



Nate Rocks the World

Karen Pokras Toz

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Nate Rocks can do it all: part super-hero, part all-star athlete, part rock-star... part fourth-grader?

Ten-year-old Nathan Rockledge cannot catch a break. After all, life as a fourth-grader can be hazardous what with science projects to deal with and recess football games to avoid. Everyone, including his best friend Tommy, seems to have bad luck when hanging around Nathan. Throw in an older sister who is a royal pain, a dad who is stuck in the past, and a mom who keeps trying to poison him with her awful cooking, and poor Nathan's life as a fourth grader appears to be completely doomed.

Armed only with his sketchpad, his imagination, and his wits, Nathan Rockledge navigates the perils of the fourth grade in style, to emerge heroic, as Nate Rocks, proving that even a ten-year-old can accomplish great things.

Nate Rocks the World Details

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Author : Karen Pokras Toz

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From Reader Review Nate Rocks the World for online ebook

Barbara Ann says

Nate Rockledge is a ten year old boy who, like most boys his age, has a barrage of problems. He hates school, and because he has no athletic talent is always the last one chosen. Nate's family seems dysfunctional to him. His mother can't cook or sew, yet she expects him to eat the food she prepares and wear the lopsided Halloween costumes she insists on sewing for him. She also forces him to hang out with her friend's daughter, Lisa, who is the class nerd. Nate has a thirteen year old sister named Abby who torments and teases him. His dad tries to be cool, but retells the same old stories so often that he makes a fool of himself. Nate does have a cool friend named Tommy who is often involved with his adventures, yet Nate's only enjoyment is drawing cartoons and daydreaming that he is a superhero. In those moments he can say, "Nate Rocks."

So Nate the protagonist alternates between a ho-hum existence and a penchant for imagining heroic exploits where he is suddenly drawn into situations in which people desperately need help. For example, rescuing a dog from a burning house, releasing a girl tied to railroad tracks, helping a child find her way home, and becoming an astronaut to save the earth from being destroyed by a meteorite. The reader is sucked into the action because the dialogue and story line are woven in such a way that you cannot help but cheer Nate on in his exploits even when they seem highly improbable. Then a day comes along when Nate gets the opportunity to be a real hero.

The book is recommended for middle grades or ages nine through twelve. I feel that the book appeals to boys and girls because Abby is also a strong female character. Lots of tweens will see similarities with how they view their relationships with family and school friends. There is a great deal of humor in the story. You might even find yourself laughing out loud. Young readers will find many family and school incidents which will be similar to the events happening in their own lives. The approximately 140 page book is a quick read with lots of action that will attract even a reluctant reader. Classroom teachers might want to use the story as a morning read aloud over a few sessions to garner reading interest and enhance listening skills.

Tracy Poff says

Nathan Rockledge is a fourth-grader with all the usual problems afflicting kids: an irritating older sister who seems to delight in causing him grief; a mother that insists on cooking him meals and sewing him clothing, despite her lack of talent; and schoolwork and classmates besides. However, Nathan isn't just any ten year old boy—he's also Nate Rocks: astronaut, cowboy, spy, and singer extraordinaire—plus a few more talents besides.

Nathan may have to deal with his sister barging into his room, or his mother feeding him stuff that can't be accurately described as food, but when he draws, his world gets much more interesting. Then, people around him have big problems, and who better to solve them than Nate Rocks? When bandits are busting up the local saloon, who should the sheriff call upon? Nate Rocks, cowboy! He'll make quick work of the bandits, and rush off to save Lady Madeline, who they've tied to the train tracks, just in the nick of time. When singer Desmond Harper can't perform at his concert, who should fill in for him but Nate Rocks? And Nate Rocks is always there to save the day, whether he's delivering damsels from distress, saving super heroes, protecting the whole planet Earth, or just winning the World Series for the Phillies.

Nate Rocks the World by Karen Pokras Toz has everything you could ask of a children's chapter

book—adventure, fun characters, and a put-upon protagonist we can all relate to—and the author does a splendid job of involving us with the story and making us care about the characters.

