

Reviewer Username: Anonymous

School: Yorba Linda High School

Grade: Senior

Book Title: The Stranger

Author: Albert Camus

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

In *The Stranger* by French author and philosopher Albert Camus, we follow Mersault, a French Algerian shopping clerk and the proceedings of his life after his mother's death. The whole story revolves around Mersault in how he evolves and changes as the story progresses. Many would describe Mersault as passionless, ambitionless, and disaffected as he fails to show any sort of emotion throughout the novel. As an atheist Mersault is constantly isolated from society due to the way he thinks and behaves. As the story progresses, we learn that Mersault is very easily pleased by certain pleasant sensations and is very easily displeased by certain unpleasant sensations. This is heavily evident at the climax of the novel where an unpleasant sun causes Mersault to pick up a gun and pull the trigger. At his trial Mersault is sentenced to death and is not phased whatsoever. In fact he embraces his death, denying forgiveness from God and convincing himself that life is meaningless and everyone is destined to die at some point.

In my personal experience, *The Stranger* was a very enjoyable read. Moreover, the novel is very easy to follow and I never found myself uninterested at any time. No over the top vocabulary was used and the story never dragged on. Despite the plot being very easy to follow, I think it can be interpreted in many different ways, more specifically with Mersault's character. I found reading about Meursault very interesting as I thought him to be very unpredictable at times. His character was very hard to predict due to his detached nature. However, there are many different ways to interpret Mersault and what his character means. Many see him as a reflection of societal expectations and norms while he may also represent the philosophy of absurdism and the utter meaningless of life. This is why I found Mersault's character so interesting because despite showing no emotion and not talking much, there is so much to be said.

I would definitely recommend *The Stranger* to any high school reader. Adding on I believe the novel excels at everything. From the story's characters, to its plot and its meaning, there is a lot to learn and read about regarding *The Stranger*.