First Last Name

Mrs. Aman

English I

4 January 2019

Independent Reading: *Unfriended*

 The title of the book is *Unfriended*, and it was written by Rachel Vail. The genre of this book is realistic fiction. Major characters would include mainly Truly, Natasha, and Hazel. There were more friends of Natasha’s but I wouldn’t necessarily describe them as major characters. One conflict in the beginning of the book is Person vs. Self. Truly is trying to negotiate the complex emotional relationships that blossomed at the beginning of middle school and puberty. The book goes on to have a few more Person vs. Person conflicts such as Hazel hates Truly when she leaves her to be friends with Natasha. Hazel has also always despised Natasha because of the way she treated Truly in elementary school. And finally the whole book has a conflict of Person vs. Society. The increasing connectivity of social media only intensifies the spread and lie of information, surpassing the school building and its hours of operation.

 This novel made it very clear just how messy and bad things can get when social media is thrown into the mix of drama and school. No matter where Truly went, the drama followed because it was all over social media. This book shows that there really is no more escaping drama. It also explains that even middle schoolers struggle with certain problems that high schoolers kind of forget are universal.

 Setting can be described as the time or place of a story. I think that the place the story took place really didn’t matter. This could happen to anyone in any town, big or small. I do, however, think that this happening in middle school is a lot different than it would be if this happened in later high school years. In middle school, you are just getting exposed to social media. Also a lot of things change in middle school. Your friends change and puberty really takes a toll on how dramatic and snarky girls become.

 The author doesn’t really give a solution to the problems. The book leaves the question of Truly’s fate open. Truly realizes she hates middle school and wishes she had not alienated most of her friends with a naïve attempt to climb the popularity ladder. Wishing you could go back really isn’t a viable solution. What’s done is done and there is no going back.