him, both wanting to just go out into the real world outside of their hospital rooms. When Joe gets a new nurse, Amir, his life is about to change! With an obsession for aliens and his humorous personality, he is about to turn Joe's life around. An intriguing story which is cleverly written. If you liked 'Wonder', 'One' or 'She's Not Invisible', then you will definitely enjoy this book. I'm really looking forward to the author writing his second book which I will definitely read!*

**Charlotte Cassidy, age 11**

***A brilliant, thoughtful book that kept me hooked all the way until the last page. An emotional journey following Joe and his life in his bubble.***

*'The Bubble Boy' is about an 11 year old boy named Joe, who has an extremely rare condition which means that he has no immune system. Because of this condition he has to stay in a 'bubble', a totally clean room in a special hospital in London. He has been in the bubble since he was born and things are pretty boring, until a new nurse, Amir comes along and is determined to make Joe's*

*life as good as possible.*

*When Joe's friend, Henry, who lives in Philadelphia and has the same condition, is made a space suit by NASA so that he can go outside Amir tries to make a suit the same for Joe. Things don't always go to plan but you will have to read the book to find out more.*

*This is a thought provoking book that leads you through a huge range of emotions. One I would not normally have chosen to normally read but once I started to read it I loved it and didn't want to put it down until I had finished.*

*I would recommend it for boys and girls, aged 11+, anyone who likes something a bit different.*

### **Alexander Bisland, age 10**

***'Bubble Boy' is an emotional debut novel about a boy called Joe. He is 11 years old and lives in an isolated room on the 12th floor of a hospital. This is because he has a disease called SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) which means he can't fight off diseases as well as other people. This is because he doesn't have enough white blood cells or a strong immune system. This makes his life miserable until someone new enters it...***

*I really liked this book. I really enjoyed the conversations on Skype and on the BBC Forum between the main character Joe and the outside world. I think that the conversations really intrigued me because they were descriptive and interesting.*

*I also like the superhero references throughout the book, such as in Joe's dreams when he dreams he is Spiderman or Ironman and his best friend Henry is Captain America. Everybody calls Joe a superhero and in my eyes, he is; he is brave and courageous when his best friend (who he never gets to meet) dies and he has to live in an isolated room with only his nurses for company.*

*If there is another one that is going to come out, I would like to read it.*

*If you like Michael Morpurgo, I recommend this book to you. I think it is suitable for 11+*

***I give it 5\*\*\*\*\* and it is definitely in my top 10 books***

### **Alexander Butler, age 12**

*I was quite sad reading this book as I really felt for Joe, the main character who*

*has spent most of his life in hospital... But then he gets the chance to do something different...*

*'Bubble Boy' is about a young boy that is stuck in hospital - a single room all to himself due to him being very ill and not being allowed contact with others for fear of infection that could kill him.*

*He has a number of friends though including a reporter who gives him his own TV show.*

*Then, a new Dr comes along who believes in aliens and whilst Joe thinks that he's really weird, Dr Amir tells him that he could actually leave his bubble for a short while if he wanted to. A special suit is made for him and for the first time in over 10 years, Joe sees the outside world.*

***A very sad story but absolutely awesome too.***

*I liked the fact that the author includes Joe's dreams about him wanting to become a superhero.*

*This is an intriguing book that I found that I wanted to keep reading.*

*Recommended.*