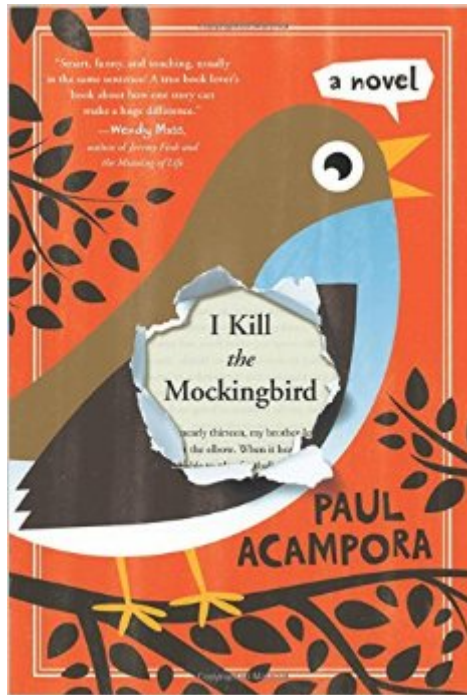


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# I Kill The Mockingbird



## Synopsis

When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So they hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic. They plan controversial ways to get people to read the book, including re-shelving copies of the book in bookstores so that people think they are missing and starting a website committed to "destroying the mockingbird." Their efforts are successful when all of the hullabaloo starts to direct more people to the book. But soon, their exploits start to spin out of control and they unwittingly start a mini revolution in the name of books. *I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora is a middle grade novel perfect for fans of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*. This title has Common Core connections. The banter among the three whip-smart friends would make John Green proud. . . . You won't have to hide any copies of this to create demand. • The Bulletin • Fans of Janet Tashjian's *The Gospel* According to Larry series will enjoy this look at how the power of creativity and the internet can cause a cultural movement. . . . Acampora's novel is for lovers of literature, especially how the classics work in the current moment. • VOYA

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (May 26, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250068088

ISBN-13: 978-1250068088

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #213,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #232 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #3499 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship #6394 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

I Kill the Mockingbird is such a clever novel! Best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael come up with an idea to honor the memory of Mr. Nowak, one of their favorite teachers: They want to get everyone to want to read To Kill a Mockingbird. You know how sometimes demand increases as supply decreases? Well, their campaign feeds upon that effect, and quickly becomes bigger than they ever imagined! A backdrop to the novel is how Lucy and her family are dealing with the aftermath of her mother's cancer scare: "Books carried us away. They'd definitely carried me through this past year." This is handled in a positive but genuine way. I usually make copious notes to myself as I read, but I was so involved in this short little book, and ripped through it so quickly, I made no notes at all! This is a fun, smart read with sweet characters who obviously care about each other deeply, and it is chock full of moments that will resonate with fellow book lovers. I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

Mr. Acampora's latest book is titled I KILL THE MOCKINGBIRD (Roaring Brook Press (May 20, 2014)). The book is a middle grade novel about 3 friends and their school's summer reading list. Harper Lee's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD is on the list and was a favorite of the kids' English teacher who suddenly passed away at the end of the school year. The friends hatch a plan to honor their teacher by getting everyone talking about and wanting to read the classic novel by making copies of the book scarce. As their plan starts to work, the kids realize they started something much bigger than they expected. I really liked Mr. Acampora's last book, RACHEL SPINELLI PUNCHED ME IN THE FACE, and was anxious to read I KILL THE MOCKINGBIRD. I personally have not read TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD yet, but it is definitely going on my "to be read" list after reading Mr. Acampora's book! The characters in I KILL THE MOCKINGBIRD are very realistic middle school-aged characters and it made them enjoyable to read about. I love all of the humor in the book, and it even made me laugh during the more tense parts because of it. I loved the Christmas pictures scene, Fat Bob, the scene where Michael was reading FAHRENHEIT 451. Overall, the book is a quick read but there is an awesome story packed into those 176 pages!

Say you're a smart graduated eighth grader about to head to high school " and you're a reader. You get your summer reading list " you've read them all " and listen to your classmates mention the last thing on their vacation minds is to read. One of your favorite teachers recently died " right in the cafeteria " and he loved To Kill a Mockingbird, on the summer list. You and your two friends plot how to get people reading " not just your classmates " but more people too. What if most of the copies of To Kill a Mockingbird disappeared? No, you're not going to

steal them “ you are going to misshelve them in all the libraries and bookstores you can reach by bus “ and then start a website, go to Twitter and Facebook “ with your Ikilldthemockingbird.com “ they know that people go for something tough or impossible to find “ the book will become rare “ and sought after! Or will it? This is one of the most imaginative and fun books I’ve read in a dog’s age!

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and will use it when I visit classrooms of students who are reading the classic, "To Kill a Mockingbird." I found the three main characters a delightful mixture of sarcasm and 8th grade wisdom as they carried on their reverse-psychology campaign through social media to get kids to actually read their summer reading assignment. The sub-plot of a parent’s cancer deepens the themes of the novel. Few writers connect classics to their own novels in such an effective homage.

There is nothing I like more than a well-written book about devoted readers. Lucy, Elena and Michael are in the summer before ninth grade. They are looking at their summer reading lists and finding that they have already read most of them. They are also remembering their former English teacher who died of a heart attack at school. They know that he would only have assigned TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD for summer reading. Despite having different feelings about MOCKINGBIRD, they come up with a plan to encourage people to read it by making it scarce. They start a website called IKilltheMockingbird.com and begin hiding copies of the book in bookstores and libraries. Through the power of social media, their campaign goes viral. It quickly gets to be much larger than they had anticipated. Besides their Mockingbird campaign, other things are happening this summer too. Lucy and Michael are making the first move toward being more than friends and beginning to date. Lucy is also dealing with her mother’s recovery from cancer. She had been so afraid of losing her that, now that she is cured, she is unsure that she can accept that her mother is all right. I loved the friendships between the three kids. I also loved that the adults in the book were loving, supportive, and present in their children’s lives. I loved the relationship Elena’s Uncle Mort has with the kids as they make his used bookstore their clubhouse. I also really liked the relationship that Lucy has with both her parents. This story is filled with quotable passages about life, friendship and literature. I thought it was an excellent story.

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