

TITLE: Red Kayak

AUTHOR: Priscilla Cummings

CATEGORY/GENRE: Realistic Fiction

SERIES: Yes, first of three

AWARDS: American Library Association (ALA), Best Books for Young Adults (2006), A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age (2005), An IRA-CBC Children's Choice (2005)

SIMILAR BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS: Hoot by Carl Hiaasen; House Arrest by K. A. Holt; Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

AVAILABLE: Libby, St. Clairsville Public Library- Book

ABOUT THIS BOOK: Red Kayak is about a thirteen-year-old boy named Brady Parks who is part of a poor crab-fishing family on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. A wealthy family, the DiAngelos buy a water front property near Brady's family. It is property that Brady and his friends are used to enjoying near the water. Tragedy strikes and Brady's neighbors suffer a terrible loss. As the plot unfolds there are unexpected revelations about what really happened. Brady struggles with loyalty and also trying to figure out what the right thing to do is with his knowledge of a heartbreaking secret. This realistic fiction story explores the inner struggle of this thirteen-year-old as it relates to a similar struggle his own family had years before. This is a compelling book and each chapter ends with the reader wanting to know more.

YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS BOOK IF... you like realistic fiction that lets you know what is really going on in another person's mind. There are a lot of twists and turns in this ultimately sad story that still leaves room for hope by the end. I like that there are two more books in this series so you can find out what happens to some of the main characters after the point in time where this book ends.