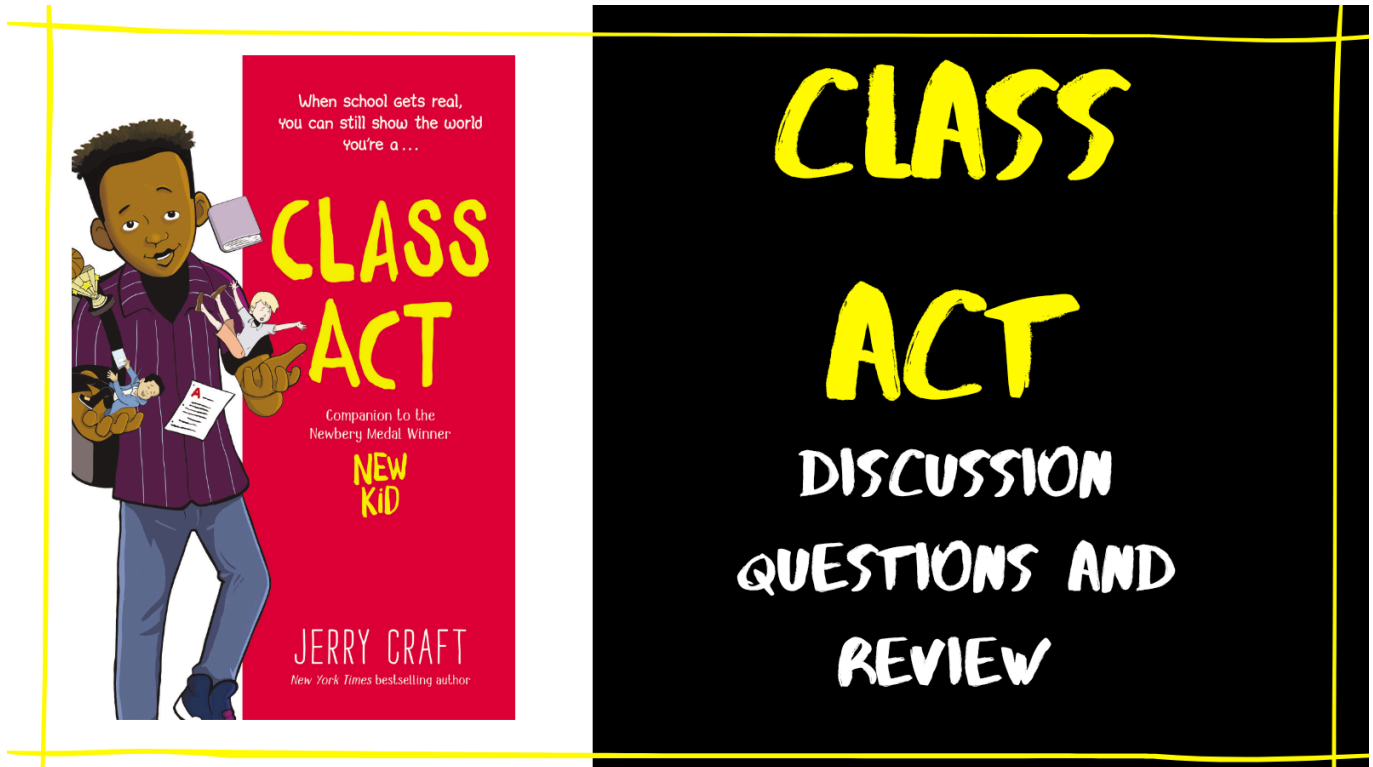


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# 8th Grade is such a walk in the park... Class Act Discussion Questions and Book Review

January 18, 2021 by DownTheHobbitHole

*Class Act Discussion Questions and Class Act Parent Review written by the Hobbit on 1/19/21. This post contains affiliate links, you can find out more on our policies page or in the disclaimer at the bottom of the blog.*

## Know Before You Read Class Act

**Book:** [Class Act](#)

**Author and Illustrator:** Jerry Craft (Find the author's [website here](#))

**Genre:** Graphic Novel, Coming of Age, Middle School stories

**Pages:** 250

**Published:** October 6th, 2020

**Age Suggestion:** 13+

**Themes:** Acceptance, doubt, discrimination, identity, stereotypes

**Warnings:** N/A

## Quick Summary of the Class Act Book

The story started in *New Kid* continues as the characters navigate eighth grade. And, since the characters are a year older, the topics covered in the book are edged up a notch. While the story still is about Jordan, *Class Act* brings Drew front and center. Middle school years are tough years, and accepting yourself and others is a lesson that is being learned by all kids that age (and is one that we all can use).