When Nathan imagines himself a hero, he doesn't just imagine himself in a spaceship heading for the moon, he imagines himself just as he is, just where he is—when something extraordinary happens, and he's the only one around to save the day. "But why me?" he asks. "Because you're Nate Rocks, of course!" they will answer. Because Nate Rocks is a real hero—when people need help, he always gives his best, and in the end, that's all it takes.

Nathan's imagined adventures and triumphs are great, and it's fun when you realize that the scene has begun to take place in Nathan's imagination, and you're about to be treated to another adventure of Nate Rocks, but his real life adventures are interesting, too. When Nathan isn't imagining himself to be a super-spy, he's dodging his mother's attempts at cooking, avoiding or plotting revenge on his sister, Abby, or just trying to get through fourth grade, and you'll want to see all of it.

Nate Rocks the World has a fun story, interesting characters, and a great lesson about what it really means to be a hero. Read it, and I'm sure you'll agree—Nate rocks!

Disclosure: This review concerns a book acquired for free in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

Melissa Garrett says

One of the great things about being an indie author is that I have a network of incredibly talented author friends and "co-workers" at my fingertips. Added bonus: hot-off-the-press books to read!

When I came across *Nate Rocks the World*, a middle-grade novel written by Karen Pokras Toz, I wondered if it might be something my 10-yr-old son would like. After all, Nate is the same age and in the same grade as my Jake, and they each have annoying big sisters that they like to complain about liberally. And, come to find out, they both love to draw.

Jake has Aspergers and very little patience for chapter books. In fact, the only books he will read (willingly) by himself are graphic novels and comic-type books. He's developed his own character and hopes to write and illustrate comics one day, which will, of course, then naturally blossom into a line of highly successful video games that will make him millions of dollars. He's got big dreams, that kid!

One of the things Jake loves is to be read to, and it's something that either my husband or I do every night. When I began reading *Nate Rocks the World* to Jake, it was our special "alone time." But then a funny thing happened: Hannah and Bea, Jake's older and younger sisters, caught wind of the story and began listening, too. They wanted to know what adventure Nate would have next.

The author has truly captured the mind of a 10-yr-old boy and the dynamics of his relationship with his sister, parents, best friend, and that pesky know-it-all girl at school. There were many parts of the book which could have been taken from a page of our own lives, and it definitely had many laugh-out-loud moments. Once Jake caught on to how the story was written, he took great pleasure in identifying the point when Nate's world shifted from reality to daydream. PS - We were very pleasantly surprised by the ending.

Nate Rocks is an entertaining, fast-paced read that I recommend for all reluctant readers, as well as their parents and teachers (particularly 4th-grade teachers!). Thank goodness that's not the end of Nate's adventures, though. You can find out what happens in the next book in the series, *Nate Rocks the Boat*.

Fran says

Science projects can be a real challenge or a real drag. Poor Nathan got stuck working with Lisa Crane on his latest project. Not only that, Lisa loves to report his actions to her mother who repeats everyone to his mom too. Is there no privacy or loyalty among kids anymore? So, when Lisa comes over to start working on their project Nathan does what any potential super hero would do, enter his own imaginative world, solve world problems, even help the Phillies win the World Series and let the world know that he is not just a hazard waiting to happen when near him but a really great kid with tons of artistic talent.

The story begins with Nathan daydreaming and drawing pictures of himself helping the Phillies win the World Series when his mother brings him out of his reverie. Going to school poor Nathan hopes for indoor recess where he can just doodle on his pad, create comic pictures and enjoy his time away from the classroom. But, unfortunately he gets stuck with football that day and he is not very good. Coming home he finds out his mother already knows about his science project, while eating her horrific dinner fit for no one and hoping she won't pack it for his lunch the following day, poor Nathan has no choice but to escape back into his own special world where success comes easily and appreciation widespread. If only everyone could see him as he really is. Added to the story is a story who enjoys riding him, a father transfixed on his work and constantly recounts stories from his past reliving each event point by point, sending Nate off to dream world in order to cope with reality. Poor Nathan gets stuck working on his science project on Saturday when he would rather spend time at the movies with his best friend Tommy. Captain Asteroid is the movie they want to see and he is totally disappointed that he is stuck at home working on his science project with Lisa who has already decided they would create a Prism much more. While taking notes about the subject something happens that takes Nathan into his own special plane of reality and he hears the voice of his favorite super hero Captain Asteroid who needs him to help with a serious crisis. The world is devoid of color and unless Nathan can figure out how to bring it back there was no hope for the world. What would learning about prisms have to do with saving the world from being colorless, find out how Nathan does it and why Captain Asteroid thinks Nate Rocks for you!

