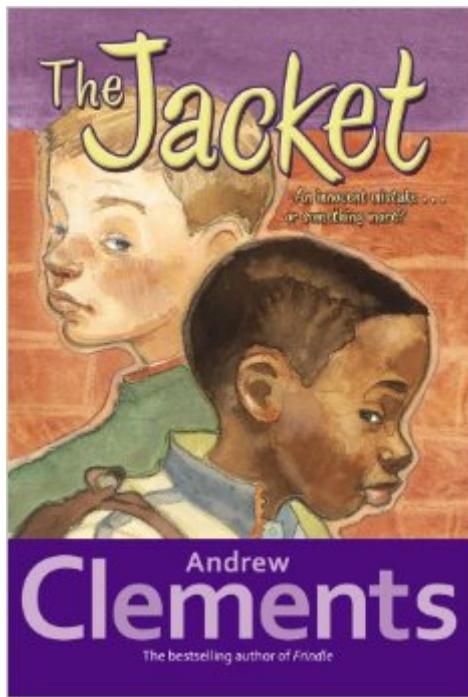


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# The Jacket



## **Synopsis**

Thief! When Phil sees another kid wearing his brother's jacket, he assumes the jacket was stolen. It turns out he was wrong, and Phil has to ask himself the question: Would he have made the same assumption if the boy wearing the jacket hadn't been African American? And that question leads to others that reveal some unsettling truths about Phil's neighborhood, his family, and even himself.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (August 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689860102

ISBN-13: 978-0689860102

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (51 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #48,030 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #207 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #665 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

The other reviewers described this story. While it deals with valid issues at an age appropriate level, the story is unrealistic, lacks an arc and a good ending and most importantly does not provide a clear understanding as to \*why\* and \*how\* Phil initially feels that he is prejudiced: why he initially thought that Daniel being black explains that he's a thief. Phil's character development feels more of an artificial, schoolbook example than a genuine, good story.

I got this book because I've read most of Andrew Clements children chapter books. Most of the are 4 or 5 star worthy. This one wasn't. I finished the book in 17 minutes. It was very boring, yet somehow it was kind of interesting. It is about a child that THINKS he is prejuice. Please excuse my spelling on that one word.

I like to address that Phil and Daniel had conflicts within themselves. Although, Phil had to rethink what Daniel had stated to him about the Jacket; on the other hand, Daniel had to rethink about what Phil stated about Daniel's Grandmother. Yes, the grandmother works for Phil's family, because she likes working and is trying to help her family, which is Daniel's Family, because of the prudent situation they have encountered. The problem that many people have not thought about is based upon what they think of themselves surrounded in society. Society cannot individually make our decisions; no matter how bad things seem around us. In this case, Phil should have made an appropriate approach towards Daniel in a different manner and with a great personality. If I saw someone wearing my siblings's jackets, then I would have asked about the jacket, instead of jumping to judgmental assumptions right away. After finding out about the jacket, then I would have investigated further to confirm whether it was true or not. Phil made a hesitant decision and rushed into it, without critically thinking. Daniel reaction was in an angry manner, because he thought Phil lied about His Grandmother working for him to get the jacket. Well, it all turned out to be a misconstrued issue, and a self-awareness of how two boys raised by different cultures truly believe about who they are and what they understand about the Jacket and about discrimination in society. By the way, Phil's Brother did not want the jacket anyway. Great book for children's understanding and great analogy as well.

Have you ever been rude to a kid that is younger than you? Or a different race? When Phil was strolling around school he saw a kid wearing his lost jacket. So he runs up to him and says "That is my jacket," So then he gets the principal involved and they called his grandma. Then he went home. After you will need to read to find out what happened. Here are three reasons that I love this book so much. The first reason is it is my favorite book because, it tells you about mistakes and helps you understand what you have done. Another reason is this book paints a picture in your mind. When Phil realizes that he found he had something wrong. Last but not least, the author makes a visible point in the story. Like when Phil had the wrong coat and tells you not to say something at first sight. The Jacket is an other great book by Andrew Clements. It show how mistakes are made and how to fix them.

What I liked: The book was written entirely from Phil's point of view. Often, when AC writes, parts of his books are written from the adult point of view, and it interferes with the plot. I was glad to see this one didn't. And the introspection on Phil's part is realistic, particularly for someone of his age. What I

didn't like: The cultural references. Phil talks about knowing all about Shaq and Michael Jordan and has to activate the modem to get online, which seems to indicate that book takes place in the late '90's. But then he also talks about watching The Cosby Show and Fresh Prince and has no idea who Larry Bird was. TCS was off the air by 1992, the same year Larry Bird represented the US Olympic basketball team. That seemed a bit anachronistic for someone that into basketball. And distracting.Three stars for the storyline.

Andrew Clements is my go-to author for struggling 5/6th grade students. (My only exception is Things Not Seen; big concepts there). He chooses conflicts that students can recognize, and the vocabulary is well within their range.

I liked how the boys found A way to be friends without fighting. I liked the description of the town. A good book to introduce diversity and how we can misinterpret each other when we assume things without really understanding the truth.

The jacket was a very well written book!! My only problems were that there were several typos. Also I think that it was a little stereo typical. I mean not all black people live in the bad part of town or don't have money. I would suggest some of his other books but overall it was an okay book.-Ellie S.-11years old

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