

Flipped Study Guide

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

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Plot Summary

"Flipped" by Wendelin Van Draanen tells the story of two youngsters whose diverse views of their relationship evolve over many years until those perspectives are "flipped." The story begins when seven-year-old Bryce Loski moves into a new house across the street from the Bakers. Seven-year-old Juli Baker has been eagerly anticipating the arrival of her new neighbors for weeks ever since she learned that a boy her age would be living there.

On the day the Loskis are unloading their truck, Juli races over to introduce herself. She is mesmerized by the cute boy with the brilliant blue eyes. Juli is a high-spirited young girl who is open and friendly. When she jumps into the moving van to help, young Bryce is immediately annoyed. He finds her aggressive and does not like her muddy shoes. He spends the next two weeks doing everything he can to avoid being around his new neighbor who relentlessly pursues him. Juli recognizes that he is withdrawn and not around much but she attributes that to his shyness.

The relationship remains in this mode from second grade through sixth grade. The entire time the very smart Juli allows her heart to rule her head. She does not pick up on the signals that Bryce sends off, namely, that he doesn't want anything to do with her. She takes every opportunity to endear herself to him. She whispers the correct spelling of word in his ear during spelling tests, she climbs a huge tree to retrieve his kite that is caught in the branches, and she gives his family eggs every week from her pet chickens.

Bryce spends those same years trying to avoid Juli. His flaw is that he allows Juli's obsession to persist without confronting it directly. He has a passive-aggressive approach to ridding his life of the annoying little girl. In fifth grade, he holds hands in front of her with another girl, who happens to be Juli's mortal enemy. He takes the eggs from Juli each week for two years but immediately throws them in the trash. He tells his friend Garrett how he really feels about his irritating neighbor but fails to tell Juli herself.

But things begin to flip when the maturing Bryce begins to recognize how smart and accomplished Juli is and that she is a person of substance. He first envies then grows to admire the great and lively spirit lives within her. He also notices how beautiful she is. When the tables turn and Juli discovers that Bryce hasn't been honest with her, she wants nothing to do with him. Of course, that sets the stage for Bryce's obsession to win her back. The two kids begin the story far apart in many ways, separated by dishonesty and misunderstanding. In the end, the gap between them shrinks and establishes the foundation for an honest and growing relationship.



Chapter 1: Diving Under

Chapter 1: Diving Under Summary

When he was seven-years-old, Bryce Loski moved into a new neighborhood. A little girl named Juli Baker lived across the street. She insisted on helping Bryce and his family move in but she was too pushy and had muddy shoes and Bryce was immediately annoyed with her. She grabbed his hand just when his mother opened the front door. He pulled his hand away from her and virtually went into hiding. For the next several weeks, Juli was constantly at the door wanting to play. His dad made excuses for him but his older sister Lynetta tried to sabotage him by letting Juli in a few times.

Bryce started second grade and as soon as he walked in the door, Juli came charging at him and gave him a huge bear hug. She constantly pestered him, following him around at school. Not only was Juli obnoxious, she was a straight A student who got the highest grades on all the tests. A totally annoying person. Throughout second, third and fourth grades, things didn't get better. Juli followed him around like a puppy. In fifth grade, he decided to end the obsession once and for all. He started hanging around with Shelly, a girl that Juli hated. The two wound up having a big fight over Bryce and he got called to the principal's office.

In sixth grade, the teacher sat Bryce right by Juli. He did like the fact that he could look at her paper during tests. His grades went up but when Bryce was moved in front of her, his grades started going down again because he could no longer look at her paper. She did whisper the correct spelling of words in his ear during spelling tests at the time she smelled his hair. Bryce looked forward to junior high where he plans to ditch Juli forever.

Chapter 1: Diving Under Analysis

Seven-year-old Bryce is plagued by a little neighbor girl, Juli, who is enthralled with him. He can't seem to ditch her even in school. Bryce remains annoyed by Juli all the way from second to sixth grade. He plans on things being different in junior high. Since girls mature sooner than boys, Bryce's plans to ditch Juli could blow up in his face. The author could be foreshadowing a completely different scenario. She's a cute little girl who might turn into a pretty pre-teen. Bryce may well have a change of heart when he looks at Juli with different eyes. He may begin to appreciate her intelligence and strong spirit. The tables may turn on Bryce and he might eventually be following Juli around.



Chapter 2: Flipped

Chapter 2: Flipped Summary

Bryce was right about Juli having a huge crush on him. She adored him from the moment she met him, especially his beautiful blue eyes. There were no playmates in her neighborhood her age when Bryce moved in and so she eagerly anticipated his arrival. When they moved in, she thought it was only neighborly to help them. Even though Bryce seemed tired, his father still insisted he help. Juli thought she'd come to the rescue and help Bryce's father so Bryce could take it easy.

Juli continued to pursue Bryce throughout the grades. She thought he wanted to kiss her but that he was too shy. When she saw her mortal enemy, the delicate Shelly Stalls, holding hands with him, she saw red. Juli could sense that Bryce didn't really want to be with Shelly. He'd rather be with her but Shelly had been aggressive and he was too polite to protest. Once again, she figured she needed to rescue him and that was how the catfight started between her and Shelly. After Juli told the principal what had compelled her to help Bryce, she advised Juli to let Bryce work out his own personal issues.

Juli rescued Bryce again in sixth grade. He did seem to get a little friendlier with her. When the teacher moved Bryce in front of Juli, she felt compelled to help him on his spelling tests because he'd get detention if he had too many wrong. She didn't like to cheat but she had no choice.

Chapter 2: Flipped Analysis

Juli's understanding of her relationship with Bryce is completely different than his. She sees him as wanting a relationship with her but due to his shyness, he's unable to pursue her. So she does all the pursuing although it doesn't get her very far. Juli has a tenacious nature and a positive attitude. She doesn't realize that Bryce is trying to ditch her when he starts hanging around with Shelly. She also doesn't realize that she's being used when she feeds him the correct spelling words. Cheating is against Juli's nature but her feelings for Bryce are so strong that she feels forced to compromise her values. How will Juli feel when she finally realizes how Bryce has really felt about her all those years?



Chapter 3: Buddy, Beware!

Chapter 3: Buddy, Beware! Summary

There were some changes for Bryce in seventh grade, but not what he would have expected. For one thing, his grandfather moved in with them. All the old guy did was sit on the porch and stare at the Baker's front yard which was always a mess or read or did crossword puzzles. He hardly ever talked to Bryce. His mother said he missed Bryce's grandmother who had just recently died. He did point out to Bryce that there was an article about Juli Baker in the newspaper. Juli climbed an old sycamore tree that was located on a nearby vacant lot. It was old and twisted but when the owner wanted to cut it down, Juli climbed it and vowed to stay there to keep them from cutting it down. Bryce thought she was dumb and told her the tree was ugly.