When Nathan is called to the front of his classroom to present his project and poster it seems Lisa has blindsided him by recreating another poster in her own fashion claiming his was ruined. Voicing his opinion to her went on deaf ears. Going home he decided on his Halloween costume when a unique idea to become a cowboy came from his sister as a strange source and then Nathan reverts back into his dream world as he once again takes on the persona of whatever character or figure that comes into play. So, Nate thinks he is now in a western town and has to save a damsel in distress plus prevent the bandits from taking over town. Can this 10-year-old Nate do it?

Then his sister does something to embarrass him on Halloween and it is time to pay her back for all she has done. Why not get even on her birthday. Going to get his father's rakes back from a neighbor Nate turns into a Rock Star guitar and all. Is there anything this ten-year old can't do? Desmond Harper the real performer had a problem someone made his skin and hair look blue just because he criticized the way he created the lighting for his show. Back to reality he finds that he has drawn a picture someone playing the guitar and trying to explain it Tommy would wait. But sometimes payback is not as satisfying as you think even though Abby gets sort of what she deserves from Nate but their parents teach them both a lesson. Wait until you read what they have to wear and do. Finding himself in the hospital to give out gifts how does he turn into Santa at the North Pole? The best was yet to come as his parents surprise him and his sister with a special family Christmas gift. His next adventure will definitely surprise you as he saves a dog from a burning fire and gets stuck making Valentine's Cards. But, to appreciate what his sister does you have to read it for yourself.

One plane ride to Florida brings about an adventure that he won't ever forget. Did Nate really help the Captain of the plane move a meteor out of the way so they could continue their flight? What happened to everyone in the cabin? What happens on the vacation you won't believe? Poor Nathan can't seem to get a break at all. Tommy has an accident but what happens at the end will definitely let the reader know that ten-year old Nate really does Rock! Just how you have to find out for yourself when you read this outstanding book by author Karen Pokras Toz which brings to light so many important issues of friendship, loyalty, family values, understanding, and just plain fun. Some situations are real and not part of his imagination. What happens when someone really does need his help will he rise to the occasion? What will happen to Nathan next and let's hope the author brings him back for some more adventures and more drawings that take him into other worlds kids would otherwise never experience.

Author Karen Pokras Toz has a definite five star winner right here. Nate more than ROCKS! Great book for kids of all ages and for parents too. Characters that are true to life and a story that will definitely make you smile, laugh and endear you to one smart and talented young man named NATE!

Fran Lewis: reviewer

Literary Chanteuse says

Nate is a ten year old boy with an over active imagination. Everyday mundane events are opportunities in disguise as adventures starring Nate who of course, rocks them all.

Nate is a character who seeks adventure by indulging in day dreams which reminded me a little of a young Walter Mitty. He has a quirky family that add to the fun. It is a great choice for middle graders and is certainly not limited to boys as my daughter completely enjoyed this book as well.

Susan says

My Review:

When I saw the cover for Nate Rocks the World, I was immediately interested. As the mom of a 10 year old

son who is reluctant to read, I am always on the lookout for books that will draw his interest. His preferences tend to run to books like Diary of a Wimpy Kid or Captain Underpants. I have purchased numerous books from the stores and through books clubs that I felt would interested a boy his age, only to see them remain on his bookshelves unless coerced (or bribed) to read them. So when the opportunity came my way to review for author, Karen Pokras Toz, I was excited. To finally find a book that was geared toward my son's reading level and (hopefully) his interest level!

As I read this book, I found some interesting similarities between the main character, Nate Rockledge, and my son. Both boys are 10 years old, in fourth grade, have sisters (though mine is the oldest and does not have an older sister), love drawing comics and using his imagination! What a find! As the story progressed, I myself was entertained by Nate's mind, and his way of dealing with difficulties that most fourth graders deal with. I loved this book from start to finish! My son has just began reading it, and promised to let me know what he thinks so I can post "his review" on Dec 12th during the Nate Rocks the World book tour! I'm hopeful that I'll get more than "it's ok" from him.

