



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Six Kids And A Stuffed Cat By Gary Paulsen Reviewed by Alexander Miller

Name: Alexander Miller

Grade: 10

Book Title: Six Kids And A Stuffed Cat

Author: Gary Paulsen

Number of Pages: 138

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 2/5

Character List:

- **Jordan-** Jordan tells the story and gets constant nose bleeds.
- **Avery-** Avery is the new kid and brings a stuffed cat to school to comfort himself.
- **Mason-** Mason is a good student and the smartest in the group.
- **Taylor-** Taylor is a mean and inconsiderate bully.
- **Regan-** Regan claims to be a great athlete.
- **Devon-** Devon is obsessed with playing his air guitar and puts on a concert while the group is trapped in the bathroom.

Review:

There is an extreme hurricane passing through in Jordan's school! Well, that is what the school administration thinks, but it's just a little drizzle. Let's just say that Jordan's school is known for over-reacting when it comes to "weather alerts". Jordan is stuck after school for detention, along with Avery who has fallen asleep after school. Mason is tutoring Taylor after school, Regan is after school for sports practice, and Devon just happened to stay after for no apparent reason. When they are instructed to find shelter in a secure room in the middle of the building, they all coincidentally go into the same bathroom. The characters become good friends in the bathroom and get along well, except for Devon, who is in his own little rock-and-roll world playing in an imaginary concert. Avery seems somewhat disturbed with Devon and his concert. Taylor mocks the rest of the group the whole time, especially Devon. But when they get near the end of the storm alert, everyone is almost acting like they are best friends. Devon is still in his own world, completely oblivious of the current situation. When the announcer comes on and says that everyone can leave their shelter places, the six kids just stand there knowing that they might not see each other ever again. That's when Devon pulls them all up and bows for his "audience". Then everyone in the room shouts, "Rock and Roll!" They all know that it doesn't matter if they will see each other again or not, but that they all will be great friends forever.

The story moves along through creative dialogue and the insertion of a one-act play. However, there is not much of a plot or climax, and very little character development. The story idea and story end are very similar to those of the 1980s movie "Breakfast Club", brought down to a middle-school level and without the witty lines, music, and visuals that made

that movie so appealing. Overall, I was disappointed in this book. I would not recommend this book, but I give the author two stars for effort. The book is appropriate for middle school readers.