

# Staying fat for sarah byrnes



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Honors Literature Independent Reading Assignment Staying Fat For Sarah Brynes

The book Staying Fat For Sarah Brynes revolves around a young swimmer by the name of Eric. Eric was also called Moby by his classmates due to excessive weight. Throughout the book Chris Crutcher allows readers to witness a transformation that takes place for Eric not only physically but emotionally. The hundred meter freestyle champion was determined to shed his weight and replace it with muscle.

His dream of ending the days students called him Moby was placed on halt due to his commitment to one of his close friends Sarah. Sarah was a girl who lived a familiar lifestyle to Eric. She was constantly teased by the students who attended her school. At a young age Sarah's face and hands were placed on a woodstove by her dad leaving her with untreated scars that later turned into dead tissue. The scars would later serve as a sign on strength and self-unity . " You learned a good lesson about pain," when you can't take it anymore, your body stops feeling for you, (Crutcher89) .

One of the major themes Chris Crutcher portrayed in " Staying Fat For Sarah Brynes is friendship. Eric and Sarah became friends as social outcasts. Both were often rejected by society so they learn to appreciate each other . They discovered ways to understand each other and soothe each other's pain. They learned to be there for each other through the thick and thin. " Look, if you keep eating like a starving Biafran turned loose at the FoodCircus just to prove me wrong about why were friends , you'll die of a heart attack before your fifteen" (Crutcher page 93).

This showed how much Sarah Brynes friendship meant to Erick, because he was willing to continue to be fat, even though he had always been made fun

of, just to prove to her that he would not stop being her friend. Throughout the book Crutcher takes readers on an adventure of some of the things Sarah faced on an everyday basis. By providing readers with this discrepancy it showed the building structure of Eric and Sarah's friendship. It made onlookers realize the seal of respect they had for each other.

Even though outside sources tried to detour Eric's love and compassion for Sarah " Taking on someone else's monster will kill you" Crutcher 219-220) he stalwartly stood by her side . The book states that Eric came face to face with Sarah's dad to confront him on the mistreating of his friend. Sarah's dad was symbolized throughout the book as a troubled guy who battled alcoholism most of his adult life. The courageousness of Eric to stand up to him despite putting his life in danger shows the commitment he had to Sarah. Apart of supporting Sarah it made Eric a stronger person.

While witnessing the harsh reality of Sarah's life and how she dealt with it inspired him to be as strong as her. " I wanted to be tough like Sarah Byrnes , to stand straight and, oblivious to gut eclipsing my belt buckle. He learned that without her friendship his life would have been the same and he would have never learned that he had valor. Erick gave the ultimate sacrifice by putting his life on the line in order for Sarah Byrnes to escape from her father. He helped the world know about the horrible abuse that Sarah Byrnes went through every day of her life.