

★★★★☆ **Cliques, Hicks and Ugly Sticks**, November 24, 2011

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

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

Cliques, Hicks and Ugly Sticks is the second book in the "Confessions of April Grace" series by KD McCrite. This time, readers join April Grace as she starts middle school and prepares for a big change in her family.

April Grace is as funny as ever, and there were frequently points in the story where I laughed out loud. I thought that April Grace seemed older than 11 in the first book, but I don't know that I think that in this book. There were spots when I did, but also quite a few instances where she seemed very much 11-years old.

Middle school proves to be a confusing adventure for April Grace as she deals with cliques for the first time, struggles with Algebra and wonders why all the girls are fussing over their hair, their outfits and boys. April Grace still considers boys nothing but a nuisance, so it will be interesting to see if her opinions start to change in book 3.

There is also a big change coming to the Reilly household. April Grace and Myra Sue know something is wrong with their mother, but are shocked to learn that a new baby will be joining the family. I really liked this subplot in the book, as April Grace slowly begins to accept this change. I thought her feelings were very real and very age appropriate.

With her mother on near bed rest, direction of the annual Christmas pageant falls to Isabel St. James. Isabel is making improvements in her behavior, but still frequently lapses into spoiled, cranky fits. She surprises everyone, most of all herself, when she realizes that she can command the attention and respect of a group of middle schoolers who would rather be almost anywhere else.

All in all, this was an enjoyable read. I think it would be appropriate for almost any age group. It's geared toward Tweens, but I enjoyed it as a light read as an adult.

Note: I received a copy of this book from BookSneeze in exchange for an honest review.

Help other customers find the most helpful reviews

[Report abuse](#) | [Permalink](#)

Was this review helpful to you?

Yes No

[Comment](#)