



Spin the Bottle

Elizabeth Cody Kimmel

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Middle school is an Entirely New Planet. The girls look fully grown in the most glamorous and complicated ways, and the boys look . . . well, weird. The good news? Drama Club. Real Drama Club—with actual auditions, and roles involving more than the days of the week. Phoebe Hart has waited a long time for this. The stage, after all, is the one place the “flawed and unremarkable” Phoebe can let her inner star out. But when she learns of the opening night tradition—a game of Spin the Bottle—things suddenly get way more complicated. Enter: a heart-stopping crush, a best friend who might not be, two bloodthirsty Drama Divas, and a certain spinning bottle. Is it worth all the drama for a girl who just wants to fit in, and maybe prove her acting chops along the way? Welcome to middle school, Phoebe Hart.

Spin the Bottle Details

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Author : Elizabeth Cody Kimmel

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From Reader Review Spin the Bottle for online ebook

Ashlyn Smith says

Phoebe Hart just recently started middle school. It is a big change for her, but one of the things that get her very excited is being in the drama club. Phoebe hopes to be a great actress some day and drama club with help her get there. Throughout Phoebe's middle school experience she notices that everyone is changing in everyway possible. While Phoebe as lots of fun in drama club the night of the play she learns the before show tradition: a game of spin the bottle. Phoebe is very nervous. Who will the bottle land on? What will happen next? Read the book and find out.

I particularly liked this book. It was very suspenseful. It always had you questioning and wanting to know what was going to happen next. I couldn't stop reading it because I just kept wanting to know what was going to happen. I thought the character development was good. Everytime they brought in a new character they would give some background to that character, but it was just enough background that you weren't drowning in detail. I would recommend this book. I do think that the book was a little too young so I would say it is for a younger audience, but I still enjoyed it.

Mollie F says

Spin the Bottle by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel is an excellent book. The title of the book gave my mom a heart attack. I guess I was naive because I didn't even know what spin the bottle meant when I checked out this book. After reading the story, I learned what it meant and assured my mom this book was fantastic. This book discussed middle school survival, peer pressure, how friendships change over time, and how to be true to yourself.

Spin the Bottle reminded me of my life. As I flipped each page, I was more convinced that somebody stole my diary. The first thing that caught my attention was , Phoebe, the main character, was so excited to join the drama club. She desired to star in a real school play. I couldn't believe what I was reading. It has been my dream to star in a school play since I first got a taste of it in second grade. Phoebe was given a small role in the school play just like I was this year. The similarities were getting scary.

This book was so true to real life. It may be fiction, but the author seemed to draw upon real school experiences in middle school. The story discusses the hierarchy of the different classes in middle school. After the first week of school, Phoebe realizes she was at the bottom of the totem pole. However, it only took one day for me to realize that the eighth graders are the top of the ocean. The seventh graders are somewhere in the middle. The sixth graders are the bottom feeders.

The story also discusses the very important topic of peer pressure. The author uses the game of spin the bottle to teach Phoebe lessons about peer pressure, physical crushes on the opposite sex, making wise choices, and integrity. She does a great job of using vivid details. I could very easily picture a bunch of middle school kids sitting in a closet with a root beer bottle anxiously playing this game.

I highly recommend this book to everyone. However, I think it would be very helpful for fifth grade girls to read this book over their summer vacation. This might give them an opportunity to learn what to expect in middle school.

Brett says

Elizabeth Cody Kimmel did such a great job of catching the full spectrum of awkwardness, discomfort, & embarrassment of being a middle school girl that at first, I really didn't like this book. However, the authenticity of protagonist Phoebe Hart's voice is absolute, & you root & cringe for her at the same time. Phoebe has been waiting to get into middle school for years now for one reason - drama club. She's gone to every show, & can't wait to be on the stage herself. But it feels like humiliation is at every corner, & she's afraid the established (older) members won't see her true talents. Add in the complication of first romance & some growing pains in her best friendship, & Phoebe's already plenty freaked out - & then she finds out about the traditional game of Spin-the-Bottle that cast members play on opening night. Is she going to embarrass herself beyond measure? Are the older girls ever going to take her seriously - & are they even very nice people? Does the boy she likes like her back? Will her best friend ever talk to her again? Middle school girls are going to feel like this book has been written about them.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by JodiG. for TeensReadToo.com

Welcome to Middle School. Everything you know about school, social politics, and life in general is about to change.

Phoebe Hart has just started middle school and is on the way to fulfilling her dream of joining the Drama Club and being in a real school play. Now she is surrounded by the very people she has looked up to-- the elite of the Monroe Middle School Drama Club. She is filling her days with auditions, set building, and rehearsals. With her best friend, Harper, by her side, she is sure that the Drama Club will be everything she ever dreamed it would be.

The problem is that middle school isn't like she planned. She is in a new building with older, more sophisticated girls. There are new classes, new classmates, new boys, and a rather unfortunate public display of nerves to deal with. Phoebe is also learning that the friendliest words of advice aren't necessarily spoken by people with the best intentions. Before long, she finds herself in the middle of an epic battle between two of the top divas in school. On top of that, she is trying to avoid another seventh-grader who seems determined to befriend her (which would totally ruin her cred with the older kids!). Then there's the argument with Harper and the cute boy who reduces her to a monosyllabic, babbling idiot.

