

Name: Anonymous

School: Yorba Linda High School

Grade: Senior

Book title: *Project Hail Mary*

Book author: Andy Weir

Rating: 5/5

*Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir follows Ryland Grace, a middle school teacher, as he travels through space to save humanity. Scientists are concerned when they discover the dimming of the sun—which threatens to plunge the Earth into an all-out Ice Age and famine—comes from a mysterious line connecting the Sun to Venus. After taking samples, they discover that a kind of bacteria has developed in space which consumes the light from the Sun. Because Grace predicted the growth of this kind of organism, he's called to the scientific task force to train astronauts who will launch a last-ditch attempt to discover how they can stop the "Astrophages." However, when the astronauts are killed in a training explosion, it's Grace who must take up the challenge of saving humanity millions of miles away from home.

I really enjoyed *The Martian* by Andy Weir, so I was excited to another book by the same author. Like that work, I appreciated that *Project Hail Mary* stayed very dedicated to scientific fact, and that science continues to drive Weir's plots. My favorite character was Rocky, the alien who Ryland Grace encounters who is also alone and trying to save his planet. It's very interesting to consider what other forms of life could exist in the universe. While I was reading, I couldn't put the book down. It captured my attention immediately!

I would recommend this book to any teen looking for an entertaining work to enjoy over this winter break. *Project Hail Mary* makes science fiction very accessible, without many complicated scientific concepts or parallel worlds. It also explores important topics like loyalty, service, and sacrifice.