Nate Rocks the World is a great book for any boy (or girl) in the 7 to 14 age range, in my opinion. I look forward to reading more by Karen Pokras Toz!

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\*added 12/12/11 ~

Review by Josh age 10:

I think Nate Rocks the World is one of the best books I've ever read. I like how he draws comics like I do. My favorite part of the book is when he captured the robbers. You should read Nate Rocks the World. It is a great book for any kid.

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*Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book in hopes that I would post a review on my blog. See My Policy & Disclosure for more info (<http://lovez2read.blogspot.com>)

Rute Canhoto says

Acabei de ler "Nate Rocks the World" dia 15 de Dezembro de 2011 e dou-lhe 4 estrelas.

Esta é a história de Nathan Rockledge, um rapazinho de 10 anos que tem uma imaginação muito fértil. Para ele, tudo é pretexto para a criação de uma elaborada aventura mental, acompanhada de muitos rabiscos à mistura.

É uma narrativa um pouco diferente, na medida em que parece que não existe uma história específica, mas sim várias que irão culminar num ponto-chave. É-nos contada a vida de Nathan, não dia-a-dia, mas seguindo os episódios mais importantes que se sucedem no calendário até se chegar à desejada viagem de férias à Florida.

Não é um género literário que costumo ler com frequência, mas gostei. Agradaram-me particularmente as reflexões que o Nate faz acerca de certos episódios e que retratam a inocência infantil. A título de exemplo (e sendo um pouco spoiler), o Nathan diz que ainda não percebeu porque é que o pai continua a dar jóias à mãe no Natal, se ela chora sempre; já devia ter percebido que isso a deixa triste. Lol! Este género de piadas remete-me para "As Aventuras do Menino Nicolau" ("Le Petit Nicolas"), de René Goscinny e Jean-Jacques Sempé. Para quem não conhece, a personagem do Menino Nicolau nasceu nos anos 50, primeiro em jornal e só depois passou para livro. Esta é uma criança que nos conta a sua vida (disputas, conversas com os amigos,

relação com o professor, etc) de acordo com o seu ponto de vista e numa linguagem muito própria. Neste aspecto, achei ambas as histórias se aproximavam, por isso quem gosta de uma, deve gostar da outra =) Também me agradou o que aconteceu no fim: o Nate tornou-se no herói que sempre imaginou ser – foi como um sonho tornado realidade. Tenho apenas a apontar que acho que o final podia ter sido um pouco mais desenvolvido indo, por exemplo, até ao final das férias, só para completar o ciclo.

I finished reading "Nate Rocks the World" on 15th December 2011, and I give it a four-star rating.

This is the story of Nathan Rockledge, a ten-year-old boy, who has a very fertile imagination. For him, everything is a pretext for an elaborate mental adventure, accompanied by many written doodles and scribbles.

This is a narrative a little different since it seems that there isn't about a specific story, but there are several run parallel to each other and merge together at one key point. We chronologically follow Nathan's important milestones in his life up until he goes on a much-desired vacation to Florida.

This book is a genre I seldom read, but I liked it. I particularly liked Nate's reflections about certain episodes, which illustrated the childhood innocence. For example (this is a little spoiler), Nathan says he doesn't understand why his father keeps on giving jewelry to his mother at Christmas if she cries every time and that he should have realized by now that it makes her sad. Lol! This reminded me of "Le Petit Nicolas", by René Goscinny and Jean-Jacques Sempé. For those not familiar with it, Nicolas is character created in the 50s, appearing first in newspapers and then as a book. Nicolas is a child who tells his life story (discussions, conversations with friends, the relationship with his teacher, etc) according to his point of view and in a language of its own. I thought that both Nate's and Nicolas's stories were similar. So if you read and enjoyed "Le Petit Nicolas", you'll enjoy this book and vice versa.

What happened at the end pleased me as well: Nate became the hero he always wanted to be - it was like a dream come true for him. I just think that the end could have been a little more developed; for example, it could have been extended till the end of the holidays, just to complete the cycle.

