

Name _____

Date _____



Swim Team

by Johnnie Christmas

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

A splashy, contemporary middle grade graphic novel from bestselling comics creator Johnnie Christmas! Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brighitha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake. Can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship, or have the Manatees swum their last lap—for good?

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor, National Book Award Longlist, Kirkus Best Book of the Year, Harvey Award Best Children's or Young Adult Book Nominee

Who Wrote It?

Johnnie Christmas is a #1 New York Times Best Selling graphic novelist. SWIM TEAM is his middle grade graphic novel debut. When Johnnie was a child he fell into a pool and almost drown. It was that experience that inspired this story. As a kid Johnnie loved reading Calvin and Hobbes and Peanuts comics. Johnnie used to write things for adults, but now focuses on work for kids. He is currently hard at work on two new middle-grade graphic novels, one of them about video games! He also co-created the series ANGEL CATBIRD with celebrated writer Margaret Atwood and adapted William Gibson's lost screenplay for ALIEN 3



into a critically acclaimed graphic novel of the same name. Johnnie lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. You can learn more about him and his work at www.johnniechristmas.com.

AR Reading Level: 2.6

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.