

★★★★☆ **Cliques, Hicks, and Ugly Sticks**, November 23, 2011

By [Jettie](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Cliques, Hicks, and Ugly Sticks \(The Confessions of April Grace\) \(Paperback\)](#)

April Grace Reilly and her family live in Northwestern Arkansas, on aptly named Rough Creek Road.

New neighbors from California bought the house just down the road, which needed lots of work to be livable, so her parents ask them to stay with them, until the house is fixed.

The first day of school, the new neighbor, Isabel has an accident on the rough road, which means that they'll be living with them even longer.

Soon April's mother becomes ill, and scares her to distraction, she is afraid her mother is dying. And Lily, April's mother, won't be able to direct the Christmas play at their church. Isabel is recruited to direct the play.

Even though this book is directed toward young teens, I found it very interesting, and it kept my attention all the way through. It has a great message about tolerance and acceptance. When I first started reading, being from the northern part of Arkansas, I have to say I was a little disconcerted to find that the book was set in Arkansas, and was afraid it would portray us as 'Hicks', but it does not, and for that I am very glad.

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