

Atlantic High School
Atlantic, Iowa

Dear Francine Pascal,

I recently read your book *The Ruling Class* and it not only reminded me about how each and every person has true feelings, but I also could almost feel it within the kids in this book. An extremely brave tale about a new girl that doesn't fit in right away at her new high school is exactly what kids across the nation face every year when attending a new school for the first time. This, to me, was an eye-opener about things that need to be done in schools to help children have equal rights and to help them fit in better. Guidance counselors and mentors just isn't enough to stop this from happening. Possible ideas could include student mentors and an anonymity rule that allows students to let school officials know without the student being called a tattler about it. This book was very enjoyable to read and was very interesting since the reader was allowed to see each character's point of view.

I attend a small high school of about 530 students total in grades 9-12. This "bullying" by a group of popular students seems to occur in nearly every high school across the nation. In my high school, you see this type of thing almost everyday walking down the halls. There are a group of students who feel they have the right to tell people to move and where to go. All it takes is that one student to stand up and the rest will be quickly to follow. It goes beyond that. They take it upon themselves to cut in line, lie to get their way, and cheat to get good grades, no matter who gets hurt by it in the process. In the end, they only find out that they are hurting themselves. Students learn to adjust to their rude behavior and ignore them. Even though this story's high school is in an extremely rich neighborhood, there are still the outcasts who will never be accepted. The tactics that Twyla uses to overthrow this so-called "monarchy" of the school is very clever and brave. She sees people for who they are, and she doesn't get mad, she gets even. This story was a mix of a Walk to Remember and Mean Girls where the popular guy in the story looked at what's on the inside and ignored what others thought of her.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone, because mostly anybody can relate to it in some way. The rude and obnoxious students of high schools across the nation would learn a lot from this book, because they have never experienced what it's like to be on the receiving end of the bullying. It would make them stop and think about their actions and words, and would in turn help them and their fellow classmates enjoy a better high school career. Once again, thanks for sharing such an amazing story about this real life scenario about this brave girl in a new Texas high school.

Sincerely,

Nathan Vert