## Class Act Review

**\*No Spoilers\***

The characters from *New Kid* are ready for another year at RAD – Riverdale Academy Day School. Although a few of the issues from *New Kid* are still there, Jordan, Drew, Liam, and their friends have a lot of new issues to confront. And while Jordan is still our primary narrator, Drew's internal conflicts are highlighted. While many of these flow from racial inequality within the story, the struggles Drew h

are emblematic of the struggles many kids at this age have in comparing themselves to others and ultimately accepting themselves.

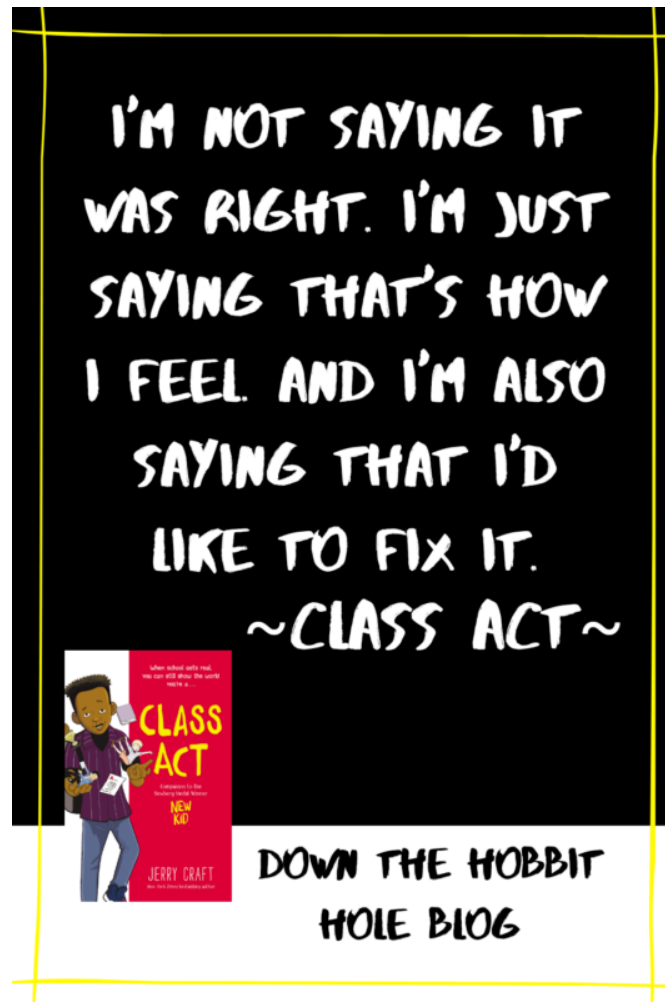
Class Act deals more directly with issues of systemic racism head on (Jordan, Drew, and Jordan's father being pulled over for a traffic stop and looking at the dad's reaction was a reminder for me). While it does so seriously, it also has a lot of humor, and I believe most kids that age will relate to the characters and situations.

The artwork is incredible and I love the little background pieces dropped throughout the story. And the chapter titles – “Sketch Diary of a Shrimpy Kid” and “Affinity War” are two of them – show you the humor. **The book is serious but has a great light side!**

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Class Act should appeal to any kid in middle school. It is a fun and engaging read to help them survive middle school. It also confronts issues of systemic racism head on. It is also a great way for parents to look at the issues their kids may be facing, and would be a great book to discuss at home.

**Continue reading for the Class Act Discussion Questions**



## Class Act Discussion Questions

**\*\*SPOILERS BEYOND THIS POINT\*\***

### Chapters 1 and 2:

- Jordan is experiencing one of the biggest issues of middle school – the many physical changes that happen. In his case, it is his height and his lack of “big boy stink”. How does your body changing impact your self image?
- Drew has several people come up and touch his hair. While usually not intended badly, it is wrong. Have you ever had someone do something in a well-meaning way that made you uncomfortable?