Bryce was disappointed that he had to take the same bus to junior high as Juli. The kids all waited by the sycamore tree for the bus. Everyday Juli would climb high in the tree so she could spot the bus coming. One day Juli retrieved Bryce's kite that had gotten entangled in its branches. She was up in the tree the day the men came with buzz saws. Bryce got on the school bus with the other kids and left Juli behind in the tree. He was sad when he got off the bus that afternoon and saw that the men were cutting the tree down. Grandpa was very impressed with Juli and wanted to meet her. He pressured Bryce to invite her over.

Juli missed several days of school and when she did return, she didn't ride the bus. In class, she was quiet and didn't raise her hand like she usually did. Her eyes were red-rimmed and she sat by herself at lunch. He found out she was riding her bike to school. Bryce almost stopped her one day to tell her she ought to take the bus again but he stopped himself. He didn't want her to think he missed her.

Chapter 3: Buddy, Beware! Analysis

Although Bryce thinks Juli's stand against cutting down the sycamore tree is silly, he begins to admire her. His grandfather is impressed with Juli's strength. Grandpa's words begin to have an impact on Bryce who is trying to resist liking Juli. When she decides to ride her bike to work instead of taking the bus, Bryce misses her although he doesn't want admit it. He has empathy for Juli that the tree she loved to climb was cut down. Bryce is maturing and he's beginning to have feelings for the girl he's been wanting to ditch for literally years.

Juli is also maturing. She is finding out that things don't always go smoothly or work out like you want them to even if you have the best of intentions. Juli feels defeated by the tree incident and is withdrawing into herself. She is distressed that a thing of beauty was destroyed and that she was unable to stop its destruction.



Chapter 4: The Sycamore Tree

Chapter 4: The Sycamore Tree Summary

Juli's father was a bricklayer by trade but spent his free time painting landscapes. Juli liked to watch him paint. He seemed to transcend his surroundings and even the world. He seemed to be a spiritual experience for him. She was upset one day when he asked her why she liked Bryce so much. She talked about his black hair and bright blue eyes but her father said she needed to look at the full landscape. Juli's father's appreciation of the arts and beauty encouraged her own love of nature and beauty. That was why she became enchanted with the sycamore tree.

Juli found the tree particularly lucky the day she saw a blue and white kite up in the sycamore tree. She climbed up to rescue it and was thrilled to see Bryce looking up from the ground. It was his kite! She was embarrassed when she crawled down only to find out that the whole seat of her pants had been ripped open by a branch. She got in the habit of climbing the tree and looking out at the world, taking in the entire landscape just like her father told her to. Sometimes she found herself talking to the tree. She didn't have a best friend to talk to so she poured her heart out to the tree. She told her father about the tree because he was the only person who would understand how she felt about it. He promised to climb up in the tree with her.

The very next day when Juli was in the tree waiting for the bus was the day the men came to cut it down. She argued with the men and refused to come down. They threatened to call the police. She pleaded with Bryce and the other kids to help her but no one would. She drew a crowd. Firemen and cops and the owner were all on the scene ordering her to come down. Her father came and had the workers lift him up in the cherry-picker so he could bring her back down. She cried for two weeks and decided to take her bike to school so she didn't have to deal with the other kids. So that she would always have the spirit of the tree with her, her father painted a picture of the tree for her. In the tree was a young girl looking down from the top branch. She loved the painting and hung it on the wall across from her bed so she could see it first thing every morning.

Chapter 4: The Sycamore Tree Analysis

The tree is much more to Juli than something to climb and play in. She inherited her love of the beauty of nature from her father who is an artist. But not only is the tree beautiful to Juli - it is also her friend. She can perch atop a high branch and look out on the world and imagine what the future holds for. She doesn't have close friends so the tree begins to represent to her a way to vent her most intimate feelings. She fears the tree being cut down. Juli will not only be missing a thing of beauty, she will have lost a friend. She was in mourning for weeks following the tree's end. Her father understands her feelings because she is a lot like him. The painting of the tree he gives



her represents the spirit of the tree. He wants Juli to maintain the spirit she feels for beauty and nature and hopes that the picture helps her keep that spirit. Her emotional reaction to the entire incident is a signal that she is making the transition from childhood to adolescence.



Chapter 5: Brawk-Brawk-Brawk

Chapter 5: Brawk-Brawk-Brawk Summary

Lynetta had a major crush on Skyler Brown who practiced with his band in his garage. Lynetta would hang out in the garage and when it got too late, Bryce's mother would send him down on his bike to get her. Of course, the older kids would tease him and one day they had Mike and Matt Baker's boa constrictor there and was feeding it eggs, shells and all which turned Bryce's stomach. The snake would wrap itself around the leg of the piano in order to crack the eggs so they could be more easily digested. When Juli showed up at his door one day with eggs that her pet chickens had laid, all Bryce could think of was the snake. Juli had showed off with her pet chickens at the State Fair where she received rave reviews in the science contest.

Bryce gave the chicken eggs to his mother. His father told Bryce to ask Juli if she had a rooster. Bryce didn't want to talk to her so he and his friend, Garrett, decided to look over the Baker's fence to see if there was a rooster. Bryce told his parents they could eat the eggs but he wouldn't get near them. The yard was a mess and there was excrement everywhere. His mother and Lynetta were afraid the eggs might have salmonella poisoning. But Mr. Loski was more afraid that his son was a coward. He should have just asked the girl about the rooster rather than peeking over the fence.

The family decided not eat the eggs or say anything to Juli about them but a week later she was back on the porch with another carton of eggs. Bryce didn't have the nerve to tell her his family didn't want them. She continued bringing the eggs for the next two years. Bryce would take them and throw them away before his parents saw them. One day Julie caught Bryce throwing them away. She asked why he was throwing them away. He told her his family were afraid that her eggs were bad because of the filthy yard the chickens lived in. She was upset. She had been selling her eggs to other neighbors. She calculated that she probably lost over \$100 by giving him the eggs all that time. She ran home in tears making Bryce felt like a real jerk.

Chapter 5: Brawk-Brawk-Brawk Analysis

Rick confronts Bryce about his reluctance to confront Juli about the rotten eggs she's bringing them. He's rather harsh in his assessment of Bryce, essentially calling him a coward. That can't be a positive for a young male pre-teen trying to develop some self esteem. But the father says something that might be important a little deeper in the story. He says, "If you were in love with her, that would be one thing. Love is something to be afraid of." (58) He goes on to say that if he's just afraid of the girl, it shows he's a coward and he's a cause of embarrassment for his family—especially his father. His mother takes up for Bryce but it seems as though Mr. Loski has the last word. He's trying to get him to be direct but he's taking the wrong approach by ridiculing him. Rick is advising his son to communicate but he has very poor communication skills himself.