Martha Cheves says

Nate Rocks the World – Review by Martha A. Cheves, Author of Stir, Laugh, Repeat and Think With Your Taste Buds – Desserts

"What in the world?" I say quietly to myself. I turn back around to look inside the house. Everything I see is in shades of gray. The blue couch in our living room is gray. The green front door is now gray. The grass and the trees, all gray. Even Mom's bright red van parked in the driveway is gray. I look down at my body. Sure enough, even my clothes are all gray! I take a step outside. It is a clear day, unseasonably warm for October. There is not a cloud in the sky. The sun – gray of course – shines white beams of light. As I walk down the street, people I do not recognize start coming out of their houses wondering, as I am, what has happened. I see a black spot in the sky growing larger. At first, I think it is a bird, but as it approaches, I realize that it is actually a person...flying toward me. A circle of people I don't know, gather around me. The man from the sky gets closer. He lands directly in front of me, and I immediately recognize him.

Ten year old Nathan (Nate) Rockledge loves to draw. His specialty...superhero cartoons where he Nate Rocks is the hero that saves the moment. Give him a pencil and paper, a little quiet time and just about any situation and he will solve the problem as he saves the world. In his cartoon world, even Captain Asteroid seeks Nate's help to save the world from the evil Dr. Shadow. Even the President seeks Nate Rocks' help in recovering stolen spy equipment. But what happens when the situation is real and not make believe? Can the

real Nate Rockledge stand up to the plate and become a true hero?

Nate Rocks the World takes the ordinary life of the Rockledge family and brings it to life as something most of us can actually relate to. If you've ever had an older sister or brother, you can understand Nate's relationship with his older sister Abby. If your dad was like Nate's you will see the humor in the stories he constantly tells about his own childhood. And if you were unfortunate enough to have a mother that couldn't cook nor sew you will definitely relate to the bad meals and bad Halloween costumes created by Nate's mother. This book is full of humor and sparked memories from my own childhood. It's light hearted and a really enjoyable book to read if you're an adult and a fun book to have read to you if you're still a child.

Review Stir, Laugh, Repeat at Amazon.com Stir, Laugh, Repeat

Dan Rogers says

Nathan Rockledge is a 10 year old fourth grader who lives with his parents and older sister Abby in an average town in the United States. In this book Nate encounters the typical experiences of a fourth grader including having to put up with a very annoying older sister who treats him like he is the worst thing that could happen to her. Some of Nate's school experiences include having to work on a school project with a girl who he can't stand, daydreaming in class and getting caught at it, and having a mother who means well but by doing some of the things that she does, makes his life even more embarrassing than ever. Nate would prefer to just draw, read, see the latest Captain Asteroid movie, and hang out with his friends Tommy and Sam. Unfortunately, life isn't as simple as that.

There were so many events in this book that I was able to connect to that I feel like the author studied my life before writing the book. Like Nate, I also had no athletic ability when I was in school and therefore was always the last one chosen for pick up games at recess, if I even got picked at all. Nate's mom doesn't see the sense in spending money to purchase something that she can easily make like Halloween costumes and Valentine's Day cards. Although my mom wasn't that bad, I could certainly connect with how Nate felt whenever he had to take them out in public. The humiliation is almost more than one can bear. I was also able to connect with Nate's feelings towards his sister Abby who treats him the same way his classmates do. Although my older sister was not that bad, we weren't the best of friends either as we went through those growing years.. So, what's a guy to do? Daydream, that's what. In his daydreams Nathan Rockledge becomes Nate Rock, Superhero, always there to save the day.

This book was such an enjoyable read because the author has made all of the characters so realistic and believable. As I read I found myself really liking Nate and Tommy and disliking Abby. I also liked Nate's Dad as he seems like a pretty good guy who, although a bit clueless (I think he has forgotten what it was like when he was Nate's age), really seems to understand how hard it is for a boy growing up. His mom, although likable, strikes me as a typical girl who either didn't have troubles as she grew up or doesn't care and thinks that kids should just "get over it." Either way, I'm sure glad that she wasn't my Mom. I highly recommend this book to boys in the 9-12 years age range. I'm not sure if girls would enjoy it or not but I certainly wouldn't discourage them from reading it. Even if they can't relate, maybe they'll learn something about what boys go through as they struggle to fit in in the upper elementary school grades. The book was easy to read with short chapters which lend themselves to being read in short spurts if necessary. All this being said, there is one thing I didn't care for in the book and that was the way that it ended. I feel like the ending was rather abrupt rather than being worked to a well rounded ending. I look forward to reading the further adventures of Nate Rocks as they come out.

