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I hate camp. I just hate it. I wish I didn't. But I do. Being here is worse than bug juice on a burger. Or homework on Thanksgiving. Or water seeping into my shoes. In this sequel to the critically acclaimed *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*, Eleanor is off to summer camp. At first she's excited to carry on the family tradition at Camp Wallumwahpuck, but when she gets there she finds icky bugs, terrible food, and worst of all: swim class, where she just can't seem to keep up with everyone else. But as the days go on, Eleanor realizes that even the most miserable situations can be full of special surprises and that growing up is full of belly flops.

Like Bug Juice on a Burger Details

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Author : Julie Sternberg , Matthew Cordell (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Like Bug Juice on a Burger for online ebook

Susan T says

This is a great book for the kid who doesn't want to go to camp or didn't like going to camp. The best part is that it isn't sugar coated Eleanor just needs to survive camp not like. A good lesson.

Kellee says

Full review:

<http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=3395>

This book definitely brought back memories! I loved the idea of summer camp and many of the activities, but I hated the bugs and the food and the changing in front of other people. There are many times when I was away that I just wanted to go home; however, there were things that saved me- specifically, like Eleanor, the animals. I loved working in the barn with the horses and it is what saved me and then got me going back year after year. I remember walking into the barn and being able to be part of these horses' lives and the scene where Eleanor meets Cornelius the goat brought me right back to that moment.

This book would be a wonderful read aloud for right before summer because even if students are not going to summer camp, there is probably something new and scary that they will try this summer and this book will definitely cause discussion about how something new may be scary, but that doesn't mean you won't like it eventually. Julie Sternberg's writing also lends itself to some amazing discussions about free verse poetry and, in this one, letter writing. Maybe use the letter writing part of the book to segue into writing a letter to next year's class.

Finally, I love the idea of the Wall of Feelings! The Wall of Feelings is where the campers put up how they feel about camp; however, Eleanor is given the job of writing about how she used to feel about camp and then how she feels about camp now. What a great way for students to express themselves! This would be a great formative assessment for looking at how students feel about reading or school or some other topic at the beginning of the year vs. the end.

Katie Fitzgerald says

This short novel in verse is the sequel to Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie. Eleanor, now fully adjusted to life with a new babysitter, has been given an unexpected treat by her grandmother - the opportunity to go to sleep-away camp at Camp Wallamwahpuck, where her mother went as a little girl. Eleanor has heard from her friend Katie that camp is all about eating candy, riding horses, and jumping on a floating trampoline, so it comes as a bit of a shock when her camp experience is somewhat different. The food is gross, and candy is forbidden. There is a floating trampoline, but Eleanor has to wear a life jacket if she wants to go anywhere near it. Even nighttime sounds upset Eleanor. All she wants is to go home! But through her friendship with a girl named Joplin, and her connection to a goat she has secretly named Cornelius, Eleanor learns that though she might not love camp, maybe she can still make the best of it.

Like the first book about Eleanor, this story focuses on the complicated emotions kids sometimes experience

in new situations. Though it might sound like Eleanor is a pessimist, the story is not a depressing meditation on the woes of going to camp. Rather, it is an exploration of healthy ways to handle unfamiliar and uncomfortable situations. Especially noteworthy is the way the adults in Eleanor's life take her feelings seriously, but also give her little boosts of encouragement to help her get through the difficulties she faces at camp. Kids are comforted when they know they have supportive adults to turn to, and this book is a great reminder that kids are never alone with their feelings of frustration or confusion, and that there is usually something to be gained from every new experience, no matter how unpleasant it seems.

Julie Sternberg does a nice job of getting inside the nine-year-old mind. The passages describing Eleanor's humiliation about being in the lowest swimming category of anyone in her cabin reminded me of similar experiences from my own summer as a nine-year-old camper who could not swim. Sternberg understands how little things can seem big to a child, and her story manages to validate the feelings of kids in those situations, and to provide advice on how best to survive them.

