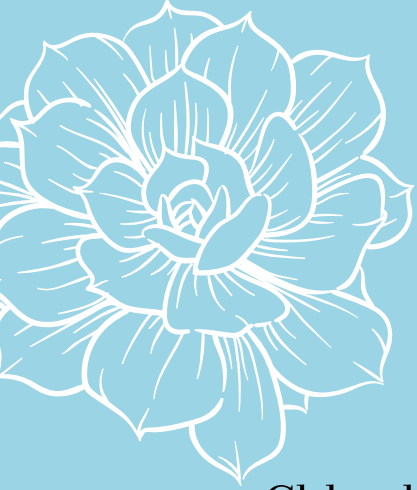


The Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephan Chbosky



Stephan Chbosky

1970 - Present

Chbosky grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Growing up, he was a fan of classic, fantasy and horror genres. His literary influences include J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Chbosky graduated from the University of Southern California's Filmic Writing Program. He began his career in film, creating *The Four Corners of Nowhere*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is his first novel, and he also wrote and directed the film version.



Characters:

Charlie

Sam

Patrick

"Friend"

Aunt Helen

Bill

Candace

Derek

Brad

Mary Elizabeth

PART 1

1) What do you notice about Charlie's narration?
What stands out to you?

2) Why does Charlie want to remain anonymous?

3) Who is the un-named friend? How does this influence your view of the narrator?

4) How do you describe Charlie's writing style?

5) How does his friend's suicide effect your view of Charlie, and what he may be thinking?

PART 2

1) Charlie likes to view from the outside (hence the "wallflower"). How is this playing out in the story?

2) Charlie reports instances of abuse. How do you think these instances were handled?

3) Charlie interacts with music (mixtape), plays (Rocky Horror) and literature. What do these represent in the plot?

4) How is his relationship with Sam and Patrick?

PART 2 CONTINUED

- 1) How do you think other people treat Charlie?
- 2) How does Charlie's experimentation with drugs leave an impression on the reader? How do they seem to be effecting him?
- 3) Does Charlie seem like a reliable narrator?
- 4) What role do the holidays play into the lives of Charlie, his family, and friends?
- 5) What do you think of Aunt Helen? Why does she keep coming up?

PART 3

- 1) Charlie starts to lose his memories and black out. What effect does this have on the plot?
- 2) Has Charlie's narration changed in any way during the course of the book?
- 3) What do you think of the relationship between Charlie and his sister?
- 4) Do you see any differences between the female and male characters?
- 5) Does Charlie fit into societal norms?

PART 4

- 1) Discuss Brad and Patrick's relationship. What stands out to you?
- 2) Charlie blacks out again. Why do you think this happens?
- 3) The discussion of self esteem is a re-occurring topic. What do you believe is the importance of this?
- 4) What do you think of the developments between Patrick and Charlie?
- 5) How is Charlie's writing effected when he talks about his friends moving away to college?

PART 4 CONTINUED

- 1) Has Charlie's tone towards his friends changed at all?
- 2) How does Charlie describe his mental states?
- 3) Do Charlie's "breakdowns" reveal anything about Charlie?
- 4) Do Charlie's actions match with his opinions and feelings?
- 5) How have you been feeling about Charlie's narration so far?

PART 4 + EPILOGUE

- 1) What role has Bill been playing in the story?
- 2) What do you make of the locker interaction?
- 3) What do you make of Charlie's discovery about Aunt Helen?
- 4) Does Charlie's revelation change how you view the story?
- 5) What do you make of the ending?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- 1) What themes have you noticed throughout the book?
- 2) Do you like the writing style of the book?
- 3) What are your main takeaways?