

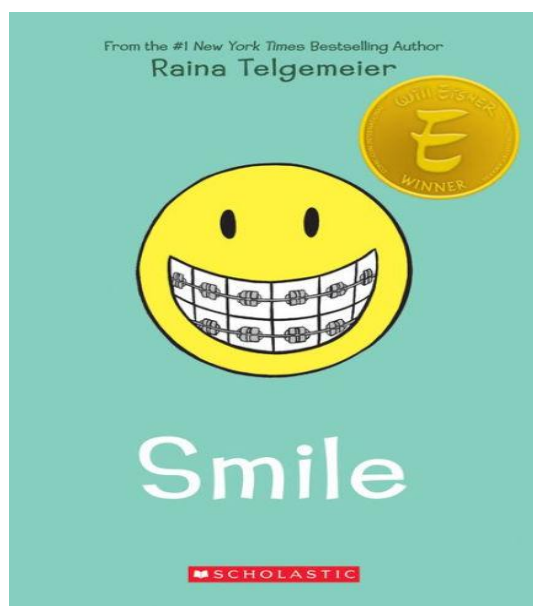
Delhi Public School Howrah

Book Review

Name of the book: SMILE

Name of the author: Raina Telgemeier

Book reviewed by: Mayurakshi Das, IX-C [Session 2024-2025]



‘Smile’ by Raina Telgemeier is a graphic novel which explores the themes of self-love, self-acceptance, insecurity, dental drama and growing up. Telgemeier captures the awkwardness of adolescence with humour and sensitivity.

The story begins with Raina, a sixth grader, injuring her front teeth in a fall. Since then, she embarks on a long and challenging dental journey, navigating braces, surgeries and embarrassing moments. Meanwhile, she faces ups and downs in friendships and struggles to fit in in her middle school. She faces not only physical challenges, but also emotional ones. The story is interweaved with moments of humour and relatable middle school drama, such as crushes, gossip, and wanting to fit in with her friends. Raina’s interactions with her family, especially her supportive yet concerned parents and her sibling dynamics, highlight the importance of family support during challenging times.

As Raina undergoes her dental treatments, she also undergoes personal growth. She learns to embrace her imperfections and find confidence in herself, ultimately realizing that her worth is not determined by her appearance.

Smile is not just a story about dental challenges; it is a universal tale of growing up, friendship, and finding one's voice amidst the chaos of adolescence. Overall, *Smile* is a heartfelt exploration of identity, resilience, and the importance of embracing one's true self, all wrapped in an engaging and visually appealing format. The story celebrates individuality and encourages readers to embrace their own scars and unique qualities.