Though it is a sequel, *Like Bug Juice on a Burger* will stand on its own. Nervous new campers who sympathize with Eleanor might also enjoy *Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom* by Rachel Vail and *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters* by Lenore Look. Eleanor is also sure to become a new friend to readers who love *Clementine*. *Like Bug Juice on a Burger* is a great follow-up to *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*, and I hope we'll see Eleanor conquer more of her fears in future stories!

Tammy W (TexasTammy) says

Review will post to <https://pinkstinx.blogspot.com/> on 5/4/2018

My Thoughts:

Like Bug Juice on a Burger is a good book for girls who are tentative to step out of their comfort zone. Eleanor is going to camp, a family tradition. She is trying something new but she does not like it and is merely trying to endure the experience. What I like most is that this book gives a real-life example that you may not like or enjoy an experience, but you still need to see it through. Give things a chance you may like it, you may not.

Publisher's Synopsis:

I hate camp. I just hate it. I wish I didn't. But I do. Being here is worse than bug juice on a burger. Or homework on Thanksgiving. Or water seeping into my shoes. In this sequel to the critically acclaimed *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*, Eleanor is off to summer camp. At first, she's excited to carry on the family tradition at Camp Wallumwahpuck, but when she gets there she finds icky bugs, terrible food, and worst of all: swim class, where she just can't seem to keep up with everyone else. But as the days go on, Eleanor realizes that even the most miserable situations can be full of special surprises and that growing up is full of belly flops.

Disclosure / Disclaimer: I received a copy of this title for review purposes, free of charge, from NetGalley and the Publisher. No other compensation, monetary or in kind, has been received or implied for this post.

This Review is my honest opinion.

Storywraps says

Ahhh the memories of summer camp! The good times, bad times and I can't wait for next year or never again are you sending me there mom and dad...I'm not going sentiments.... are verbalized.

If your kids haven't experienced the squirrely packing, the missing home syndrome, the why am I here disease and I can't believe I just accomplished that bug, then this book will be a treat for you to share with them and I assure you the conversations regarding summer camping will begin....

Eleanor, a nine-year old is off to summer camp compliments of her grandmother Sadie. She will attend for a whole ten days and she is happy to know that it is the same camp that her mother, long ago went to named Camp Wallumwahpuck. At camp she can ride horses, jump on a floating trampoline, swim to her heart's content, learn to dive and always be eating M&M's....sounds like so much fun. Every day will be a new adventure and she will meet many new friends that are like-minded and will want to be her friend forever.

As the time gets closer to leave Eleanor worry sets in. What will it be like to be so far away from home? Will she miss her parents too much and not have any fun? These and other questions plague her and she is not too sure she wants to go now.

On arrival Eleanor sees that the alumni are happy and bonded which makes her feel isolated and all alone. Not good. She falls over a root on the way to her cabin scraping her hands and knees...ouch...not good. She is assigned the top bunk which she finds hard to put together...not good. The other five girls in her cabin are already best friends, she fails her swimming test which lands her in the "kiddie" swim group, she discovers that spiders are in the bathroom and the only food she will eat are salads and rolls washed down by Bug Juice.... REALLY not good. Almost immediately she hates camp and writes a letter home begging to be picked up.

She sums up the camp experience by saying it is like Bug Juice on a Burger. She hangs in bless her heart, and by the end of camp when her parents arrive to pick her up she is able to show them her accomplishments and be a living testimony to them that she did indeed survive her mother's summer camp.

The story is written in short simple sentences and the text is accessible to young readers. It is a tender hearted story written in free verse that any child who has ever struggled with being away from home can identify with and understand. The illustrations are detailed, cartoonish and really carry the text and flavour of camp along. I love the colour pallet, it is bold and funky and portrays summer perfectly.

Aeicha says

Like Bug Juice On A Burger is a delightfully fun and entertaining read from author Julie Sternberg. I quickly devoured this middle-grade book and am hungry for more stories about Eleanor and more of Sternberg's work!

