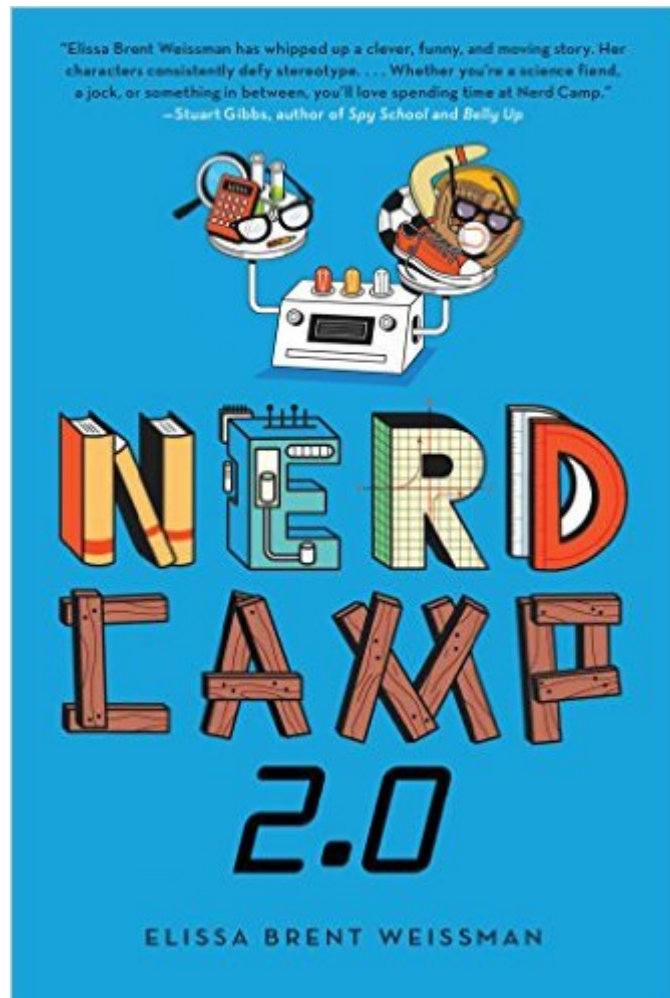


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Nerd Camp 2.0



Synopsis

Gabe's happily headed back to Nerd Camp but can he handle a cool-kid invasion? For Gabe, the equation for summer bliss equals six glorious weeks of rigorous learning immersion at the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment aka, Nerd Camp. Last year was amazing, and this summer will be even better. At least, that's what Gabe thinks until a new variable is introduced. Zack, Gabe's cool stepbrother, was supposed to attend a camp nearby, but in the aftermath of a recent wildfire, Zack's camp and nerd camp will be sharing territory. As these two very different worlds collide, can both camps and both stepbrothers survive the summer?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0830 (What's this?)

Series: Nerd Camp

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Zack doesn't always understand Gabe and his nerdiness, but he has accepted him. When Gabe helps Zack convince his parents that they should let him go to sleep away camp Gabe is excited for Zack. A wildfire changes things for both boys. Zack's campgrounds and most of the buildings are destroyed. Gabe's camp extends the hand of welcome to the other camp. They are going to share their campground. Both Gabe and Zack learn that it will be more difficult than they think. To start with the "cool" kids try to rule the camp, bullying the nerds. Then the "nerds" decide to take back the

camp. The battles go back and forth. The one common denominator in all of this is Zack and Gabe. Zack has discovered he loves to cook. He is even becoming quite nerdy about it. He overhears his brother make a comment about him and it hurts him. He seeks revenge against his brother. When things once again get out of hand Zack decides he must set things right and find a way to stop the camps from destroying each other. This was full of fun, and practical jokes. There is something here that everyone can relate to. Most importantly for me was the message that ran through about accepting each other's differences. I loved this book and can't keep it on my shelves at school. This should be a must read in all middle schools.