### Chapters 3 and 4:

- Andy really believes that he is better than a lot of other people. Do you have any “Andy’s” in your life?

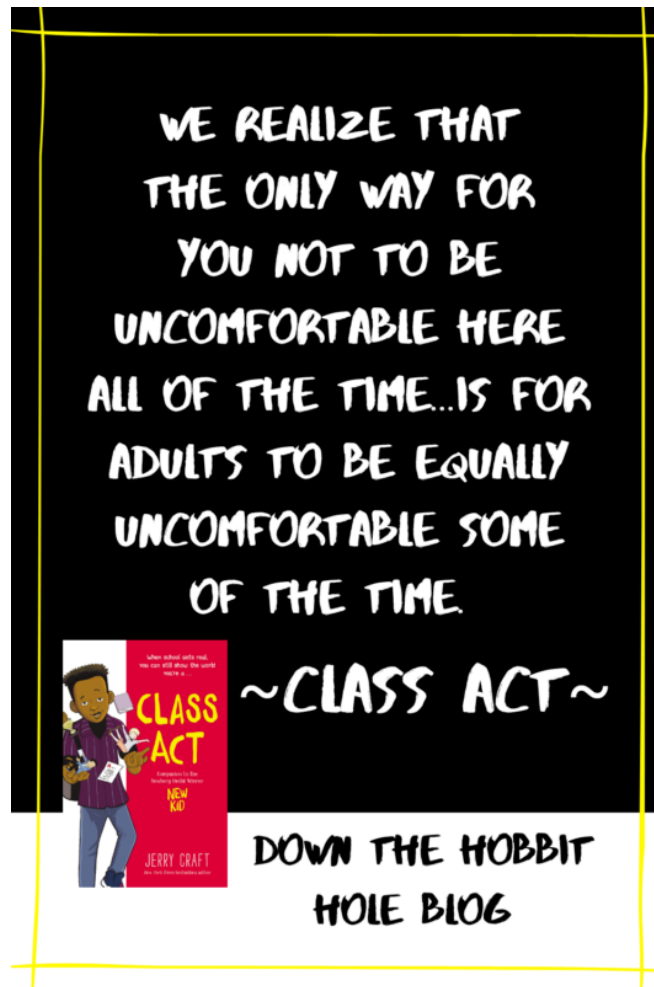
- Andy has to live with literally being green, and even says that “it is not cool to tease someone because of the color of their skin.” How did Drew react? Although there was the possibility of change for both, does this experience change either one of them?

## Chapters 5 and 6:

- The visit from the “sister school” Cardi De Academy points out some of the huge disparities between schools that are well funded and those that are not well funded. What surprised you? Did you know there were that many differences?
- Research idea – Look into the disparities that exist and research why they exist. <https://unconf.org/pages/K-12-Disparity-Facts-and-Stats> would be a good place to start.
- There is a short comic “I Lost the Bet” that is a humorous look at generational differences. Have you ever had a discussion like this with your parents (or your kids?) What were some of the differences that came up?

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**Continue reading for more Class Act Discussion Questions**



## Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10

- Drew reacts to spending time with Liam at Liam's house by ghosting Liam (for parents, ghosting is stopping contact with someone without warning). Why did Drew do this? Is part of the reason because Drew is having difficulty accepting himself? How does his conversation with "Pigmund Freud" help him?

## Chapters 11 and 12

- Mr. Roche has, throughout the book, made lots of missteps. Can people who are genuinely trying to be inclusive and to change the system make missteps? Mr. Roche is willing to learn from his mistakes. Does that make a difference?