Nine year old Eleanor is excited when her grandmother surprises her with a two week trip to Camp

Wallumwahpuck, the camp Eleanor's mother attended as a girl. But Eleanor quickly begins to doubt the trip as she gets nervous about being away from home. And when she arrives at camp, she finds it isn't exactly what she thought it would be. Bugs, less than appetizing food, and dreaded swim class are what she finds instead. But Eleanor decides to really give camp a try and finds that maybe it isn't so bad after all.

Julie Sternberg has created a plucky and unforgettable character in Eleanor and her free-verse writing style is refreshingly unique. I really enjoyed this simple, but laugh-out-loud funny and endearing story and I think readers of all ages will find it immensely amusing and entertaining as well.

You don't often see free-verse in middle-grade, but Sternberg's writing style and voice are pitch-perfect for her intended audience. I loved the natural flow of the free-verse and how well it fits the story. Eleanor's adventures and misadventures at camp are equal parts funny, touching, and thoughtful, and always believable. Sternberg creates realistic situations that young readers will relate to and understand.

I love Eleanor and her honest, curious personality. She has a plucky spirit and a wonderfully observational wit. And boy did I feel for this girl! Her first few disastrous days at camp reminded me so much of my first few days of summer camp when I was a child *cringes*. I too took a less than graceful tumble on the first day of camp, found myself terribly homesick, and hated swim lessons. But Eleanor really makes the best of her situation and sets out to make sure her entire camp experience isn't ruined. And with the help of some new friends, a goat, and a trampoline, she ends up having a lot of fun.

Matthew Cordell's simple but charming illustrations are the perfect companion to Eleanor's story and I really loved them.

MY FINAL THOUGHTS: Like Bug Juice On A Burger is a wonderfully fun, amusing, and well written book. Sternberg's charming free-verse writing style and her awesome main character will delight readers of all ages.

Melanie Zwicker says

Completely transported me back to my childhood camp experiences.

Brenda says

Eleanor is off to summer camp. Grandma Sadie has given her a present. She is going to the same camp her mom went to and loved. Eleanor was excited at first. Her friend, Katie, had gone the year before. She'd had a blast riding horses, jumping on the floating trampoline, diving, eating M&M's... it seemed great. Grandma Sadie even sent Eleanor a picture of her mom standing in front of a cabin with a fluffy soft sleeping bag rolled in her arms. It was clear she was happy, and Eleanor thought she would be too. Camp Wallumwahpuck would be an adventure.

While Eleanor and her mom are packing, Eleanor gets a little nervous – who wouldn't. She wonders what it will be like to be so far from home. She wonders what it will be like to miss her parents too much. The next day when they drive to the pick up spot Eleanor sees how happy all the seasoned campers are to see each

other and find out if they are together again in a cabin. They are happy and hugging while Eleanor is alone. First Eleanor finds out she is in cabin “Gypsy Moth.” Gypsy Moth? Aren’t they ugly? Next she meets very tall, very thin Joplin. She’d been to camp before so that was helpful, but she has an odd way with people.

“Do you eat chocolate?”

“Sure,” I said.

I waited for her to offer me some.

Because why else would she have asked?

But instead she said,

“Good.

A girl in my cabin last year said it gave her a rash.

I never liked her.”

“Oh,” I said.

We were quiet for a second.

I wondered what the girl’s rash looked like.

Each beginning starts badly – falling over a tree root while on the way to the cabin and badly scraping her hands and knees, having to make up a top bunk, being in a cabin with five other girls who are already friends, not passing the swimming test and discovering that the only thing she likes at the dining hall is salad (minus the tomatoes) and roll (two’s the limit). Every new thing is not quite what Eleanor expects even the fruit punch has a disgusting name that makes it undrinkable. Bug Juice? Who’d want to drink that? All Eleanor wants it have one of her dad’s juicy burgers with ketchup, but nothing at Camp Wallumwahpuck is like that.

