

Name: Anonymous

School: Yorba Linda High School

Grade: Senior

Book title: *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

Book author: David Sedaris

Rating: 5/5

*Me Talk Pretty One Day* is an essay collection that follows the author David Sedaris as he recounts several humorous moments from his childhood. While there are many stories and plotlines throughout the collection, I'll name a few that stood out to me. True to the title, the very first essay is about David Sedaris having a lisp when he is young. He recounts his experiences visiting the school's speech therapist, Miss Samson, where he twists his vocabulary to avoid using an s. The collection's title comes from an essay near the end of the book. Sedaris moves to Paris to live with a man he meets named Hugh. He makes some observations about viewing himself—an American—from a foreigner's point of view as he encounters American tourists. Taking French classes, he describes his unforgiving teacher and calls French noun gendering nonsensical but hopes that he will one day talk beautifully.

I enjoyed this book! Sedaris has a wonderful colloquial way of telling stories, and his light-hearted tone reminds the reader of the humor in everyday moments. Indeed, even though Sedaris recounts the entire book from his memory, meaning it is non-fiction, the essays' events are all interesting. My favorite "character" was probably Sedaris's father, Lou Sedaris, to which a significant number of the essays are dedicated. An IBM engineer, Lou Sedaris has very niche interests that he tries to pass on to his children, without much success.

I would recommend this book to anybody who enjoys reading memoir or light nonfiction. It reminded me a bit of *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, an autobiography written by a comedian. But I imagine that even somebody who hasn't dedicated much time to reading works in *Me Talk Pretty One Day's* genre will be refreshed by Sedaris's wonderful essay collection. Give it a try!