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**Essay English**

Book Face



Anna Nijssen

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**Face by Benjamin Zephaniah**

The writer of the book Face is Zephaniah Benjamin. He is born on 15 April 1958. He is a British writer. He loves Handsworth, he called it the Jamaican capital of Europe. I think that that the reason is that the Jamaican sistas are called the **Jamaican** sistas. He demonstrated for the rights of black people. The Jamaican sistas are also black. He wrote the book Face in 1999. The reason he wrote this book, face, is that teenage young people would read a book about their world. One day brought a friend of Benjamin and his brother back to home. But the next morning Benjamin and his brother was woken up and told that the friend had died. Benjamin and his brother were told that after he left us he took some drugs, stole a car, and drove it into a wall.

When the story begins three friends are at school, it is almost holiday. The three friends are Martin, Mark and Mathew. They call themselves The gang of Three. Martin and his friends live in a district in London and there is a lot of drugs selling. In the districts where the story takes place is a lot of criminality. The place is very important for this novel. This novel is about young people how live in this kind of districts and how they behave.

The gang of three and Natalie go out to a club Dancemania, they listen and dance to hip-hop and rap music. When they go home the gang of three meets a friend, who has stolen a car. Martin and Mark step in the car, Mathew is scared. The car driver and his friend used drugs. They were followed by a police car. That’s a reason why they got into an accident. Mark is gets a few broken ribs, but Martin burns his face. The car driver is dead.

When Martin woke up he realized that he was seriously injured. His face was seriously burned. Everything changes after the accident. His friends were not his friends anymore and Natalie wasn’t his girlfriend. He became depressed.

At school everything was different. He had to make new friends. He went to Dancemania alone and met the Jamaican sistas. The three girls called Marica, Teen and Naz. That where his new friends.

Until his PE teacher, Mr. Hewitt, asked him to put a gymnastic team together for a local competition at the Leisure Centre. He becomes the captain of the team. He took his job very seriously. He tried to call Natalie, but Natalie is busy.

Then in the park Martin see Natalie kissing a boy. He became depressed again. He don’t come his room out. Except for the hospital control. In the hospital he meets Anthony again. Anthony his face is from birth not good. His parents have no time for him. He is a friend of Martin. Martin realized that his friend is worse wounded than he is. Martin became positive again and invited Anthony to the gymnastic competition.

At the competition there was the main part of the competition and the freestyle section. The they became second. The freestyle section was the strongest point of the team. The freestyle performance was a dance on hip-hop music. All the spectator loved it, but the five judges don’t loved it. The school had the third place for the main competition. Martins team was disqualified for the freestyle competition. First he is sad, but his teammates support him. And Anthony and his new friends also. He is a winner.

In this book are a few important themes. One of the few themes is friendship. Friendship is very important. Because Martin thought that he had real friends, but he got new friends. (the Jamaican sistas and Anthony). He also participates in a contest gymnastic. The match went very well, because the real competition was very good, and the free competition was also good. But the old five judges found that a number of hip-hop music didn’t belong in a gymnastic competition. So Martin’s team was disqualified. Most of the people thought it was nonsense, but it was final.

The other theme is that you must enjoy your live! Because a change can come very quickly. In the book the change comes also very quickly. He had a car accident and almost right away his hole live changed! His old friends are gone and his girlfriend also. He made other friends and that’s also the reason that he has a other character. He has a other face, because his face is burned. So his hole live changed very quickly! In short, enjoy your live! Enjoy life while you can, because maybe tomorrow everything can change.

This novel can also happen in other big cities with suburbs. The first new problems faced by the main characters is that they must live on these streets. The main character, Martin, gets a lot of problems when he is involved in a car accident. His face gets burned and ugly. He needs a skin graft and after losing his friends gets depressed.

For me the climax of the novel is the accident on the street. After the climax I wanted to read more about the main characters. That is also the moment that the plot changed. The main character after the accident becomes Martin. The messages of the book are that discrimination and prejudices aren’t good, but they exists. The message of the book is also that you believe in yourself. When you believe in yourself you can do anything you like. For example making new friends after the accident.

At the beginning the novel was difficult, because my English isn’t very good, but when I got further into the book, it became a little bit easier to read, but still difficult. My opinion of the book is that it is a sad, beautiful book about friendships. I enjoyed reading it and I’m curious about the next book.

First I thought why is the title Face? But when I read the book, I got it. The title face is because Martin has to face that his face is burned in the accident. And he must try to live with that.

The age group of this book is twelve to sixteen to my opinion, because the themes are for young people. For example the character is 15 and that is mostly the same as the age group of the book and the life lessons are very important, but they are also a bit horrible to read, so the book isn’t good for young people.

I like the book, because it has a happy end. It’s never dull, because a lot of things happened in the story. I recommend the book to everybody, because It’s a good book. It isn’t a fantasy book and I like mostly only fantasy books, but except this book. It’s also a other habitat and I like that.