

Reviewer Username: Anonymous

School: El Dorado High

Grade: Sophomore

Book Title: *A Little Life*

Book Author: Hanya Yanagihara

Rate 1-5 (1-lowest to 5-highest): 4

“A Little Life” by Hanya Yanagihara is a profoundly moving novel that immerses readers in the lives of four college friends as they grapple with the complexities of adulthood in bustling New York City. The story follows Jude, Williem, Malcolm, and JB, who meet in college and move to New York after graduation. Over the course of several decades, their lives intertwine as they navigate careers, relationships, and confront personal challenges and trauma. At the heart of the story is Jude, a central character marked by trauma and physical disability. His life weaves a complex tapestry of abuse, violence, illness, and loss, yet his unwavering friends rally around him, providing support and love in the face of adversity.

Yanagihara fearlessly delves into themes of human suffering, resilience, and friendship. Her haunting yet beautiful prose leaves a lasting impression on readers. I felt this book lingered in my thoughts long after I turned the last page, a testament to its power and depth. For this reason, I really enjoyed this book. Despite the initial daunting length and sluggish pacing, I found that the deliberate tempo allowed for a profound connection with complex protagonist, Jude St. Francis. However, the lack of redemption or resolution for certain characters left me dissatisfied after such an extensive read.

The novel is undeniably heavy and emotionally draining. Some readers might find it too intense or triggering due to its vivid portrayal of trauma. However, I believe its multifaceted themes and raw plotlines can resonate with a diverse audience. In many ways, it reminded me of Markus Zusak’s *The Book Thief*, as both novels explore the human experience amidst immense suffering and hardship. Themes of resilience, compassion, and the lasting impact of trauma weave through both narratives. I recommend this novel to readers to appreciate depth and intensity.

