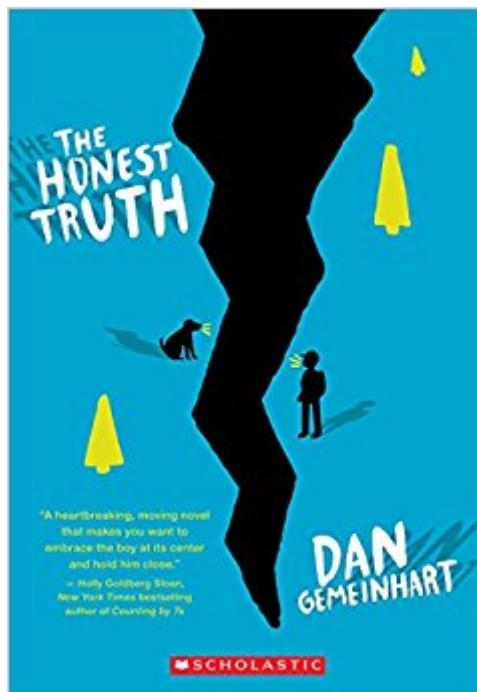


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# The Honest Truth



## Synopsis

It's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime. In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does. *The Honest Truth* is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and one incredible journey.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; Reprint edition (December 29, 2015)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 130 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,016 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #57 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • Twelve-year-old Mark wants to climb a mountain before his imminent death from cancer, so he runs away to Mt. Rainier with only his faithful dog, Beau, to accompany him. In alternating chapters, Mark's best friend Jessie, at home, narrates her moral dilemma: should she honor his last request or reveal his location to the worried adults who would deny him his wish? As each event befalls Mark along his journey, Beau increasingly proves himself, while Jessie vacillates. Gemeinhart, a first-time author, keeps the pace with short, active chapters leading to a satisfying, if somewhat predictable, ending. Descriptions of place and character are good, the

Northwest Washington setting palpable, and Mark's continuous descriptions of headaches and nausea, if a bit repetitive, can be chalked up to realism. The actions of the adult characters along the way are slightly less believable but suspension of disbelief is possible with such a compelling premise and Mark's ringing sense of confidence. Recommended for general purchase and for classroom structured reading. This will be especially interesting to capable but reluctant readers, particularly dog lovers. — Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *The Honest Truth*: An .com Best Book of the Month (February) A Kids' Indie Next Pick (Winter '14-'15) "An emotionally hard-hitting survival story... a gripping page-turner." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review "A heartbreaking, moving novel that makes you want to embrace the boy at its center and hold him close." -- Holly Goldberg Sloan, New York Times bestselling author of *Counting by 7s* "Debut author Gemeinhart has pulled off an impressive combination of suspenseful adventure thriller and cancer narrative... Touching but unsentimental, this is a deeply moving adventure." -- Booklist "Gemeinhart presents a rousing riveting two-hanky read." -- Kirkus Reviews "Writer/librarian Dan Gemeinhart has taken great care to craft a believable and poignant tale of steely resolve and undying friendship. Reluctant readers will especially enjoy the forward-moving adventure, and dog lovers will be thrilled with this truly magnificent tale of boy loves dog (and vice versa)... an outstanding debut novel." -- Bookpage "Gemeinhart... has crafted an extraordinary story about savoring life and exploring the meanings of strength." -- Alaska Airlines Magazine

I don't think there is any writer right now more important to children's literature than Dan Gemeinhart. As a librarian, I am sure that he discovered -- as I did-- that students don't want sugar-coated or saccharine literature again. They want literature that helps them navigate their way through the real world and all the sadness and perils that define that world. What Gemeinhart is exceptionally good at is taking these stories and elevating them to the utmost level of upliftment. Yes, this is a sad story of a boy who has cancer, but children want to work their way through some understanding of the problem -- not have it swept under the rug. While the mood is sometimes sad, it is always tense, the story is filled with unexpected surprises. Ultimately this is a story of hope and friendship; loyalty and love. It's a story about taking chances -- even when life seems to be at its lowest. Gemeinhart demonstrates just how stories uplift us. The last chapter of the book is simply extraordinarily beautiful.

This book is about a kid named Mark who has cancer. It is his dream to climb Mr. Rainer. So one day he runs away from his mom, dad and best friend Jess. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure. Some parts are very emotional and left me almost in tears. I like how descriptive the author is. You really gets picture like you are there. I would also recommend this to anyone how likes survival stories and dog stories. Definitely one of the best books I have read all year!

This beautifully written story consumed me in every wonderful way possible. I simply could not put it down and read it in a single sitting. It contained so many life lessons that pertain to us all, regardless of age. I'm reminded that angels walk among us each and every day. They are our neighbors, classmates, taxi drivers, etc. It's also the story of a boy and the most amazing relationship he has with his dog. Truly looking forward to sharing this book with others and would recommend to any and all who are seeking an amazing, inspiring, thought provoking story.

This book is a great one for children and adults alike to ponder some of life's unique challenges--how to live one's life, how to face one's death, and how to honor one's loyalty to another. It's a quick read unless you stop to note the details along the way--the haiku that Mark and Jessie write and share, the photos of the journey that Mark takes, and the many references to matters that represent truth in life as we know it. Read it and pass this book along to those who love a great story!

Very interesting book, I liked the point of view of Mark, I loved the writing and the format of the book.

This was a sweet book. The two main characters had clear, believable voices, and I loved the contrasting struggles between the two. Will the boy make it up the mountain before he is stopped by his illness or the people searching for him? Should his friend tell the authorities what she knows about where he might be, or should she let him fulfill his last goal? Truth, friendship, life, and death are all big topics in this book for young readers (8-12), and I enjoyed the book thoroughly, even as an adult.

My son (6th grade) and I just finished reading this book together. We couldn't put it down. It drew us in emotionally and we built a relationship with the characters. My son has said it was his favorite

book of all time.

powerful read for high elementary level readers

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