## Chapter 13

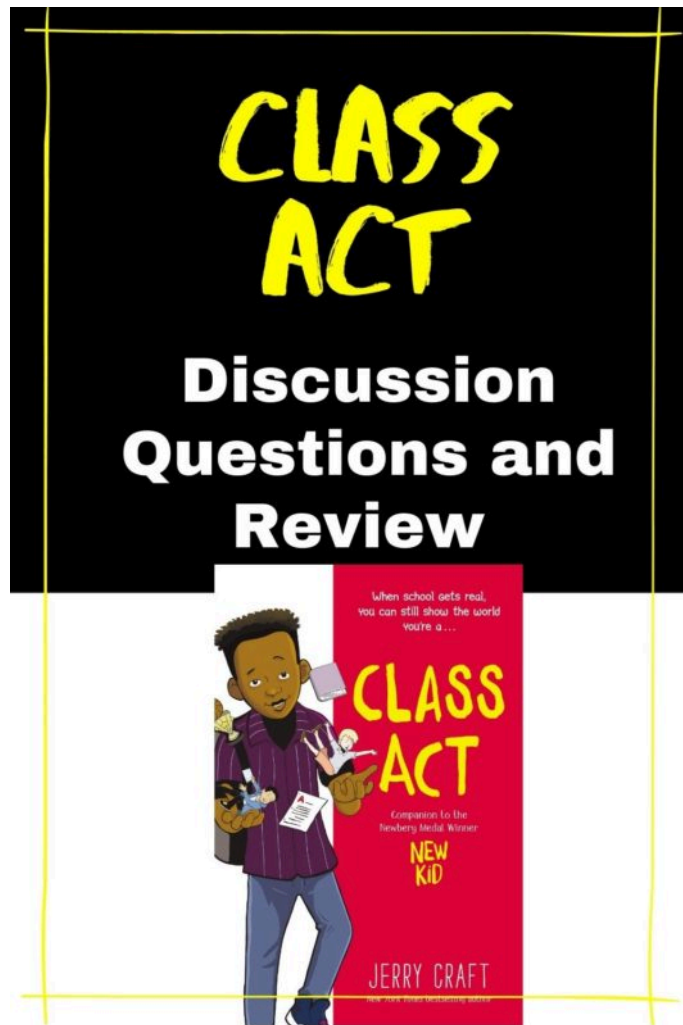
- What has Jordan learned about himself by the end of Class Act? What has Drew learned about himself? How do these apply to you (if you are that age) or to your kids (if you are a parent)?

## Final Thoughts on Class Act

**\*No Spoilers\***

I am looking forward to Craft continuing to explore these characters as they move into ninth grade, and I hope he will. New Kid and Class Act have reminded me not only of the huge systemic issues in our society, particularly in education, but also how incredibly hard middle school is. As I said above, this would be a great conversation starter for any parent with a kid in middle school.

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## 12 thoughts on “8th Grade is such a walk in the park... Class Act Discussion Questions and Book Review”



**Khushboo**

January 23, 2021 at 9:19 pm

That’s a nice book review. I am sure many parents will love to buy this book for their kids. Thanks for sharing this review with us



**DownTheHobbitHole**

January 24, 2021 at 2:19 pm

Appreciate the compliment, thanks for stopping by and commenting!



**Di Hickman**

January 25, 2021 at 10:39 pm

This sounds like a great book for kids to read. School can be such a tough environment to navigate, having tools like this book is so valuable!



**DownTheHobbitHole**

January 26, 2021 at 2:54 am

I agree- it's so good for kids to have stories of other kids struggling and succeeding.

Thanks for stopping by and commenting!



**Sudipta**

January 26, 2021 at 5:59 am

Excellent review which highlights so well the important learnings that children need to imbibe. Parents should buy these two books for their children.



**DownTheHobbitHole**

February 11, 2021 at 2:21 am

Thanks so much, we really enjoyed them!



**Lyosha**

January 26, 2021 at 7:54 am

it looks like a lovely book for kids around this age and parents as well. I think it helpful to get close to other people's head



**DownTheHobbitHole**

February 11, 2021 at 2:22 am

Thank you- I agree! It does help us to learn when we see things from someone else's perspective.



**Melanie Williams**

January 26, 2021 at 10:05 am

This is such a lovely book review. this would also make a nice gift for a birthday present too x



**DownTheHobbitHole**

February 11, 2021 at 2:23 am

It definitely would be a good book to gift! Thanks!



**Clarice**

January 29, 2021 at 3:00 pm

This book seems interesting. Happy to know that they were able to inject some humor into it. I would recommend this to my nephew who'll be going to middle school soon. Thank you for sharing your honest and no spoiler review.



**DownTheHobbitHole**

February 11, 2021 at 2:25 am

Thanks so much for the compliment and commenting!  
Hope he enjoys it- we really liked the stories!

Comments are closed.

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