Chapter 6: The Eggs

Chapter 6: The Eggs Summary

Juli was very upset about the eggs. It was more difficult to deal with than her dog's death. Her father had found the dog when she was six. It was hurt and abandoned. Juli's mother didn't want to keep the dog but after a while she softened and the dog, named Champ, became a part of the family but he had to stay outside because he persistently made his "mark" inside the house. It was in fifth grade that Juli became involved with raising chickens. Her teacher encouraged her to raise a hatchling for the science fair. Her father volunteered to help her build an incubator.

After the incubator was assembled, Juli placed six fertilized eggs inside. Her teacher told her not to expect all six to live—the record at the science fair was three. Her documentation of the project was what was important even if none of the chicks survived. Her father showed her how to check the health of an embryo by candling the egg or shining a light behind the egg to see if the chick was developing normally. Any chick that wasn't, needed to be culled from the incubator because it could contaminate the others.

Juli dutifully tended to the eggs, made her charts and graphs and documented their progress. On the day the chicks started to peck through their shells, Juli took the incubator and all her charts to school. She didn't want to miss any of the chicks as they hatched. After the science fair when all the chicks were hatched, Juli and her dad built a lean-to chicken coop so she could continue to raise them. The chickens weren't expensive to raise but they did attract rodents that attracted feral cats but Champ did a good job of keeping the cats out.

The chicks were all female and began laying eggs. The family ate as much as they could but soon she was selling some to several neighbors. Juli gave the eggs to Bryce because Mrs. Loski gave her a ride to school sometimes and had helped the family in other ways; and of course, there were her feelings about Bryce. When it admitted to throwing her eggs away, he took her by her shoulders and told her he was sorry. She stumbled home crying.

Chapter 6: The Eggs Analysis

Although things have come to a hurtful point in Juli's relationship with Bryce, positive progress has actually been achieved. What is positive about Juli's discovery that Bryce has been throwing all the eggs away is that Bryce is forced to be honest with her. After years of trying to ditch her and two years of throwing her eggs away, he finally confronts her with how he really feels. He is sorry but yet he is strong enough to tell her what was really going on. Despite her hurt, they will actually be able to begin a relationship built on honesty. She may be angry with him for a while, but in the end if their relationship

has any chance at all, it has to be built on honesty or it will be doomed to fail. Bryce felt bad about his behavior and that his actions hurt Juli which indicates that he is maturing and gaining enough self-esteem to be honest. Of course, he was backed in the corner a bit but at least he didn't try to lie his way out of it.



Chapter 7: Get a Grip, Man

Chapter 7: Get a Grip, Man Summary

Bryce felt Juli's anger even from across the street. She wouldn't speak to him. He noticed she was trimming the bushes in front of the house. He had probably shamed her into it when he told her that their yard was a mess. Bryce decided to help Juli clean up the yard to make up for being such a jerk. But his grandfather beat him to it. On the day he was going to offer his help, his grandfather was over in the Baker's yard trimming and cleaning up.

Patsy complimented her father for improving the appearance of the neighborhood by helping Juli with her yard. Grandpa talked to Bryce that night. He knew all about the eggs and what caused Juli to suddenly start cleaning up the yard. He didn't intend to tell Bryce's parents but he stressed to Bryce that one's character was established at a young age. The next time he was faced with a choice, his grandfather told him, he should make the right choice.

Finally, one Saturday, after Bryce came home from shooting hoops with Garrett, he decided to break the ice. Juli was watering the lawn. He called across and told her that she was doing a good job. He apologized again but she said it may have been for the best. The yard had never looked better and that she had learned so much from Chet—Bryce's grandfather. Rick was upset that grandpa worked so hard in Juli's yard but ignored his own grandson. Bryce took up for grandpa telling him that Juli reminded grandpa of grandma. Grandpa said it was true—Juli's spirit reminded him of his departed wife.

Rick was growing angrier, pointing out that in the six years they lived there, the Baker's property had been run down and neglected. Grandpa told everyone that the Bakers spent all their extra money on Juli's uncle who was brain-damaged from birth from the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck. They paid for his care at a private institution. Patsy got upset and left the room followed soon by Rick and Lynetta. Grandpa told Bryce that Patsy was upset because he, Bryce, had been born with the umbilical cord around his neck but quick thinking doctors had saved him from having permanent brain damage. Bryce wondered if his father would have been willing to give up everything to care for him had he been brain-damaged.

Bryce took a long walk with his grandfather. They talked and he felt a lot closer to him. He went to his room and re-read the newspaper article about Juli when she was up in the tree. He understood her better now and understood how she felt about the tree. Bryce spent that last six years trying not to think about Juli but now he couldn't stop.



Chapter 7: Get a Grip, Man Analysis

Grandpa helps Bryce see the error of his ways. Juli's spirit reminds Bryce's grandfather of that of his wife who had just recently died. Grandpa wants to help mend the relationship between Bryce and Juli. He sees the good things in both kids and senses that Juli would be a great friend for his grandson to have. Rick continues to be a negative voice in the family but Bryce is starting to see that his father's negativity has impacted the family adversely. His grandfather's voice is encouraging and honest. He tells his grandson that a person's character is developed at a young age. It's not too late for Bryce to start making the right choices in life.

The old adage is that you want what you can't have bears out in the case of Bryce and Juli. For years he tried to avoid her and even ditch her. But after he had hurt and angered her and she refused to have anything to do with him, he wanted her to begin paying attention to him again. As much as he ridiculed her and didn't want anything to do with for six years, when she began ignoring him, he couldn't think of anything but her. The table has finally turned and he's probably going to be chasing her around now.



Chapter 8: The Yard

Chapter 8: The Yard Summary

Bryce's blunt assessment of Juli's yard had forced her to realize that she and her parents were poor. They never went on vacations and everything they bought was second-hand. One night at dinner, after her encounter with Bryce, she told her parents she wanted to fix up the front yard and that it wouldn't cost much. Her father told her the house was a rental and that they didn't own it. She was flabbergasted. She had no idea that he wasn't really their house. She had lived there all her life.

But Juli was persistent. She wanted to fix up the front yard because it was their home. She admitted that what was prompting her to fix up the place was the incident with the eggs. Bryce confessed that they threw the eggs away because of the filthy backyard. Her parents got into a discussion about Uncle David and how the cost of his care was a financial burden to the family. The next day after school, Juli began her yard project. She gathered her tools but found it difficult to decide where to start and didn't get very far the first day. The next afternoon she was at it again when she suddenly was joined by Chester Duncan, Bryce's grandfather, who volunteered to help her. He was prepared to really dig in. He even brought his own work gloves. She accused him of wanting to clean up the yard because of her disagreement with Bryce. Grandpa told her he didn't know anything about rotten eggs. He told her he reminded her of his wife and that she would have sat up in that tree all night, he told her.

