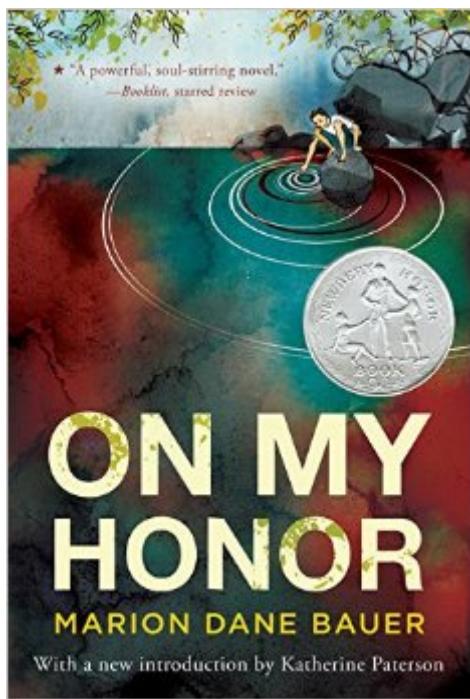


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# On My Honor



## Synopsis

Joelâ™s best friend, Tony, is a daredevil. It was Tonyâ™s idea to make the long bike ride to the Starved Rock state park, and Tonyâ™s idea to stop for a swim in the dangerous Vermillion River. So why does Joel feel so much guilt when tragedy strikes? The paperback features a beautiful new cover and introduction by Katherine Paterson, author of the Newbery Medalâ™ winning book *Bridge to Terabithia*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (August 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547722400

ISBN-13: 978-0547722405

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (228 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,218 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #117 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #149 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This book is going to be read to my son's 5th grade class, so I thought I'd read it before I gave the ok for my son to sit in. It is quite an emotional read, but I think, for ages around 9 or 10 and up (pre-adolescent), it's absolutely appropriate! It deals with peer pressure, lying, and guilt among other things, and hopefully will make these indestructible-thinking kids realize that "it CAN happen to me" and not give in to the pressures that go along with these ages, especially among boys. You don't have to do something just because "I DARE YOU!". Except for the use of the word he\*\*, there was no inappropriate language and, no, there was \*NOT\* a detailed account of the boy's drowning. I'm not quite sure where that came from. The "beat his friend to a bloody pulp if he was hiding somewhere", put into context, is a boy feeling nervous/scared/angry when he can't find his friend, suspects the worst and would be furious if he's (the friend) actually just hiding and trying to pull a

prank. Given the fact these boys are 12, the words used are quite mild. I'm sure this subject matter is uncomfortable for some kids (and, obviously adults as well). Unfortunately, peer pressure is a FACT OF LIFE that has to be dealt with. Overall, I'd recommend this book. Read it first before you read it (or allow your child to read it) and then decide.

On My Honor , by Marion Dane Bauer, is one of the best stories I have ever read! Even though it was sad, it was still perfect. It's a good story for people who like exciting stories. The characters in this story are Joel and Tony. They are living in a small town in Illinois. The story all starts when Joel's father allows Joel and Tony to go cycling, but not too far. Joel and Tony disobey Joel's father and go to the river. They were told never to go near the river, but they do. They start swimming to a sandbar. When Joel gets to the sandbar he realizes Tony has vanished. TONY WAS DEAD! How can Joel tell his parents what has happened? How can he tell everyone the terrible truth? It was a great story. It didn't have too many difficult vocabulary words. I am now in 6th grade and I found this book very easy to read. Over the past few months I have been reading GOOSBUMPS, but this story is different. It taught a valuable lesson: Never do something you were told not to. Your parents always tell you things to help you avoid trouble and danger.

Before I start this review let me say that I am the mother of two (11 and 9), and a grade school teacher. This book covers a subject that is every parent's nightmare! (Your child fights for their life, and you are not able to help them.) All kids believe that they are immortal, and because of this, they are fearless. But we, parent's, know better. We try to protect them, and teach them right from wrong. We pray that they will make the right choices in life, but know that sometimes they won't. It is this fearlessness, and the possibility that things just may go terribly wrong, that is discussed in this book. Not in a preachy parent style, but rather from the viewpoint of a scared and helpless child. As I read this (and by the way, I read it in one seating-not able to put it down--not able to catch my breath), I realized that this is a book that my children must read. Every child should read it!! But not without adult guidance. The book and it's subject matter call for discussion. Your child may need comforting after this book, but it also will wake them up to the fact that there are dangers out there, and they must be careful. Decisions made in the blink of an eye can change an entire lifetime, or in this case, end a life. PLEASE, read this one and then discuss it!!!!

I read this book in fifth or sixth grade and I can honestly say it's the most touching thing I have ever read. I sobbed when it was finished and every time I reread it I can't get to the end without crying at

least a little. Simply put, it deals with guilt and death in adolescence. This is something I will no doubt mention in my college entrance essays and I highly recommend it. It is short, an easy and good read, and something you will remember for the rest of your life.

This short novel details a very traumatic day in the life of our main character, Joel. Joel has just finished the sixth grade and is spending his summer with his best friend and across the street neighbor, Tony. All of the summaries and reviews tell the main conflict which is the death of his good friend. The reader wonders when it will happen as they get to know each boy better as the story begins. With a character such as Tony, there are many instances where you are sure the awful act will occur. Joel's dealing with Tony's death is very detailed throughout the remainder of the story. While he doesn't respond in exactly the way adults would have wanted him to, his response is very believable and applicable to his age. Tony's death has a huge impact on Joel and feelings of responsibility are overwhelming yet not altogether realized until near the end of the story. The way Joel continues to smell the scent of the river on himself is evidence to the deeply rooted guilt he is feeling. Joel's parents are excellent role models that don't waltz in with a simple solution or easy answers but simply reassure him that this will be a tough thing for those involved but that they'll be there for Joel. The father even takes some blame since he is the one that allowed the boys to take their day trip. This is a wonderful book to read to a class or to recommend to any child.

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