

Middle School



All Summer Long by Hope Larson

AGE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Grades 4-7 - Booklist
- Grades 5-8 - School Library Journal

Bina and Austin have been best friends since they were babies, but the summer before eighth grade, things start to get weird. First, Austin's leaving for a month-long soccer camp; then, he thinks their annual summer fun index is dumb; and worst of all, he barely acknowledges her texts while he's at camp. But Bina finds plenty to occupy herself, and with Austin away, she can focus even more on music. Larson (*Compass South*, 2016) perfectly captures the anxiety and relief that sometimes accompanies changing childhood friendships. Bina is hurt that Austin isn't as interested in the things they used to do together, but she seems just as happy to find her own path while he's gone. With bold, black outlines and a sunny yellow palette, Larson's figures have wonderfully expressive faces; she's particularly good at signaling emotion with eyes and shoulders. Readers who love Raina Telgemeier's *Smile* (2010) but are still a bit too young for Jillian and Mariko Tamaki's *This One Summer* (2014) will find plenty to like here.

-Booklist

*If you would like to learn more,
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