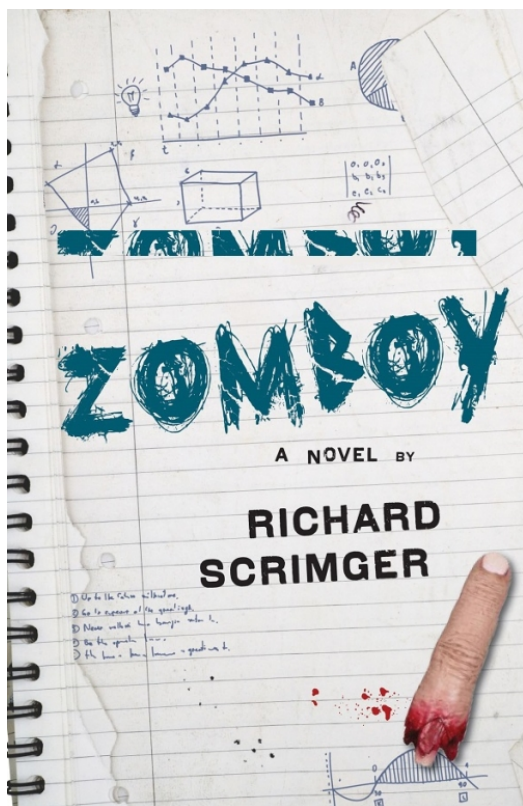


# Zomboy

Scrimger, R.



When Imre, a new student, arrives at Bob's school, Bob is shocked that his best friend Evil-O is so willing to accept Imre right away and invite him into their circle of friends. But, when it is discovered that Imre is actually a zombie, the community is quickly divided and Bob has to decide where his loyalties and friendship lie as he ponders the situation and eventually can see past all the drama. This contemporary Canadian novel explores themes of acceptance, tolerance, belonging, social pressures, and activism, and could be used as a read-aloud, in small groups, or for independent reading for students in grades 4-7. Some social considerations noted.

**Collections** Novel

**Subject** English Language Arts

**Grades** 4-7

**Primary Identifier** 9781443410700

**Evaluation Date** Dec 2020

**Copyright** 2014

## Resource Evaluation

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## **CURRICULUM FIT**

**Does the resource support BC curriculum?**

Extensively

**This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:**

- Creative Thinking
- Critical thinking
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
- Personal Awareness and Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

This novel supports the Big Ideas in the Language Arts curriculum for grades 4-7 which articulates that "exploring stories...helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world." Additionally, it supports the Big Idea that "questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens."

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## **SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE**

This novel could be used in a classroom or school library for independent reading. It could also be used as a read-aloud or in small groups. It would be suitable to explore concepts such as belonging, social pressures, and activism.

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## **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Violence:**

The Zomboy character loses body parts while playing football and several times after that while defending others. Additionally, he has become a zomboy after losing his family in a nuclear

meltdown. At the end of the novel, there are several more traditional zombies that are bent on destruction and violence. Several characters become zombies and end up dying a violent death. There are also other minor characters who symbolize violence: the abusive father who is also the police chief, the dog next door that tried to attack children, and Kato—Imre's sister—who has bloodlust.

**Humour:**

This novel uses morbid humour with sinister undertones. For example, body parts fall off, the characters are being studied by military doctors, and an explosion at the end which likely kill all the zombies.

**Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?**

Moderately

**Social Considerations Comments:**

The majority of this novel supports the concepts of acceptance and tolerance. The violence and humour are tempered until the final chapters of the book. There is gratuitous zombie violence at the end and the storyline veers from the original message.

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**GENERAL CONTENT**

**Content**

**Should this product be identified as Canadian?**

Yes

**Is the resource engaging?**

Extensively

**Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?**

Extensively

## **Audience:**

**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Moderately

**Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**

Extensively

**Is the level of detail appropriate?**

Extensively

**Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Extensively

This novel provides readers with the opportunity to think critically about what it means to belong and where we draw our boundaries about belonging. Told through the story of Zomboy, societal expectations are challenged and connections could be made to more relevant current events. The reading level and level of detail are consistent with the intended grade levels. Although the content will appeal to many readers in the intended age category, it may be too violent at the end for some. This novel is written by a Canadian author and uses a Canadian setting for the story.

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## **TECHNICAL DESIGN**

**Does the resource make effective use of the medium?**

Extensively

**Is the location of illustrations appropriate?**

Extensively

**Is the resource easy to use?**

Extensively

**Is the use of font, text size and presentation uniform?**

Extensively

**Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?**

Extensively

This novel is 228 pages, divided into 46 chapters. It uses a consistent font size and contains no illustrations within the novel.

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## **PRINT NOVEL**

**Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?**

Extensively

**Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?**

Extensively

**To what degree is this text stylistically rich?**

Extensively

### **Plot description:**

When a new student arrives at school, Bob is surprised to find out how willing his best friend, Evil-O, is to accept this stranger into their inner circle. When it is discovered that the new student is actually undead, a zombie, he has even more reason to be cautious, even as Evil-O embraces Imre further. This stranger quickly divides the community and Bob must decide when friendship is enough to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. As the community becomes

more and more divided, Bob becomes caught up in the drama. In the end, he sees past the drama of Imre and becomes part of the story.

### **Related Comments:**

This novel is a contemporary science fiction story which introduces an undead student into a modern Canadian classroom. It deals with modern issues of acceptance and belonging using a zomboy to challenge the community's beliefs. The characters in this novel are presented as complete characters with distinct flaws which they work to overcome. The themes of acceptance and belonging are explored when a zomboy enters the community and must prove himself to win their approval. The fear surrounding him leads to misguided judgement which is challenged by his supporters. As he becomes useful to his school, he finds acceptance.

### **Genre:**

- Contemporary
- Science Fiction

### **Literary Highlights:**

- Rich Characterization
- Well-developed themes

### **Type:**

Novel

### **Visual Highlights:**

Novel

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## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

### **Readability:**

- At intended grade level(s)

There is a chapter read-aloud by the author on [www.scrimger.ca](http://www.scrimger.ca). Red Maple Award Finalist ; Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Finalist ; Red Cedar Award Finalist ; Sunburst Award for YA Fiction Finalist. eBook available through Overdrive.

### **Resource URL**

<https://focusedresources.ca/en/k-12-evaluated-resource-collection/zomboy>