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Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen



Synopsis

Readers who loved *The Fourteenth Goldfish* will cheer for Olivia Bean as she strives to win kids' week Jeopardy! Olivia Bean knows trivia. She watches Jeopardy! every night and usually beats at least one of the contestants. If she were better at geography, she would try out for the show's kids' week. Not only could she win bundles of money, she'd get to go to the taping in California, where her dad, who left two years ago and who Olivia misses like crazy, lives with his new family. One day Olivia's friend-turned-nemesis, Tucker, offers to help her bulk up her geography knowledge. Before Olivia knows it, she's getting help from all sorts of unexpected sources: her almost-stepdad, super-annoying Neil; her genius little brother, Charlie; even her stressed-out mom. But will the one person she wants to impress more than anyone else show up to support her? From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680L (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #462,621 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #250 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #3019 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School #117851 in Books > Reference

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

This is a Florida Sunshine State book. I was concerned that it would be a dreary story about the social concerns of an annoyingly precocious child. Not at all! This is a wonderful story with a likable protagonist.

Q: What is OLIVIA BEAN: TRIVIA QUEEN? Fantastic realistic fiction novel about `tween Olivia, who adores watching Jeopardy and is not so crazy about her "little bother" and her mom's recently-moved-in partner, surrogate stepdad, Neil. Through study and determination, and with the help of a school friend and the support of her family, Olivia wins a slot on Kids Week Jeopardy. She pins a lot on the dream of winning, not only for the money and glory, but just as much because her adored dad and his new family live in Los Angeles--not far from where Jeopardy is taped! There is plenty of edge-of-your-seat excitement as Olivia tests her trivia smarts. Gephart captures the language and angst of middle school perfectly, with complex and decent characters doing the best they can with warmth and humor. Loved it!

Olivia Bean loves Jeopardy. She and her Dad used to watch the show together, before everything changed. Now it's her one time to relax during the day, even if she sometimes has to share the show with her mother's boyfriend Neil. When they announce the kids' tournament, Olivia can't wait to sign up. It's the last year she'll be eligible to participate in the challenge. Through a series of fortune events, she finds herself as one of the chosen ones. Olivia crams with trivia from across the board. Her mom helps her by creating flashcards. Charlie showers her with gross facts. Neil brings home trivia books from the library, where he works. Her neighbor Tucker helps her brush up on her worse subject, geography. With all of the trivia swirling in her head, will Olivia achieve her dream? My Thoughts: This book packs a punch and I wasn't expecting it. I wasn't expecting to become teary eyed during one of the final scenes. I adored this book (which the author wrote as a challenge during NaNoWriMo). On the surface, it's a great story about a girl who loves trivia and strives to achieve her dream. As you dig deeper, it's about a family that comes together. Olivia misses her Dad like crazy. As you uncover more about the reasons the family broke up, you realize that her father is a horrible parent. Olivia doesn't lose hope. She's still believes that her father will be there for her. When her mother loses her job, she hides away from the world. Neil steps in to take care of Olivia and Charlie, her adorable but annoying brother. At first, Olivia doesn't like Neil. She doesn't want him living in their house, but eventually, she begins to recognize that he genuinely cares for her. While Olivia sees Charlie as an annoying little brother, most of the time, she understands that he's trying to help her and be apart of her life. After her mother recovers, she works hard to make sure her daughter doesn't miss her chance. They all pull together, forming an unconventional family. The book is also about friendship. Olivia's best friend moved across the country and won't talk to her. Olivia can't imagine why her best friend is not longer interested in her. She refuses to talk to Olivia when she calls, until one day when she finally explains herself. Olivia's also thrown by

Tucker's behavior. As neighbors, they used to be great friends growing up until he made fun of her. Now he's sometimes nice when they're alone, but occasionally he's mean. Olivia has a hard time figuring out if he wants to be friends or if he's just picking on her. Family and Friendship create layers within this book. The secondary characters add humor, sadness, and depth to the book. A wonderful read where I enjoyed the trivia bits, the fact that Neil was a librarian, and uncovering Olivia's past.

A: She has a crazy sense of humor and a mad talent for hula hooping.Q: Who is author Donna Gephart?A: This new book about a trivia obsessed girl is a sure hit with middle grade readers.Q: What is Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen?It's Donna Gephart's new book, for goodness sake! You've read How to Survive Middle School. You've checked off As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President! on your TBR list. Now it's time to read another Gephart gem! It's Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen.I LOVED Olivia! I have so many students, boys and girls, who will love Olivia and her not-so-trivial story! I not only loved Olivia, I loved Olivia's younger brother, Charlie; he was such a sweetie. I loved his hankering for gross trivia. (Did you know there are 516,000 bacteria in each square inch of armpit? Charlie does!)Even though it took Olivia some time to warm up to Neil, her mom's boyfriend, I knew from the moment that he belted out Aretha (not to mention the fact that he's a librarian) that he was going to be one of the good guys in the story.I was impressed by Tucker and enjoyed him immensely. What a super 'frenemy'.Donna wove pieces of herself into Olivia, and I loved loved loved what she did with the Hula-Hoop incident. I knew I had to keep reading to find out what that was all about and why it tortured Olivia. And then I read about the fifth grade talent show and how Tucker was waiting offstage and what he said and how he said it and how Olivia finally realized HOW he said it....Oh my! No spoilers here! You must read this one for yourself!Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen is a keeper! It has found a special place in my classroom library and has already been read by several students. Everyone who has read Olivia has loved their time spent with this special young lady.Do yourself a favor and spend some time with Olivia today!

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