



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Four Weeks, Five People By Jennifer Yu Reviewed by Julia LaMarra

Name: Julia LaMarra

Grade: 11th

Book Title: Four Weeks, Five People

Author: Jennifer Yu

Number of Pages: 346

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 5/5

Character List:

- **Stella:** She's overly sarcastic, uncaring, and depressed. But this summer camp wouldn't be the same without her. She's the unofficial leader of group L1 at Camp Ugunduzi. But that's only because she's been there before. So, armed with an arsenal of banned items and a relentless hatred for the camp, she begins an adventure she won't soon forget.
- **Clarissa:** Seven. Seven is a safe number. Clarissa begins camp with the number one goal of pleasing her mother and her second goal of somehow magically making her OCD disappear. She wants to be normal.
- **Ben:** Okay, ACTION! To Ben, life is just like a movie. It's like you're living in a far off place and you're just waiting for the camera to pan out and go to black for you to be sucked back into reality... only that never actually happens. The camera is always rolling and at times Ben may ramble and not make any sense, but it only has to make sense to him because that's all he cares about. And monologues... the kid lives off them.
- **Mason:** According to his personality, Mason should be at the top of this list. Mason is the superior human for he is the most rational and intelligent. But that may just be the narcissistic personality disorder talking. He can't stand the fact he's been forced into going to "crazy people camp" and is counting down the days until he can finally go home to Bethesda.
- **Andrew:** Andrew is Eureka Moment and Eureka Moment is Andrew. All Andrew can talk about is his band Eureka Moment. The idea of being "perfect" for the band rules every decision he makes... especially when it comes to eating.

Review:

Four Weeks, Five People is exactly what it sounds like: the adventures of five people over the course of four weeks of summer camp. At Camp Ugunduzi, a few things are for certain:

1. You will be inundated with constant therapy sessions lead by the camp hippie Josh.
2. The other counselor Jessie will never miss a beat when reminding campers of the no cursing rule.
3. After lights out, you can get away with almost anything.

In this Upstate New York camp smack dab in the middle of nowhere, five teenagers will embark on a journey of a lifetime, the journey of finding themselves and rising above and beyond their mental disorders. Friends will be made and lost, respect and acceptance will be gained, and, most importantly of all, they will learn to accept themselves.

Jennifer Yu surprises readers at every turn throughout the novel. Each character is given his or her own voice and perspective. She allows readers to see inside the minds of all five teens, which she accomplishes beautifully with each chapter being in the view of one of the five people. This strategy allows for readers to become more mentally and emotionally involved and begin to understand the thought processes of teenagers with “mental issues.” This novel tackles some serious health issues and for that may be best for older readers, who will be able to appreciate the novel as more than just a story of five teenagers but rather as a reality for many teenagers in America today.