The two worked well together and got a lot done. The conversation made the work seem easier plus Juli learned a lot about fixing up the yard and building a picket fence from Grandpa. Trina brought out sandwiches for them and told Chet she wanted to pay him for his work but he wouldn't hear of it. He told Juli that he wished Bryce would just come over instead of watching them from his window. She was pleased when Bryce walked over later and apologized again.

Chapter 8: The Yard Analysis

Having an honest confrontation with Bryce is having a domino effect on Juli's life. She suddenly understands that her family is poor and that her parents have had a struggle supporting her and her brothers. Perhaps she had thought about it before but may have brushed it off because she didn't want to deal with it and because the financial complexities of a family are not things kids usually spend time thinking about. But she learned that the family was using much of their money to the care of her father's brother who was mentally challenged from birth. Support her uncle is a laudable gesture but the family has suffered financially. She learned another truth that the only house she had ever lived in was a rental home. They didn't own the house. But just as her father told her, she looked at the big picture and the big picture told her that the house they lived in

was their "home" and that making it look better and fixing it up so they'd be proud of their home was a positive thing to do even though they didn't own the property.



Chapter 9: Looming Large and Smelly

Chapter 9: Looming Large and Smelly Summary

At breakfast the next morning, Patsy insisted on everyone eating together. She announced that she was going to invite the Bakers over for dinner. Grandpa was for it but Lynetta and Rick were totally against it. Of course, Bryce was worried that the "eggs" incident would surface at the dinner party. He confessed the whole thing to his mother. She said she would keep quiet about it as long as she could be sure he learned his lesson about being honest. He assured her he had. The Bakers were coming at 6 pm that Friday.

Juli was still stand-offish at school. One evening doing homework in his room he took the newspaper article out of his drawer and looked at the picture of Juli up in the sycamore. He accidentally left the article in his folder and the next day Garrett spied it and teased him about carrying a picture of Juli around with him. In the library, Garrett made some disparaging remarks about Juli and her family and about Uncle David. Garret said that he wasn't surprised that Juli had a retarded uncle. Bryce actually felt like punching him out but he thought better of it since they were in the library.

Chapter 9: Looming Large and Smelly Analysis

Patsy obviously wants to smooth things over with the Bakers. She feels bad that she had not been friendlier to them and realizes that her father showed them all up by reaching out to them and helping Juli with the yard work.



Chapter 10: The Visit

Chapter 10: The Visit Summary

On Sundays, the family usually slept late but on this day, Juli woke early and was watering the grass when she spotted her father getting ready to leave. He was going to visit David in the institution. It was his fortieth birthday. Juli decided that she wanted to go with him. They didn't talk much on their drive over to Greenhaven. David was thrilled to see Robert and Juli. David's wall was covered with completed puzzles that were glued on. The gift that Robert brought was another puzzle - a three-thousand piece puzzle that was all blue sky and white clouds. A yellow and red pinwheel took the place of a bow on the package. David screamed "Orange" as he blew on the pinwheel.

Robert and Juli took David to a local drugstore where they had ice cream cones and sat at an outside table. David dropped his cone and tried to cram the ice cream back on the cone but it splintered. David had a real tantrum screaming like a child and knocking over chairs and tables. Robert got him another ice cream cone which calmed him down. Back in his room, Robert helped David set up his new puzzle.

On the way home, Juli asked why David never visited the house. Robert explained that David felt safer at the institution. Trina found it depressing to visit David so Robert always visited alone. Robert apologized for not being able to give Juli as much as he'd like to. The financial burden for taking care of David was very costly. Juli told her dad that he was the best father ever. When they got home, they were shocked when Trina told them that they were invited by Patsy Loski for dinner on Friday. Robert felt uncomfortable about it but Juli could tell her mother was excited and looking forward to it.

In the library, Juli and her friend Darla overheard Bryce talking to Garrett about the chickens, the yards, the eggs and her Uncle David. Darla told Juli that everyone knew that Bryce had a huge crush on her. But Juli was upset that Bryce and Garret were talking about her. She decided that she would not be going to dinner at his house!

Chapter 10: The Visit Analysis

A whole world has opened up to Juli and she has achieved a deeper understanding of her father. Although the visit to Uncle David was disturbing on one level, she recognized the goodness in her father. He set an example for Juli by his patient and kind treatment of his mentally-challenged younger brother. Robert demonstrated what was really important in life and it wasn't about the best clothes or gadgets or even attractive front yards.

Juli shows her continuing development as she is not immediately enthralled by the invitation to the Bakers. A few years back or maybe even a few months before she would have been fantasizing about sitting across from the gorgeous Bryce. But she

takes the invitation in stride. It is obvious that she is getting her priorities in order. When she hears Bryce and Garrett talking about her and her family, she mistakes Bryce's intentions and decides not to attend the Bakers' dinner party. Juli has advanced way beyond her years and her school girl crush on Bryce.



Chapter 11: The Serious Willies

Chapter 11: The Serious Willies Summary

The entire Baker family arrived for the dinner. Juli refused to acknowledge Bryce. She whispered to him that she didn't want to talk to him. She heard him talking about her uncle in the library. Bryce was upset and he should have punched Garrett out. If he had, maybe Juli would believe that it was Garrett making all the remarks not him. He tried to corner Juli and explain but she wasn't interested.

Bryce could have almost died when Rick started grilling Matt and Mike about college. They had a band and they were going to try to the music thing first. But they had good grades and had already been accepted at a couple of colleges. Lynetta turned one of Mike and Matt's CDs on and blasted the volume as high as it would go. The adults were all tempted to jump up and turn it down but they resisted.

Matt and Mike told Rick that they made the demo themselves. Lynetta and Bryce were surprised to hear that their dad had been in a band and played the guitar. When the Bakers started to leave, Juli apologized to Bryce for being rude. She told him she really liked his mother. After they left, Rick said he was sure that the boys were dealing drugs because making a demo took a lot of money. Lynetta told him off and called him a "narrow-minded jackass" (p. 157). Rick slapped her and she ran crying from the house. Later, Patsy sat with her in her room, trying to calm her down. Bryce saw the stark contrast between the Bakers and his family. The Bakers were real and cared for each other.

Chapter 11: The Serious Willies Analysis

The dinner party at Bryce's house proved two things to him: the Bakers are a real family and his family is totally dysfunctional. Most of his family's problems center around his dad, Rick, who is skeptical of everyone and everything and he often borders on being rude and insulting. The family was thrown into chaos after the Bakers left when Rick, with no evidence, accuses Matt and Mike of being drug dealers. Rick was impressed with the boys' demo and is envious of their skills. He is bitter that his music career never took off and it makes him feel better to drag someone else down with him. Importantly Bryce is beginning to see his father for what he is and that he falls way short when compared to the kind and loving Robert Baker.



