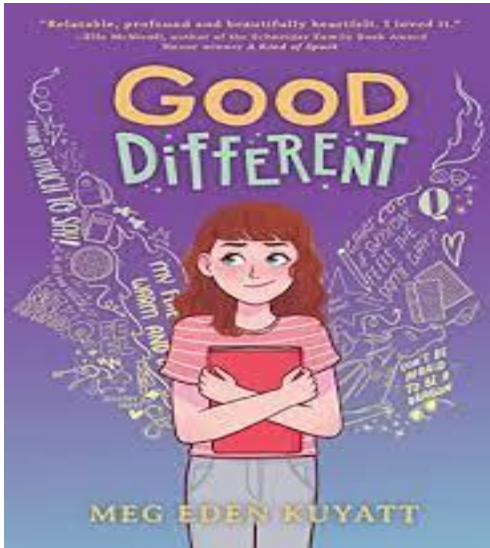


Good Different

By Meg Eden Kuyatt



The setting of my book, *Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt, is very important because you can see how the character acts and moves in between different places. For example the main character, Selah (Say-la) is most comfortable at home in her bedroom, or with her grandpa and or mom. She also feels comfortable with her best friend, Noelle. But she feels uncomfortable and overstimulated in school, class, stores, or other busy, loud, places. It also is important because of the social setting. With

her friends Noelle and Addie she is happy, fun, and relaxed, but with Cleo or Ezra she is tense and upset. You can also see these differences at Fantasy Con, the convention she goes to. At first she feels nervous but as the day goes on at Fantasy Con she feels more and more calm. The setting in general is important because it sets the time and place where the story goes on.

I believe that my book's main character, Selah, was dynamic, meaning that she went through a big internal change throughout the story. Selah is dynamic because in the beginning of the book she had many rules in her life, was very reserved, and believed that something was wrong with her. She believed this because of her undiagnosed autism. also because she often kept her feelings bottled up inside. But as the book goes on, she begins to realize that she is autistic. When she finds out, she begins to get tools and other things to keep her calm and not overstimulated. It takes a while but over time Selah realizes it's okay to be different.

In my book the main problem is that the protagonist Selah hit her friend Addie and might get suspended because of it. Selah didn't purposely

hit Addie, it's just that Addie started braiding Selah's hair without asking and because of Selah's autism her nerves on her scalp are much more sensitive and so the hair braiding hurts. So Selah responded to a quick and impulsive decision and hit her. Selah immediately regrets hitting her and giving her a bloody nose. Selah responds by apologizing and making up with Addie and trying to explain why she should stay at her school. It was not easy. She had to do a lot of thinking about her life, friendships, and if she even wanted to stay at the school. We do not know if Selah got to stay at the school because the book ended on a cliffhanger, but we do know that whatever happens she will be okay.

I believe that the theme of my book is accepting differences and yourself. My belief is supported by the fact that in the beginning of the book the protagonist, Selah, thought that she had to bottle up her feelings to be normal and she even once thought that she was a ticking time bomb waiting to be set off. But as the story goes on she begins to accept her differences and realizes that different doesn't always mean bad. Selah even helps her mom (who is also autistic) realize that just because she isn't other people's definition of "normal" that doesn't mean that she's weird.

I really liked my book because it was written in poems and it was written in such a way that I felt as if me and the main character and I are going through the same experience. The book wasn't predictable but also didn't get too wild. My favorite part of the book was when Selah and her friend go to a fantasy convention where Selah first hears the word, *overstimulated*. I like this scene because it is Selah's first step to making up with her best friend Noelle and to discovering that she is autistic. I resonate with the book because I understand Selah's desire to be herself.