



Shug

By Jenny Han

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Annemarie Wilcox, or Shug as her family calls her, is beginning to think there's nothing worse than being twelve. She's too tall, too freckled, and way too flat-chested. Shug is sure that there's not one good or amazing thing about her. And now she has to start junior high, where the friends she counts most dear aren't acting so dear anymore -- especially Mark...

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Shug By Jenny Han Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8 At first blush, *Shug* seems to be a typical contemporary novel about a middle school girl. But Han offers something more with her penetrating observation of Annemarie (Shug) as she becomes more aware of the people around her and of how they differ from her previous perceptions of them. Foremost on the 12-year-old's mind is her best friend since childhood, Mark, on whom she has developed a crush. Then it is her father, who breezes in from his business trips less and less frequently and stays for as little time as possible. Then it is her attractive mother, who reads Foucault and whose criticism of her fellow residents in their small North Carolina town starts to seem less like a matter of clear-eyed appraisal than of alcoholic bitterness. The bad boy whom Annemarie is forced to help with his schoolwork; her not-so-perfectly adjusted older sister; and even her popular new friend, the only Korean-American student in town, all receive reappraisal. Something has awakened in Annemarie, all right, and Han depicts the change with a delicacy and nuance that sets this first novel above the rest of the pack of similar books. This new author bears watching. *Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. Tall, freckled, gawky seventh-grader Annemarie Wilcox (whose family calls her Shug) has a beautiful, popular older sister; a gorgeous, alcoholic mother who doesn't fit in their small Georgia town; and a father who's always away on business. She also has a huge crush on Mark, the neighborhood boy who has always been her best friend. As the school year starts, Shug must deal with Mark's rejection, her parents' bitter fights, and a falling out with her closest girlfriend. Han's well-crafted first novel captures the aching hurt of exclusion in middle school, and the acute pain of vicious teasing. Shug's direct, honest narration reveals a wholly believable, endearing, hot-tempered young woman who faces painful truths and survives. Shug and Celia are named for characters in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, and Han references that novel with fine effect. It's her skill in evoking colors, tastes, scents, and touch that really stands out, as Shug steps away from childhood and into adolescence, with all her senses ablaze. *Debbie Carton*

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Review

"A great read."

-- Sarah Dessen

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Drew:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Shug book is readable by means of you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer associated with Shug content conveys the thought easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different available as it. So , do you still thinking Shug is not loveable to be your top record reading

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