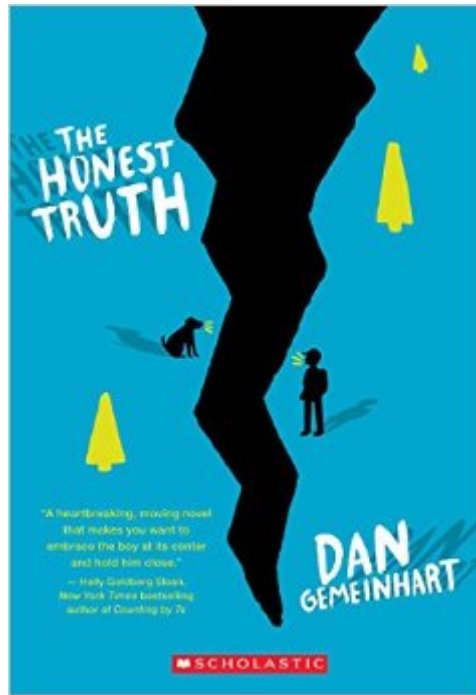


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# The Honest Truth



## Synopsis

It's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime. In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does. *The Honest Truth* is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and one incredible journey.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; Reprint edition (December 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545665744

ISBN-13: 978-0545665742

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (148 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #111 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The honest truth: this is the saddest book I have ever read. I am having a hard time grasping why Scholastic would market this book to 8-12 year olds. Perhaps they were looking for a *The Fault in Our Stars* or *First Love* for a younger audience. In both these books the main characters are terminally ill and make reckless decisions as they face their own death. I thought about the books that dealt with difficult subjects that I read between 3rd and 5th grade. Books like *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, and *Little Women*. Each of these books deal with death of a dear one. And I do remember them having a huge impact on my worldview at the time. They

made me think about mortality and ask big questions like, "What things are worth dying for?" and "Since life is finite, do I cherish my life and those living around me?" These were important questions for me to wrestle through, however the new trend in books dealing with death veer far away from those questions. Instead these books seem to promote a very selfish, humanistic attitude.

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