

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Jordan Banks is a talented artist and desperately wants to attend art school. But instead his well-meaning parents send him to a prestigious private school. He's the new kid and soon realizes he's one of only a few students of color. He worries about fitting in with his new classmates and doesn't want to alienate his neighborhood friends, so that weighs pretty heavily on him. It's hard for anyone to walk that fine line between two worlds, but for a middle-schooler it's especially difficult. Jordan makes friends with some of the kids in his class and encounters bullying from a few others. He grows up quite a bit over the course of the graphic novel, even standing up to the bullying and microaggressions that he and his fellow Black students have to deal with on a daily basis.

Jerry Craft's art is wonderful; I feel like it perfectly conveys the middle school experience. One of my favorite parts of the graphic novel is that Jordan's drawings are interspersed throughout the book. That's a cool addition and helps add to his character. Jordan is a pretty great role model and it's really cool to read a graphic novel featuring a person of color who isn't a superhero. He's just a regular kid, and I hope that readers will see themselves in him. I enjoyed this graphic novel immensely. And I was super excited to find out that there is a sequel coming out in October called *Class Act*. This one will feature Jordan's friend from Riverdale Academy Day School, Drew. I can't wait to learn even more about Drew and see how Jordan's doing in 8th grade.

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