

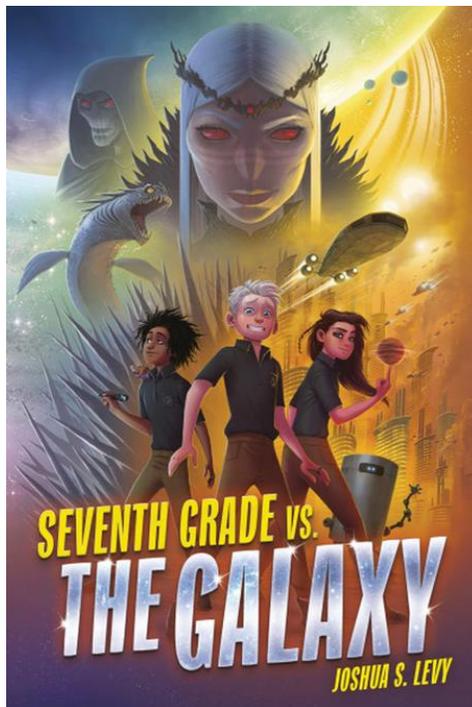
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Review of *Seventh Grade vs. The Galaxy*

Written by Joshua S. Levy

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Rachel Kim
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Student Reviewer: Paul Kim, 9th Grade



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Adult Review: Rachel Kim

The story starts on PSS 118, which is the middle school that the main characters Jack and his friends, Ari and Becca, attend. PSS 118 is not just an ordinary school. This school is located in outer space on a spaceship that orbits Ganymede, one of Jupiter's moons. Jack has been going through a tough time in seventh grade, and he has been waiting for the school year to end. However, just before he is set free for the summer, he becomes tangled into a mess involving the first light-speed engine built by his father who left him in charge of it after getting fired from the school. Things do not get easier when Jack and his school come under the attack of Elvidian aliens and are propelled hundreds of light years away, not towards home but towards the alien world against the evil leader, the Minister. How will Jack and his friends be able to escape and make it to Earth? The fast-paced story puts readers on the edge of their seats as Jack and his friends use 3D printer pens, a time traveling machine, and learn to trust each other to save their school. Will they make it back? Read the book and find out!

As a student of middle grades science education, studying to be a teacher, I wanted to read a book that I would want to put in my future classroom. I had interest in whether this book would be able to connect with the earth science standards in the middle school curriculum. After reading the book, I do not think it can be a resource that can support learning the curriculum directly. This is to be expected since it is a completely fictional book with some space and science terminology included. However, this book does have its perks in that space science terms are used in a way that students will be able to better understand concepts such as gravity, Kuiper belt, why there is no sound in space, and light speed. Therefore, while the book cannot be used as teaching material, it can be used as a fun reinforcement resource. Students will be able to review important terminology while reading an exciting story. That is why I feel that this is a perfect

book to have in a classroom, especially for an earth science class.

While reading this book, I felt that the reading level would be perfect for the grades 4th through 8th. I felt that advanced readers in the elementary grades would be able to understand the story, and I felt that this could also be a challenging book for students in 8th grade. While the author does a great job in explaining certain scientific terms throughout the story, I do feel that a little background in space science could be helpful for easier comprehension. Therefore, it might be a better idea to introduce this book to students who have taken earth science before.

Student Review: Paul Kim

I thought this book showed great character development for all the main characters. Instead of just focusing on Jack, the author did well to show the three main characters as a team. By the end of the book, I could really differentiate the personalities of Jack, Becca, and Ari. In school, I learn about character development a lot in language arts class. I feel like that is why I focused a lot on this area while reading the story. I feel that this book does well with outlining the different traits for each character. That is why I was able to understand when sometimes the characters would not make the best decisions. It helped with plot development. Therefore, I think this book is important since I think that it can be a good resource for schools. Even though it is a science fiction book, I can see it being used in language arts classes to teach plot, story structure, and character development. That is why I think this book is great.

I would really recommend this book especially for people who enjoyed the *Harry Potter* or *Percy Jackson* series. This book is similar in that it involved three

characters who must step up to be heroes to protect their friends. This book also shows an interesting vision of the future world with schools located in outer space and light-speed engines. I think I would recommend this book to friends in my technology club.

I think this book would be great for people who love science. It was interesting to see how Ari used his 3D nanoprinter to get the team out of some dangerous situations, and it was cool how there were so many robots involved in the story. The author also provides detailed descriptions about the spaceship and how Jack works the engines. While this is all fictional, I could still visualize what the ship would look like and how the functions worked. I think students interested

in engineering would enjoy reading this book for sure.

I liked how the book hit on issues that are common in middle school. For example, how Jack was being bullied by his classmates, how Jack was afraid to make decisions because he felt unsure about his abilities, and how it can be hard to get along even with friends sometimes. I think that the characters were all relatable, and I could find a piece of myself in all three of them. I think this point is something that other readers would probably like as well. There was not really anything that I did not like in the book. Except, I did not know that this was a book meant to be a series, so I was disappointed with the open ending. However, I think this book overall was very well-written and engaging.