Chapter 12: The Dinner

Chapter 12: The Dinner Summary

Juli decided to go to the dinner because she didn't want to disappoint her mother who was looking forward to a nice dinner out. She thought about Bryce. He had never been a friend. He didn't support her stand on the tree, he'd thrown away her eggs and he ridiculed her uncle. He did apologize when she arrived at the house but how could she trust him?

At dinner, Juli was surprised how Lynetta took up for her brothers and their music. Juli was also surprised that her mother enjoyed hearing her sons' loud rock music - she seemed to be proud of them. Her dad was smiling and proud, too. Juli felt compelled to apologize to Bryce at the end of the dinner. She was sorry she was rude and interrupted his apology.

Back home everyone gathered in the kitchen and had more pie. Matt and Mike agreed that they'd never want Rick for their father. They were happy with the dad they had. Trina dittoed that sentiment. Though he tried to disguise it, Juli saw the glimmer of tears, happy tears, in her father's eyes from the nice words.

The chickens had slowed up their egg laying. Juli's neighbor, Mrs. Stueby said they needed a rooster and that Juli had plenty of room in the yard to raise more chicks.

Chapter 12: The Dinner Analysis

The disguises and the charades are all coming down. That Bryce wants Juli to be his friend—or maybe even more—is becoming abundantly obvious. He is wearing his heart on his sleeve. He knows that he appears bumbling and unsure but he is being honest. Confronting people is difficult for him because he hasn't had much experience at it. But there's nothing like being genuine—it can make up for other missing qualities. Even though Juli is still angry with Bryce, she's beginning to soften. Her father had a great night. His sons said they are happy with the father they have and would never trade him for someone like Rick who is phony and bitter.



Chapter 13: Flipped

Chapter 13: Flipped Summary

Bryce was one of twenty boys at school who was chosen for the Booster Club auction. It was humiliating. He was going to have to make up a picnic lunch for the girls to bid on. The top bidders won the lunches and got to eat with the boys who made them. What made matters worse was the boys were known as "basket boys." Garrett gave Bryce the bad news that three girls, Shelly Stalls, Miranda Humes and Jenny Atkinson, planned to be in a bidding war for Bryce. Bryce decided that he had to kiss up to Shelly and Miranda because he didn't want to get stuck with Jumbo Jenny who was six feet tall and could be in the NBA if she shaved her head.

At the lunch break, all the basket boys assembled on stage. One kid's mother bid on her son's lunch which was worse than just being a basket boy. At first no one bid on Jon Trulock's basket but suddenly there was a mini-bidding war between two girls. To Bryce's disappointment, one of the girls was Juli who hung in there until she outbid the other girl.

The three girls had a fast-paced bidding war on Bryce's basket. For a while it kept going back and forth between Miranda and Shelly but when the bidding hit forty dollars, Jumbo Jenny entered the contest. When Jenny bid \$100, the other two girls pooled their money and bid \$122.50. It was the winning bid and an all-time high for the Booster auction.

Lunch was miserable with the two winners fighting over Bryce. He kept looking at Juli who was eating with Jon. She looked so beautiful. He couldn't take his eyes off her. The rivalry between Miranda and Shelly got so intense that they wound up in a food fight and were scratching and clawing and rolling on the floor. Bryce had to talk to Juli. He ran over and pulled her away from Jon. Did she like Jon—like him more than a friend, he asked her. She didn't and Bryce, now totally out of control, reached over to kiss her but Juli ran off. The story was all around school but Bryce didn't care. All he wanted was to find Juli again and talk to her and kiss her. When Garrett told him he was making a fool of himself over the little know-it-all, Bryce shoved him as hard as it could.

Bryce called Juli but she wouldn't answer. He repeatedly knocked on her door but she refused to see him. He was miserable. He told grandpa that he didn't know what hit him. Juli was just different. Grandpa told him that Juli was the same as she always was. Bryce was the one who had changed and would never be the same again. Bryce had to think of something to prove to Juli that he wasn't the jerk she thought he was.

Chapter 13: Flipped Analysis

This time it was Bryce who has flipped. Even though two of the hottest girls in school are vying for Bryce's affection, it is the now-elusive Juli he must have. It is driving him



crazy. Juli's not a game player. She is sincere in her disinterest in Bryce who she considers immature and lacking depth although deep down she still likes him. She has matured to the point that his black hair and striking blue eyes don't do it for her any more. She wants a friend, someone she can talk to and feel equal with. She learned what real caring was about from her parents, Bryce's grandfather and even from her own brothers. As far as Juli is concerned, what Bryce does is of no interest to her and the "cute" girls can have him - at least, she gives that impression.

But Bryce is having his own awakening. He is bored with the shallow conversation and silly flirting that Miranda and Shelly engage in. Juli is beautiful to him because she has substance and things beyond tans and clothes are important to her - things like chicks and eggs and old twisted sycamore trees. He finally understands and appreciates Juli. But is it too late?



Chapter 14: The Basket Boys

Chapter 14: The Basket Boys Summary

In second period one day, Mrs. Simmons gave out ballots to vote for the twenty boys who would become the basket boys for the Booster Club. The boys in class moaned and groaned about voting for boys! Mrs. Simmons defended the tradition. The money that the auction earned was behind all the beautiful trees on campus. Juli looked down the list of candidates and spotted Bryce's name. He had always been the only boy for her. But she had been wrong. She liked him for all the wrong reasons.

Bryce made the top twenty and so did Jon Trulock, the boy that Juli voted for. She heard that Shelly was after Bryce again evoking possessive feelings in Juli. But she had to fight those feelings. If Shelly wanted him she could have him. But it was hard for Juli not to think about Bryce. The only thing that could save her was to stay away from him and act like he didn't exist.

On her way to school Mrs. Stueby gave her the money she owed her for eggs. She kept thinking about the auction but vowed she wouldn't bid on anyone, especially Bryce. But once everyone assembled in the gym for the auction, the more tempting it was to take the \$18 that Mrs. Stueby had given her and try to outbid Shelly. Jon Trulock came up right before Bryce was due to take center stage. No one was bidding on Jon. Juli felt responsible because she voted for him. She couldn't stand for him to be humiliated so she raised her hand and bid \$10. Juli got her friend Darla to bid against her so that Jon wouldn't go for the minimum bid. She won the bid to eat lunch with Jon for \$18. Juli was astounded by the \$121.50 that Miranda and Shelly bid for Bryce. She was rooting for Jumbo Jenny to win.