When NERD CAMP first came out, my 11 year old daughter and I enjoyed it immensely. When my son read it last summer, at 9, we were both thrilled, since it's one of our favorite books. When we heard a sequel was coming out, we couldn't wait! My son and I read this aloud together, which I enjoy doing with Weissman's books, because we can see what makes the other one laugh. Her books are funny and touching as well. In the first book, Gabe is getting used to the idea of having a cool new step-brother, Zack. His summer away at gifted camp is like a welcome reprieve from the struggle of trying to fit in -- trying not to be "too nerdy," and yet still focus on the things he enjoys. NERD CAMP 2.0 brings us to the next summer. Gabe is enrolled back at the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment and can't wait to see all his old friends. He's even been working with Zack to convince his mom and Gabe's dad to send him away for summer camp as well. Their plan works, but when Zack's camp is damaged by a forest fire, and nearby SCGE opens half of its grounds up to the cool jock camp, Gabe is secretly terrified. Will Zack still like him when he sees him in all his nerdy glory? Will Gabe's friend accept his stepbrother? Will camp ever be the same? The story is told in alternating chapters from Zack's and Gabe's POV -- a change from the first one which is from Gabe's POV -- and though we liked this addition, we also really love Gabe and his friends and missed the full immersion experience. ***I received a free copy of this book from the author***

I missed the first NERD CAMP, but found I could jump in with this one and figure out what was going on. The chapters alternate between new stepbrothers Zack (sporty, popular) and Gabe (smart, focused). With Gabe's help, Zach is finally allowed to attend a sleepaway camp *Not* the nerdy, science and research oriented one Gabe likes, but sports-themed Camp Seneca, nearby. When an accident closes Zach's camp, the powers that be decide that the Gifted Enrichment camp, and Camp Seneca could share spaces, with the help of carefully drawn maps to apportion the

territory. This book has lots of teen humor and honest good (and bad) intentions. Rarely do I read books where "teachable moments" don't come across as heavy handed and unrealistic but author Elissa Brent Weissman writes some great ones in very naturally. For example, when Zach doesn't pack enough underwear and has to ask Gage to borrow some. Or when Gage is getting dissed by Zach's friends, and Zach has to decide whether or not to stand up for his stepbrother. I think this would be a fun fit for 'tween Stuart Gibbs fans (SPY CAMP etc.) It has plenty of 'tween boy humor and pranks, but the story has an undercurrent of kindness (it is buried fairly deep, don't worry!) that I sometimes find missing. It isn't all about insults and farts and pulling the fire alarm. About me: I'm a middle school/high school librarian How I got this book: review copy

Zack and Gabe are stepbrothers who couldn't be more different. Zack likes skateboarding, playing video games and listening to music on his iPod, while Gabe is more into being on the math team and conducting scientific research. They've learned to respect each other's differences, and Gabe even helped Zack getting into a summer camp that's near the one for gifted children that he attends. But when a forest fire damages Zack's camp it's relocated to Gabe's, and not everyone is happy to be forced together. Those at Camp Seneca see the others as nerds getting in the way of their fun, and campers at the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment feel their safe haven from the normal harassment they get at school is gone. The two sides wage an escalating war for control of the campground. Can they come together before things get out of hand? Nerd Camp 2.0 by Elissa Brent Weissman, the sequel to Nerd Camp, goes back and forth between Gabe's and Zack's perspectives, showing the concerns of each side. What seems like harmless fun to others, can be hurtful from a different perspective. Each side has radical elements that want to take over by force as well as moderate voices seeking compromise. But how can the two sides even come together to talk when they don't trust each other? Even Gabe and Zack, stepbrothers, don't trust each other to do the right thing. This is a great book for mother-daughter book clubs with girls aged 9 to 12 to read and discuss. For one thing, it shows how both sides of an issue can have right and wrong viewpoints. Also, it shows kids stepping out of their stereotypes. For instance, nerdy Gabe likes to have fun swimming and hanging out at a campfire, while jock Zack finds he likes to cook. When they both learn to be comfortable with who they are they begin to see possibilities for bringing the sides together. I recommend it. The author gave me a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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