Everything is like Bug Juice on a Burger and Eleanor just wishes to go home. She sticks it out and you’ll be glad she did. She makes it all way until pick up day when she can show her parents all the places she has been and the things she has done. There’s not a reader who won’t related to Eleanor’s struggles and disappointments. Her concerns and fears are eloquently real – she puts words to thing most of us only think. Her accomplishments, no matter how small or large, will be celebrated and cheered.

C.S. Lewis said, “We read to find ourselves.” Bug Juice on a Burger is a perfect book for that. Eleanor is a great book friend to have. This is a perfect companion to Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie. I hope to read more.

Colby Sharp says

My early pic for Cybils chapter book champion.

Carrie says

I'm a sucker for a series. In this installment, Eleanor is going to carry on the family tradition of attending camp at Camp Wallumwahpuck just like her mother did. At first, she is excited about the adventure, picturing snacks of M&Ms, puffy sleeping bags, and quaint white cabins. However, camp isn't quite what she expected. I could relate to this book, as I wasn't a big fan of camp as a child. A good title to share with kids to share the lesson that things that start out tough can end up more positive in the end.

Crystal says

Review copy from Netgalley

I am always happy to find early chapter books that are fun and engaging. Like Bug Juice on a Burger is a great book for those early readers who want to start chapter books, but are still intimidated by lots of words on the page. There is a lot of white space on these pages. The addition of Matthew Cordell's refreshing illustrations also keeps this chapter book entertaining and friendly during a transition from picture books.

Whether children have experienced summer camp or not, this is a book that most can connect with as all children have dealt with fear of new situations. Eleanor runs into difficulties, but nothing that she truly can't handle. She rises up to meet the challenges in spite of her fears.

I did wonder about the formatting of the text. There are no traditional paragraphs, but there are breaks and many short lines. I thought that the author may have chosen to avoid paragraphing for easy reading. It truly did not seem like it was written in verse though the text was sometimes lyrical. Because I was wondering about the formatting and whether or not it was a novel in verse, I was happy to find this interview from the International Reading Association. The book is not exactly a novel in verse, though some refer to it that way, but I believe that the formatting she used, definitely benefits struggling and beginning readers.

For anyone looking to stock up on early chapter books, this is definitely something to purchase. It would make a nice read aloud in primary classes and would be great for reading alone when students are venturing into the chapter book realm.

**There is an Activity Kit available through Julie's website

Review posted at <http://readingtl.blogspot.com/2013/12...>

Peter Bedard says

The rrrrr and his wife of my favorite part of the best way Jack it is the best thing ever

Rrrrr is the only one that has been the most recent update is so much better now that the company

Kayla Torson says

Very cute. Good for kids, especially girls who are hesitant about going to camp, trying something new, or getting out of their comfort zone. It teaches you to give things a chance.

Shazzer says

Just as Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie gave us a glimpse at a child's separation anxiety with faced with losing her favorite babysitter, Like Bug Juice on a Burger gives us all the nerves, trauma, and yes, some of the fun, of your first time at sleepaway camp. Eleanor thinks she'll love camp, because her mother did, but when she arrives at Camp Wallumwahpuck, she realizes she hates it. I mean, really hates it. Almost immediately, she writes home begging to be picked up. While waiting to be rescued, Eleanor suffers the indignity of being placed in a "kiddie" swim group, spiders in the bathroom and nothing good to eat but salads with tomatoes (yuck!) and croutons (yay!).

Like Bug Juice on a Burger is a tender-hearted little tome, written in (very) free verse that any kid who has ever spent a night away from home can understand. Eleanor is a relatable everygirl who displays complex emotions and real heart. A very solid second outing.

Alice Greene says

Alice: 5 stars

Jenny: 5 stars. I think this is a charming series of a girl who is learning how to be her own person, this one specifically at a sleepaway camp.