Later in the lunchroom, Juli did her best to ignore Bryce. She was shocked when the girls started to fight over him. She was more shocked when he came over and pulled her away and tried to kiss her. The kiss she'd been waiting for all her life—but she panicked and ran off. She told her mother about Bryce and Garrett talking about Uncle David. She also confessed that she told Chet that they rented their house. She told Trina about the auction and how Bryce had tried kiss her which Trina giggled about. Her mother already knew about the other things. Patsy had been visiting quite a bit and they talked about a lot. Patsy was going through a rough period. She and Rick were arguing all the time. Patsy was just beginning to realize what kind of man Rich was and was having a lot of regrets. Trina told Juli that people change. She was fairly certain that Bryce wasn't a coward. Not many young boys would try to kiss a girl in front of all those other kids.

Juli continued to avoid Bryce but one afternoon it was no longer possible. She looked out the front window and saw Bryce on her new lawn digging a big hole. She ran and complained to her father but he said Bryce had a great idea and he gave him permission to dig the hole. He told Juli to watch what he was doing and she'd



understand. After the hole was dug, Bryce lugged over a good-sized sapling and planted it in the hole he dug. It was a sycamore tree. Juli thought how tall the tree would be in a hundred years and how a little girl might climb to the top so she could see the "big picture." She thought it was probably a good time to walk over and thank Bryce and sit on the porch and talk. They had never really done that before. Just sit and talk.

Chapter 14: The Basket Boys Analysis

Juli is doing her best to forget Bryce. Shelly and girls like that can have him! She votes for Jon Trulock to be a basket boy because she isn't about to vote for Bryce. Boycotting him is the best way to get him out of her system once and for all. But the deep feelings she has for him are still there. When she hears that the others girls are going to bid on Bryce, Juli has to tamp down her emotions and stay strong. That's why she's been ignoring him but she isn't being practical. After all, he lives right across the street from her and they attend the same school and are in a lot of the same classes. Juli is expending a lot of energy avoiding someone rather than confronting him about how she really feels. But she is afraid because she's felt rejected by him so many times.

When he tries to kiss her, she is more afraid than ever. There are too many girls who like him. Girls who are hotter and have wealthier parents. She thinks that there is no way that she can compete with them. She doesn't want to be lured into a relationship in which she's destined to be hurt. Juli is playing it safe. She devotes herself to her school work, family, yard and chickens. It will be enough for her, she tells herself. It won't be. She is a loving person who needs to love and be loved.

Her mother gives her the best advice when she tells her that Bryce should have a second chance. Everyone changes. That Bryce is changing for the best is confirmed when he plants the sycamore tree in her front yard. Bryce is telling Juli that the things that are important to her are important to him, too. Planting the tree shows how much he understands and appreciates her. It is the basis for a great relationship.



Characters

Bryce Loski

Bryce Loski is seven years old when he moves in across the street from Juli Baker who is also seven. The moment that Juli jumps in the moving van to "help" him, Bryce is immediately annoyed by the pushy little know-it-all. He spends the next two weeks hiding from her which is difficult because she's constantly knocking at his door asking him to play. Bryce is also unable to escape her at school. They're in the same class and ride the same bus.

Bryce spends much of his time over the next several years avoiding Juli or thinking of ways to avoid her. He doesn't egg her on but he's not honest with her and his passivity allows Juli's obsession with him to continue for years. Perhaps something deep down within Bryce enjoyed the attention she gave him although he wasn't mature enough to vocalize those feelings. As a youngster, Bryce didn't have the skills to understand that being dishonest with Juli was more hurtful than telling her things that she did not want to hear. But Bryce learns the lessons of honesty and forthrightness the hard way - just as most of us do.

Bryce is a good kid and with the help of his grandfather he begins to understand that a person of substance and strength is the most important thing about a person and a friend. As Bryce starts to warm up to Juli, he also notices that she happens to be beautiful. The mature Bryce sees things in Juli that his immature self didn't see - even though they were there all along. His grandfather tells him that it was Bryce who had changed. Juli had been the same person all along. He also tells his grandson that the changes he was experiencing would be forever.

Juli Baker

Juli Baker is a young girl who has a strong spirit and an independent nature. She is first introduced in the story as a seven-year-old who is thrilled that a seven-year-old boy, Bryce Loski, is moving in across the street from her. She has no one her age to play with and she has big plans for him. She leaped into the moving van on the day the Loskis were moving in. She wanted to help but young Bryce didn't like how pushy the little girl was. He took most of the next two weeks hiding from her although she was persistent, knocking on his door everyday.

Juli was probably the brightest kid in her class and perhaps in her entire school. She got the highest grades in her class and she was the kid who always had her hand up in the air and wanted the teacher to call on her. Juli wowed the local science fair when all six of the eggs in the incubator that she and her father made hatched. The record for the most hatchlings before that was three chicks.



Juli loved a giant sycamore tree located in a vacant lot near her house. She was so disturbed when the owner planned to cut it down that she staged a sit-in in the tree to try to make him change his mind. From the time Bryce moved in and both kids were in the second grade all the way to Junior High, Juli liked Bryce. Although he wanted nothing to do with her at first, as he matured and developed he began to recognize what a special girl she was.

Rick Loski

Rick Loski is Bryce's father. He is a very critical man and always seems to find something wrong with everyone, especially his son. He is the main cause for the dysfunction that exists in the Loski family.

Patsy Loski

Patsy Loski is Bryce's mother. She has a much more positive attitude than her husband. She takes up for Bryce when Rick puts him down. She confides to Juli's mother that she has many regrets about her marriage to Rick.

Lynetta Loski

Lynetta is Bryce's sister. She is four years older than Bryce. She is a typical teenage girl who likes music and make-up. She cries and runs from the house after her father slaps her for calling him narrow-minded.

Grandfather Chet

Grandfather Chet is Bryce's grandfather. He moves in with the Loskis after his wife died. He plays a big role in patching up the relationship between Bryce and Juli. Juli's great spirit reminds him of his deceased wife.

Robert Baker

Robert Baker is Juli's father. He is a bricklayer by vocation and an artist by avocation. He loves to paint landscapes and always tells Juli not to have a narrow focus—to look at the entire landscape.

Trina Baker

Trina Baker is Juli's mother. She is a good mother and wife and is close to Juli and always ready to give her advice when she wants it. Trina is proud of her family and loves the music that her sons write and perform.



Mike and Matt Baker

Mike and Matt Baker are Juli's two older brothers. They look alike and are about the same size. They are not twins but many people think they are. They are in a band together and write and perform their own music.

Garrett Anderson

Garrett Anderson is Bryce's best friend. Garrett gives Bryce advice on how to ditch Juli. They look over the Baker fence to see if Juli had a rooster. Garrett didn't know the difference between chickens and hens or between chickens and roosters.



Objects/Places

The Sycamore Tree

Juli Baker always climbed a huge, old sycamore tree that was located on a vacant lot by the school bus stop. She staged a sit-in in the tree when the owner threatened to have it cut down.