But the one looming problem that is shadowing Phoebe's days is the traditional game of Spin the Bottle that happens every year on opening night. As opening night draws closer, Phoebe is filled with excitement and dread. Will she finally have the chance to kiss her crush? What if the bottle points to someone else? Does she even really want to play? And if not, how does she get out of it?

SPIN THE BOTTLE is definitely a good choice if you are looking for something fun to read. It is funny and the characters are so easy to identify with. Who hasn't been publicly humiliated at least once in middle school? It's just more fun to read about someone else's experience than to live your own!

Kathryn says

I liked this book. It was about a girl who joined the drama club and every year the club plays spin-the-bottle. She's not very comfortable playing the game but since the popular girl (Darla) plays it and she wants to impress Darla, so she does it too. This book is a quick read and I think most of us girls can relate to most of this.

Emma Suguitan says

This book wasn't an inappropriate one, but it definitely was interesting. It was a very interesting story, and it got my hooked from the start. It always had something that you wanted to get uncovered, but everything was eventually uncovered in the end. That is where all the motivation to not stop reading came from.

Jennifer says

it is a very good boook and i hope that alot of people read it :)

Della says

It was a good book but it had some flaws. For one it had alot of abbrieviations that I often times forgot. Like OOMA= Object of my affection or BCG= Blond Cherabic Girl
SO I got confussed sometimes but O fixed it up and got it to somewere I could remember. The cover also looks very very girly.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody Spin the Bottle, 239 p. Dial (Penguin), 2008.

Phoebe is SOOO excited to start middle school, especially the chance to join the Drama Club and rub shoulders with her stage idols. Her best friend forever, Harper, is happy to go along for the ride, but is less than enthused by Phoebe's over the top idol-worshipping. While Phoebe agonizes over the traditional opening night game of Spin-the-Bottle, the girls fight and quit speaking, leaving Phoebe to wonder what really matters to her.

For once, here's a book that lets middle school girls realize that just because you and your best friend have different interests, doesn't mean that you have to say good-bye forever. The very pink front cover will catch the attention of girls who will definitely like it, but they will be getting more than just a bunch of fluff. Yeah!

Vivian De says

"Spin The Bottle" is a very well written book. I liked it a lot but the only thing I didn't like about it was the fact that the main character was so rude to her fellow 7th graders in the drama club try outs. But in the end its very good, interesting, drama filled and funny. I like that I can relate to it.

Kadence says

The story was about a drama club that Harper and Phoebe wanted to do for a long time and when she goes to her first club day she meets Tucker and she falls in love. And they get a script for the play spin the bottle. in the middle of the story Harper and phoebe get in a fight. I think the book is a 4-5 review. It could have been better because it did not have very much drama and it could have left off or ended the book off better.

GenreGroup says

Phoebe Hart is thirteen years old and a student at Monroe Middle School. She wants to be an actress but feels insecure and lost among all the other teenagers in her school. Phoebe, along with her dependable best friend Harper, is excited to join the drama club where she can participate in auditions and earn parts in a serious production. She happily spends time building sets, auditioning and attending rehearsals until her problems begin. The big issue is that middle school isn't exactly like she planned and dealing with life gets complicated. She has to handle new friendships with people who may not have her best interest in mind, new classes, new academic demands and new boys. During this books, she finds herself in the middle of a battle between two of the divas in her school. She also has to decide how to handle another seventh grader who is making every attempt to be friends with her... the problem is that this person is not cool to be seen She is introduced to a new boy in the drama club who makes her so nervous she can't even see straight. She has to learn how to handle an argument with her best friend Harper. Lastly, she has to decide how to decide what to do about the Spin the Bottle game that all drama club members play on opening night. Will she play? How will she handle it all?

Reviews

<http://www.teensreadtoo.com/SpinTheBo...>

<http://www.amazon.com/Spin-Bottle-Eli...>

Links

<http://www.penguin.ca/nf/Book/BookDis...>

Nancy says

It has such a great moral, that when you get over-dependent on your friends, you won't know what to do when they're aren't there for you. Spin the bottle is like a soda, it shakes you real hard as you read, until you feel like you're gonna pop at the climax!

Salsabrarian says

Typical middle school story: It's Phoebe's first year in middle school and she's looking to fit in but her attempts to befriend the cool drama girls alienates her best friend Harper. It seems awfully convenient that Phoebe's mother is a shrink and Harper is intellectually gifted; they serve to provide the "just be yourself" platitudes and help Phoebe get her head straight about living on the Entirely New Planet that is middle school.

Laurie says

Spin the Bottle by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel

This book was lighthearted and funny. I was reminded almost instantly what it was like to be a Middle School girl again!

This is a story about Phoebe and her best friend Harper as they enter the sixth grade and finally have the chance to join the Drama Club. This is something Phoebe has dreamed about since she was very little and she heard rumors of the traditional game played on opening night...Spin the Bottle. Phoebe didn't consider herself a nerd or an ugly, but she did think she was decent actress that had a look that could get her far, especially in the Drama Club. Harper and Phoebe experience Drama Club drama first hand and learn to make decisions that really do distinguish them from the crowd. Of course there is the love story that takes place, wouldn't be a Middle School book without a little romance right?

Good book for young readers or an adult wanting a break (*wink*) :)
