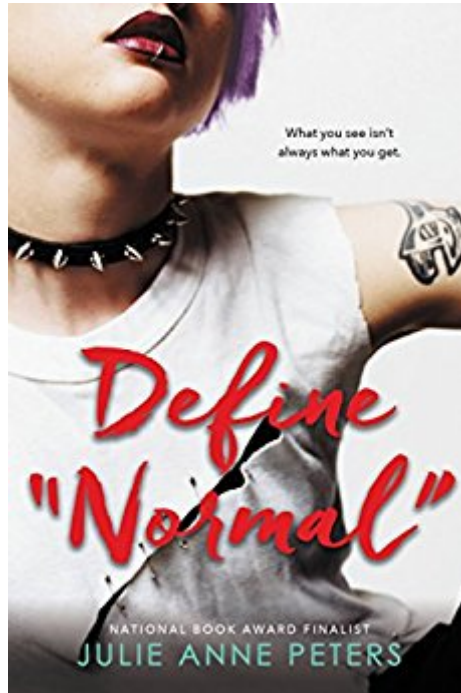




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Define "Normal"



Synopsis

Now in its fourth hardcover printing, Define "Normal" has become a word-of-mouth phenomenon. This is a thoughtful, wry story about two girls--a "punk" and a "priss"--who find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program, and discover that they have some surprising things in common. A brand-new reading-group guide written by the author is included in the back of this paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was GOOD and, dare I say, important. When Jazz and Antonia find themselves in peer counseling together, Antonia is annoyed. On the surface, they are two people that couldn't be more different: Jazz with her "punk" looks and her richer, over-present parents; Antonia (or Tone, as we come to know her) with her prissy looks, her lack of a Dad, and her sick mom. As they develop relationship through their peer counseling, though, we begin to learn that these two girls might have more in common than what the surface shows; more than that, they might have more to offer each

other than one could ever imagine. The bond formed between Tone and Jazz is fresh and unexpected (not that they form a bond, but the bond itself), and it teaches us that there is more to most things than meets the eye; we should never judge anything (including a person) by what we see on the surface. As hard as we try, this is a lesson that so many people have trouble learning, especially in junior high and high school. I wish some of my peers could have read this book when I was in junior high or high school. More than that, I wish I could have read this book. Jazz reminded me of a more slightly extroverted version of my high school self, and I think seeing the way she dealt with her struggles might have helped me immensely. And while her problems and Tone's problems were different from my problems, they were all, in a sense, everyone's problems. This book was edgy and somewhat gritty, and Peters dug right down into the heart of the matter, creating a fierce, intense story that wasn't so fierce or intense that it would be too much for a younger YA reader. Her story is believable, and I'm sure most readers will find a little bit of themselves in Tone and Jazz. So much so that it's almost impossible not to spend the whole book hoping for them and believing in them. And that's what makes this book important. The reader, even if for just a moment, is required to take a step back and stop subconsciously judging the world around them based on superficial things like image. In high school, that is big. More than that, this book is such an enjoyable read that once you start, you won't want to put it down until you are done. "Define Normal" will make you realize just how unimportant the word normal really is.

This story shows that maturity doesn't begin at a specific age. Glad books are out there that show a kid can have strength and grace. Hopefully everyone that reads this book is inspired and forced to think what we all can endure. Thanks again Ms Peters

My son had this on his summer reading list. I like to read all my kids books so I can converse with them about the characters, storyline etc. I found this book to be enjoyable. The two main characters come from opposite worlds. And are thrown together in peer counseling. The story evolves from there. Well written, easy read.

This book was so amazingly written! I read it for my summer reading because all my friends were! At first I wasn't too keen on reading it because it didn't seem like my type of book! Turns out I looooved it!!! I recommend it for tweens and teenage girls!!

My daughter (11) really enjoys it and chose it over a few others for her summer reading. She

actually tells me she is going to go read, which is something she doesn't do very often.

at many different points in this book i found myself feeling what the characters, especially Antonia, were feeling. this is a very powerful book and i would recommend it to middle schoolers and older, because it really puts the message out there. the message is about helping others and befriending others even if they look different.

We all LOVED this book!! It's a must read for everyone!!

This book was one of the best. It really speaks to the reader about individuality, friendship, and hardship. Staying strong was a big theme and so was acceptance. Seeing through how a person seems on the outside.

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