The Science Fair

Juli Baker wowed everyone at the Science Fair when she raised and hatched six chicks. The record prior to that had been three hatchlings.

The Incubator

When Juli decided to raise chicks for the science fair, her father helped her build an incubator. He taught her how to tell if the eggs were vibrant by a process called candling.

The Chicken Coop

After all six eggs lived from Juli's science project, her and her father built a chicken coop in the back yard. The chickens were all hens and started laying eggs which Juli collected and gave away or sold.

The Booster Club Auction

The Booster Club at school sponsored a fundraiser in which a group of boys had to prepare picnic lunches which would be auctioned off to the highest bidders. The girls who had the highest bids not only won the lunches they got to eat lunch with the boys who made them.

Greenhaven Rest Home

Robert Baker's younger brother, David, was brain-damaged from birth and could not function on his own. He lived in the Greenhaven Rest Home. Robert and Trina paid for his accommodations.



The Sycamore Tree Painting

After Juli's favorite sycamore tree was cut down, her father, who was an artist, painted a landscape featuring a big sycamore. He wanted her to continue to be inspired by the tree she loved.

The Baker Front Yard

When Bryce finally told Juli that everyone thought her front yard was a mess, she began to clean it up, plant grass, and fix the fence. Bryce's grandfather volunteered to help her.

The Baker Brothers Band

Matt and Mike Baker, Juli's older brothers, formed a band and wrote their own music. They made a professional demo and hoped to have a career as musicians.

The Ice Cream Shop

When Juli and Robert visited David in the rest home, they took him to an ice cream shop in town. When David dropped his ice cream on the ground, he had a violent tantrum. He knocked over chairs and tables but calmed down when Robert bought him another cone.



Themes

Being Yourself

Juli Baker was not the most popular girl in school. She was too much of an independent, free-thinking girl and could not relate to other girls who were more concerned with clothes and getting tans than they were about things that really mattered. Juli learned a lot about appreciating nature and the good things in life from her father. Although her father was a bricklayer by trade, he was an artist and painted whenever he had time. He loved to paint landscapes and told Juli that even in life it was best to take in the entire landscape - the big picture - rather than focus on a narrow portion of it.

Juli loved a big sycamore tree in a vacant lot near her house. She didn't have many friends—probably because she was more mature and smarter than most of them—so she would climb up in the big tree and vent her thoughts and feelings to the tree. She loved to gaze out over the town and valley beyond and, like her father told her, take in the entire landscape. When she was in the tree, she sensed that a great future was waiting out there in the world for her.

Naturally, when the owner of the vacant lot where the tree was located planned to have it cut down, Juli was quite disturbed. She staged a sit-in in the tree, vowing to stay there until the owner agreed to change his plans. But the fire department came and some cops and she had no choice but to come down. Her beloved tree was gone. Her father understanding what the tree meant to her, painted a landscape with a big sycamore and a little girl in it. Her father didn't want Juli to lose the spirit that she felt when she was sitting in the tree.

Even though a lot of the kids thought Juli was strange or weird, she was her own person. She had the confidence to "do her thing" no matter what anyone thought. She raised chickens, sold their eggs, almost saved a tree, renovated her front yard and finally got Bryce to be honest with himself. Although it took Bryce a long time to admit it, he admired Juli's strength and confidence to be herself.

The Importance of Good Communication

The importance of communicating effectively and the downside of dishonest communications both emerge as themes in the story, "Flipped." Young Bryce Loski is put off by his neighbor's pushy and aggressive demeanor. Juli, the neighbor in question, is the same age as Bryce and she has a huge crush on the good-looking little boy. Bryce is on the shy and conservative side and has not developed a healthy self-confidence due in large part to his father who puts him down at every turn. Rather than be open and honest and tell Juli that her aggressiveness pushes him away, Bryce spends literally years avoiding her or plotting on how to rid of his life forever. He learns



in the end that not communicating his true opinion and feelings to Juli is more hurtful than had he conveyed his honest thoughts to her. By not telling her that he is uncomfortable with someone as bold as Juli is, makes Juli hang on in hopes of winning him over.

By the same token, Juli is not totally up front with Bryce - although it's a little more understandable and can be defended more credibly. Juli has feelings for Bryce but she does not tell him directly but does so with her behavior and actions. She climbs a huge tree to retrieve his kite that is tangled in the branches, she gives him free eggs and she regularly whispers to him the correct spelling of the words during spelling tests.

Like with any two people, any relationship between the two youngsters was impossible without good communications. The story demonstrated that when they both were finally honest with one another that a friendship and even a romantic relationship was actually possible.

Substance vs. Style

Bryce Loski kept his distance from Juli Baker, his neighbor and schoolmate who lived across the street from him. He didn't like her pushy attitude and aggressiveness. He didn't like that she knew every answer at school and got the highest grades in almost every subject. He especially didn't like the fact that she pestered him continuously throughout the years. He first met Juli when they were both seven-years-old when he formed a long-lasting opinion that she was someone that he didn't want to be around.

What he failed to notice as a very young boy was that there was a lot to Juli Baker and that she was a girl of substance. She wasn't a girly girl who was afraid to get her hands dirty and her shoes muddy. The first day he met her, she jumped in the family's moving van and dug in to help her new neighbors move in.

Juli loved to climb in a huge old sycamore tree that was located on a vacant lot by the school bus stop. She climbed to the top and looked out over the town and valley. Her father always told her to look at the landscape and not look at anything too narrowly. She envisioned her future there sitting in a tree that she thought was beautiful but that everyone else viewed as ugly and twisted. The fire department and police forced her to come down from the tree when she staged a sit-in in the tree and vowed to stay there until the owner changed his mind about having it cut down.

Juli had a spirit that was rare for a young girl. That spirit was recognized and appreciated by Bryce's grandfather. He saw that she was a girl of substance, a person who had strong convictions, and wasn't afraid to stand for what she believed in. While other girls were worried about which boy they liked on which day and who were always in competition with one another to get the deepest tan, Juli was learning how to hatch chicks, sell eggs, renovate her yard, and save trees.

Eventually as Bryce matured and developed and with some coaching from his grandfather, he began to see that Juli was a strong and vital person. He learned that a

person who had values and character was much more interesting than most people who were superficial and self-centered.



Style

Point of View

The perspective is an alternating one in "Flipped," switching back and forth between Juli Baker's point of view and that of Bryce Loski. The book is set up with a structure that has one chapter describing an event or experience by Bryce. The chapter that immediately follows that chapter is one that describes the same event but this time written from Juli's point of view. This method is an effective way to gain the true feelings of each character and demonstrate how the same incident can be viewed quite differently by different people. All the chapters are written in the first person narrative which enables the reader to understand the opinions and reactions of both characters.

