

Read-alikes for Free lunch

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Free lunch

By: Ogle, Rex

A sixth grader from an economically disadvantaged family struggles in a new school where he is forced to endure humiliation over his secondhand clothing and public daily requests for his school's free lunch program.

Read-alikes

1. ***Leaving Lymon***

Cline-Ransome, Lesa

Reason: Tough, resilient, and talented young men learn to make it on their own when they are failed by the adults in their lives in both attention-grabbing works of historical fiction (*Leaving Lymon*) and memoir (*Free Lunch*). -- Autumn Winters

2. ***Isaiah Dunn is my hero***

Baptist, Kelly J.

Reason: Smart guys who like to write try to keep it together despite a lack of cash and trouble at home in these stories starring likeable, authentic characters. -- Autumn Winters

3. ***Okay for now***

Schmidt, Gary D.

Reason: Although *Okay for Now* is fiction and *Free Lunch* is a memoir, both heartwrenching books explore the inner lives of boys who are perceived negatively by peers and teachers while dealing with heavy stuff at home. -- Abby Johnson

4. ***Fighting words***

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

Reason: Readers meet tweens with tough exteriors who are dealing with troubles at home in these emotionally intense reads. Although *Lunch* is a memoir and *Words* is fiction, both raw and honest books feature sympathetic main characters readers will root for. -- Abby Johnson

5. ***Wink***

Harrell, Rob

Reason: Readers who don't like things sugar-coated will appreciate the realistic anger of the middle school guys in these books, both of which focus on painful, challenging situations. *Wink* is fiction inspired by the author's childhood; *Free Lunch* is a memoir. -- Rebecca Honeycutt

6. ***Hey, kiddo***

Krosoczka, Jarrett

Reason: Although *Free Lunch* is prose and *Kiddo*, a graphic novel, both candid memoirs explore the difficult childhoods of future authors due to poverty (*Free Lunch*) and addiction (*Kiddo*). Despite the painful events described, each attention-grabbing book manages to ultimately elicit hope. -- Lindsey Dunn

7. ***It's Trevor Noah***

Noah, Trevor, 1984-

Reason: Told in painfully frank, darkly humorous voices, these autobiographies written by now-successful creatives share how they grew up poor and confused about their place in the world. -- Lindsey Dunn

8. ***Almost home***

Bauer, Joan, 1951-

Reason: These books are emotionally intense and serious, and they have the subjects "child abuse victims" and "foster care."

9. ***One for the Murphys***

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly

Reason: These books are emotionally intense, and they have the subjects "child abuse victims" and "family violence."

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