Karen Toz says

I wrote this book with my three children in mind. I love to read and wanted them to feel the same way. What better way then to write a book I knew they would love? I hope all who are young at heart enjoy reading this book! I had so much fun writing it - I am now working on the sequel!! Happy Reading.

Jeremy Rodden says

Why I Think Boys May Enjoy This

When I first read this book description, I actually thought it was a fantasy book (it made me think of ChalkZone, the old Nickelodeon cartoon). In truth, this is actually a pure middle grade literary fiction book and is all the better for it. When I finished reading, my very first thought was: "Nate is Ramona Quimby for boys and the modern generation!" And if you've read my #BooksForBoys reviews, you know my very first one was a Beverly Cleary book. Toz does a fantastic job of really diving into the head of her main character and focusing on the things that drive a 10 year old boy's day-to-day motivations (well-meaning but annoying parents, a pain in the butt big sister, movies and hanging out with his best friend, school).

However, Toz takes this to another level with Nate's insanely awesome imagination in the form of his drawings and daydreaming. She really captures how easy it is for a single thing (for example, a classmate getting a 'spy' pen from a trip to Washington, DC) can trigger a far-fetched adventure in the mind of an imaginative pre-teen boy. Even if it does mean getting in trouble for doodling all over a spelling test.

For the adults in the audience, the story plays out much like The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (most recently adapted into a Ben Stiller movie in 2013), where we are thrown into Nate's daydreams seamlessly from his everyday world. This is why it's easy to feel like this could just as well be a fantasy story where Nate's drawings literally DO come to life (because from his perspective [and ours due to Toz's smart use of 1st Person Present POV], they DO!). At the end of the day, Nate is a very wonderful character that any young boy could easily relate to and I can't wait to read the other three books in the series.

Content/Appropriateness

This is a perfectly done middle grade book that works for all ages. A strong reader as young as 8 could read it solo but it really does hit that late elementary school/early middle school target absolutely perfectly. There is some talk of middle grade appropriate boy/girl talk (Nate thinks they're yucky, his sister is in love with a pop star) but nothing else other than healthy, appropriate family relationships and school interactions. Zero concern about violence, language, or sexuality at all.

Rating

5/5 Giant Cartoon Mallets from Toonopolis, The Blog's Books for Boys Review on 9/4/17:
<http://www.toonopolis.com/2017/09/04/...>

Majanka says

Nate Rocks The World is one of two stand-alone MG novels written by author Karen Pokras Toz. The other novel, Nate Rocks The Boat, features the same main character, but each can be read seperately, although connected.

When I first began reading Nate Rocks The World, I didn't know what to expect. This is the first ever self-published MG novel I've ever read. It certainly didn't dissapoint – instead it was a new and rewarung experience. What I loved the most about this book, is Nate's creativity. He can't stay focused. Give him a pencil, a marker, or whatever you want, and he starts drawing comics in which he acts as the hero and solves mysteries. Unfortunately for Nate, real life isn't a comic book. While he would like nothing more than to go see the latest captain Asteroid movie with his best friends, he's forced to stay at home to work on a project for school with a girl he can stand, who tells her Mom everything, and whose Mom tells all of that to Nate's Mom, because they happen to best friends. Nate is often teased by his older sister Abby, he daydreams in school and gets caught doing so, and although his parents mean well, they always tend to embarass him. Basically, he's suffering from the same things every fourth grader suffers from, with this exception – if it all gets too much, he starts drawing comics and escapes to his fantasy world.

I really enjoyed Nate's adventures, and his enormous amount of humor and creativity. I can only imagine how much ten-year-olds will enjoy this as well. The book is written more for boys than for girls, but I think a girl would be able to relate to Nate as well. He's a nice kid, and the events happening to him are easily relatable. For instance, when it's Halloween, his Mom doesn't see why she should purchase a halloween outfit for him. Instead she sets off to make one herself. The consequences are disastrous, because as it turns out, Mom can't even make a proper cape! When Nate's sister Abby manages to embarrass him even more on Halloween, Nate and his buddies decide it's payback time. And Abby's birthday sounds like the best place and location to get even.

