

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Review by Caitlin May, Year 10

The Perks of Being a Wallflower follows the journey of 15-year-old Charlie starting high school whilst battling with the traumatic deaths of the people he loved most. The book is written as a series of letters to an anonymous 'friend' of Charlie's but we never learn who his friend is, and the friend never writes back, making the novel read like a series of diary entries. Charlie is shown to be a withdrawn yet observant character who has a talent for literature and as the school year progresses, he becomes more open and more at peace with himself, and who he truly is. The book ends when Charlie decides to stop writing letters and instead starts to participate fully in his life as he starts to accept his trauma instead of letting it control him. The Perks of Being a Wallflower was a great read due to the growth throughout the book showing how you can't change the past but you can choose how you handle it, and Stephen Chbosky does an excellent job of showing the complexities in other people and how doing one bad thing doesn't necessarily make you a bad human.

