

Vidhi Patel
Book Review
2, August 2020

Book Review- Hello Universe

Hello Universe is a three hundred and twenty-page novel, by Erin Entrada Kelly. Personally, I found this book very interesting. One thing, I was very fond of was the beginning. One praise I give to the author is for giving background information about the character. To my mind, I prefer to know about the character and their personality beforehand, instead of finding out throughout the story. I'm not big on surprises. An example, of some excess information given in the beginning to the reader, is "Eleven-year-old Virgil Salinas. Him standing in front of them on his weak and skinny legs. He was no good at hurdles" (Kelly 1). We get a brief description of the character's appearance, which can help us predict what the rest of the novel is about. A brief summary of the novel is about a boy and a girl. The boy is named Virgil Salinas and the girl is named Valencia. Valencia is deaf and shy, she gets bullied a lot and it is very hard to fit in with people. Virgil's body is different than everyone else's, which makes him stand out. They have a problem of trying to fit in societies expectations/normalities. Due to both of their problems, they seek help from a lady, called Kaori. Virgil likes Valencia, but he hasn't told her due to his fear and shyness. Valencia just wanted to become friends with people, so she has someone to talk too and doesn't feel alone. One day Virgil got bullied, the bully Chet pushes his belongings down. Leading to him being stuck in a well and turning helpless. With the help of Kaori and himself, he gathers valor and begins to try to come out of the well. Soon after coming out he even talks to Valencia, and Valencias fear of being alone with no friends disappears. So, we learn that it takes time, but in different situations, you can face your fears. And by facing your fears you can help others too. Just like Virgil did with Valencia.