The humor in this book is amazing, the characters are believable and relatable for parents and childrens alike, and the events are close to home, but Nate's way to deal with them is original, fun and very enjoyable. A must-read for all MG book fans. I'm looking forward to getting started on the next book in this series. Nate Rocks The World deserves a spot in your book closet right now.

Janae says

this is awesome

Frederick Brooke says

It's not every day you run across a good YA book for boys; so many of them seem to be for girls. Look no further than this one, because Nate Rocks the World is a winner. Ten years old and blessed with a vivid imagination, Nate seeks his escape from the torture inflicted on him by his 13-year-old sister by drawing pictures and escaping into a fantasy world.

The family scenes are priceless, one after another. Mom's cooking is to be avoided at all costs; when Nate snags an invitation to dinner at his friend Tommy's, it's like a miracle. And her lousy cooking is only

trumped by her sewing, since his Mom always insists on sewing his Halloween costume. And instead of store-bought Valentine's Day cards Mom insists in pasting cards together using construction paper and heart-shaped doilies, and Nate has to write something on every one ... the drudgeries of life!

When Nate gets paired with his classmate Lisa Crane to work on a science project, his worst fears are realized. Not only will he have to work with the dreaded Lisa, who tells her mother EVERYTHING, and then Lisa's mother of course tells Nate's mother everything, too. Not only that, but he will have to sacrifice two Saturdays in a row to sit at the dining room table with bossy Lisa and work on the prism project. All this when he had planned to go and see the new Captain Asteroid movie with Tommy. Working with Lisa provides the perfect excuse to escape into a daydream featuring Captain Asteroid aided by none other than Nate Rocks, saving the world. What then transpires in the classroom when it's time for Nate and Lisa to give their presentation is hysterically funny on the one hand, but will make you groan with frustration on the other, because it all seems so real.

The story takes place over a period of several months. Nate's sister Abby is drawn just as colorfully as Nate himself, as is Nate's Dad. The writing in Nate Rocks the World is self-assured and swift-paced, just right for readers who are around Nate's age, and their parents. There are a hundred life lessons woven into the fabric of this lovely story, and it's a story you'll be happy to read over and over. I read the book on my Kindle, but I'm planning to give the paperback to my 13-year-old next week. I'd bet money he's going to love it.

Heavensent1 says

Nate Rocks The World is a Children's Action/Adventure for ages 9 -12.

Nathan Rockledge is your typical ten year old boy. He feels his hair is too red, his freckles too many and his size too scrawny, however, put a pad of paper and a pencil in his hands and Nate could rule the world.

Nathan's older sister, Abby, is bossy and drives Nate crazy, his dad is always going on about when he was a boy and Nate's mom cannot cook anything that doesn't taste like cardboard and the thing is, his mom has no clue to her lack of culinary experience.

Things in Nate's real life don't always go as planned, like how he has to do his science fair project with a girl but not just ANY girl, but Lisa Crane, the only girl he did not wish to be matched up with!! Nor does he get along very well with Abby and when they each get a package for Christmas that tells them they are about to embark on a trip, his sister whines and moans about not having anything to wear while Nate is thinking about all the exciting and endless possibilities this trip could incur.

Whenever Nate needs a break from his reality, he picks up his trusty pencil and creates the situation in a positive way in which it usually works in Nate's favour, unlike his real life situations.

I found this to be a highly imaginative and creative story and enjoyed reading it. I thought the imagination of Nate and how he related to the world around him was hilarious and entertaining. I think this would make an excellent movie for children to view as I would love to see his imaginations come to life.

I enjoyed reading about each of the characters and how they interacted with Nate. I loved the outcomes of most of his situations and how he accepted each curve ball thrown at him. You will read how he hits a home run in the greatest baseball game in history to his travels in space, there is nothing found within the pages that will not impress your children to continue reading.

I would give Nate Rocks The World a five out of five stars for its imaginative creativity and how one could almost imagine it on the big screen, right down to which children could play the roles involved. Author Karen Pokras Toz has written a great book that is guaranteed to keep your young reader enthralled right to the very end.