The author begins with the two youngsters worlds apart in their views of each other. They are also very different in the way they approach relationships and life in general. When it is Bryce's voice that describes an incident, there is a more negative and derisive tone to his words compared to Juli's more positive demeanor that comes through in her words and reactions to events. Juli is open and honest in her dealings with people while Bryce largely keeps his opinions to himself.

The author, Wendelin Van Draanen, is a noted writer of young adult fiction.

Setting

"Flipped" by Wendelin Van Draanen takes place in what appears to be a small town. The names of the town or state are never identified. The main characters, Bryce Loski and Juli Baker, live across the street from each other in a subdivision community. It's not a new area since the Bakers have lived in the house since Juli was born. The story starts off when the Loski family moves into the house across from the Baker house.

Most of the story takes place in the subdivision and the homes of the two youngsters. They attend the same schools from second grade through junior high school. The Booster Club's fund raising auction was held in the school gymnasium. There is much discussion about the dilapidated state of the Baker's house and front and back yards. Most people didn't realize that the Bakers had been renting the house all those years and it was the owner who had allowed the property to deteriorate.

Bryce and his friend, Garrett, peeked over the fence to the backyard one day. Juli raised chickens and the boys wanted to see if she had a rooster. They were shocked at the state of the backyard. There was hardly any grass and the chicken coop was a rickety lean-to. The front yard was not much better. It had bare spots in the grass, the picket fence was missing more than a few pickets, and the bushes were either dead or overgrown. When Bryce told Juli that his family didn't want to eat her chickens' eggs because of the state of the yard, Juli was hurt but began a clean-up and renovation project. She planted grass, trimmed the bushes, and fixed the fence.



A place that Juli loved most of all was a huge sycamore tree located by the school bus stop in a vacant lot. She was quite a tomboy and loved to climb to the top of the tree and look out over the town and valley. She threatened to never come down when the owner arranged to have the old tree cut down.

Language and Meaning

Since the story in "Flipped" is told from the perspective of its two main characters, Bryce and Juli, the tone and style of writing changes accordingly. Bryce, who is unsure of himself and overwhelmed by the more confident and aggressive Juli, demonstrates that lack of self-esteem in his thoughts and actions. While he complains about Juli, the subtext tells the reader that he is intrigued with the girl and recognizes that she has admirable traits.

But Bryce is so deep into this negative mentality that he wants nothing to her. His negative attitude toward Juli is supported by his best friend who eggs him on. Bryce is obsessed with how he can avoid Juli and even ditch her. Thus, the chapters written from Bryce's point of view have a negative tone and paint the picture of a young man who, though not mean-spirited, is dishonest and approaches life in a passive-aggressive manner.

The chapters written from Juli's point of view are much more positive and inspiring. She is a young girl but she is mature beyond her years. She looks for the "big picture" that her father tells her is always there. She cares about a big, old sycamore tree that to everyone else is ugly and twisted but to Juli is beautiful and poetic. Juli believes in Bryce as long as she can. She only losing faith in him when she realizes he hasn't been honest with her.

In the end, Juli teaches Bryce about true friendship. When he's finally able to be honest with her, he realizes that she had been his best friend all along.

Structure

"Flipped" by Wendelin Van Draanen, has an unusual and most effective structure. Each chapter is written from the perspective of one of two characters. The main focus of "Flipped" is the relationship between two youngsters, Bryce Loski and Juli Baker. The book begins with a chapter entitled, "Diving Under," written from Bryce's point of view. Bryce describes how the two kids, both aged seven, first met when Bryce moved in across the street from Juli. Bryce tells of the immediate annoyance he felt for the little girl who he thought was way too pushy. From that point on, he did everything he could do to avoid being around her.

The first chapter is followed by a chapter entitled, "Flipped," which is written from Juli's point of view. Juli has a completely different take on their first meeting. She was excited that someone her own age would be living across from her. She was completely

enthralled with the new boy's beautiful blue eyes and she attributed his stand-offish attitude to his shyness.

The first two chapters establish the structure throughout the book. Each episode is first told from Bryce's perspective followed by a chapter from Juli's perspective on the same incident. The story begins with huge gaps between the two kids' points of view; however, the author cleverly narrows that gap as the story unfolds until the gap is nearly closed by the book's conclusion when the two become friends.



Quotes

"It's like, against parental law to tell your kid it's okay to ditch someone, no matter how annoying or muddy they might be." (Chapter 1, p. 2).

"[Juli] has got no concept of personal space. No respect for privacy. The world is her playground, and watch out below—Juli's on the slide!" (Chapter 1, p. 4).

"And for the first time in my life, I had that feeling. You know, like the world is moving all around you, all beneath you, all inside you, and you're floating. Floating in midair." (Chapter 2, p. 14).

"Was I really afraid of hurting her feelings? Or was I afraid of her?" (Chapter 5, p. 62).

"One's character is set at an early age, son. The choices you make now will affect you for the rest of your life. (Chapter 7, p. 85).

"Some of us get dipped in flat, some in satin, some in gloss. But every once in a while you find someone who's iridescent, and when you do, nothing will ever compare." (Chapter 7, p. 96).

"To be held above the earth and brushed by the wind. . . it's like your heart has been kissed by beauty." (Chapter 7, p. 98).

"I felt sorry for my father. I felt sorry for my mother. But most of all I felt lucky for me that they were mine." (Chapter 8, p. 105).

"When I was little, I'd always thought that my dad was right about everything and that there wasn't a man on earth he couldn't take. But standing there looking in, I realized that Mr. Baker could squash him like a bug." (Chapter 11, p. 149).

"Like all of a sudden I didn't fit in anywhere. Not at school, not at home...and every time I turned around, another person I'd known forever felt like a stranger to me. Even I felt like a stranger to me." (Chapter 11, p. 150).

"If he was making it up, he was quite an actor. If he was telling the truth, then Chet was right—he was a coward. Either way, I didn't want to be anywhere near him." (Chapter 12, p. 161).

"Two hours ago you were the man. The man! The whole school was on their knees before you! Now look at you. You're, like, a social hazard." (Chapter 13, p. 184).



Topics for Discussion

Why was Bryce immediately annoyed by his new neighbor, Juli? Why was Juli excited about Bryce moving in across the street from her?

What did the sycamore tree represent to Juli? How did she react after it was cut down and why?

What role did Grandpa Chet play in the relationship between Bryce and Juli? Who did Juli remind Chet of?

What member of the Loski family caused most of the dysfunction in the family? Why was this family member so bitter and critical of others?

Why did Juli's science project get so much attention at the state fair? What adults helped her and gave her guidance for her project?

Why did Juli want to clean up the front yard of her house? What did Bryce plant in Juli's front yard and why did he plant it there?

How did the structure of the book add depth to the story? What did the two interpretations of the various events show about human nature?