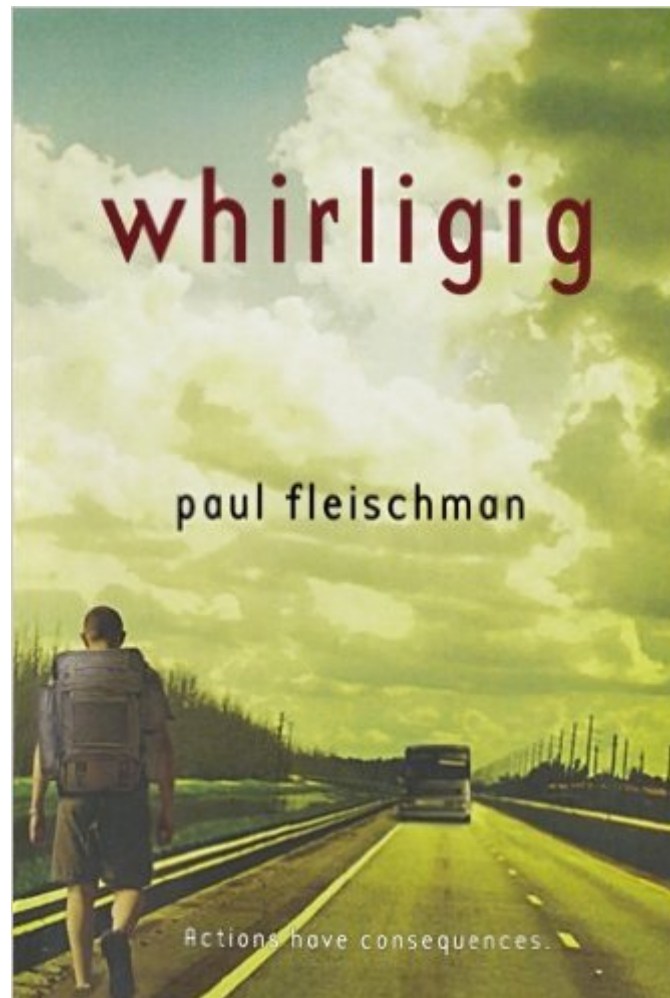


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# Whirligig



## Synopsis

With a family always on the move, popularity and the ability to fit in quickly are vital to Brent Bishop's high school survival. When he blows his chances with the girl of his dreams in front of everyone, he's devastated. Brent tries to end it all in a fatal car crash, but instead he finds an unlikely beginning. He's sent on a journey of repentance—a cross-country trip building whirligigs. His wind toys are found by people in need: a Maine schoolgirl yearning for her first love, a Miami street-sweeper desperate for peace and quiet, a kid in Washington who just wants to play baseball, and a San Diego teenager dealing with loss. Brent's whirligigs bring hope to others, but will they be able to heal the wounds deep inside himself?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (October 12, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312629117

ISBN-13: 978-0312629113

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (163 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,641 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #18 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #44 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

"We can never know all the consequences of our acts." What a statement! These consequences can be good or bad--it all depends on the direction we choose throughout our lives. Through a tragic accident, Brent Bishop, found these consequences to be an unwanted invitation to the realities of life. Although Whiligig has a heavy lesson for us all, you will find it to be an enjoyable read. It is fast paced and allows you to look at the effects of one decision and how it changes the lives of many different people. Brent Bishop's family has moved to Chicago because of his father's new job. With

his father's increase in salary, Brent is able to go to a private school for the first time. But his new high school does not welcome Brent like he had hoped for. He found himself playing the all-to-familiar game of trying to fit in with the popular crowd. One night at a party, Brent finds that fitting in with the popular crowd leaves him with the feeling of being rejected. Brent's feelings of rejection take him on a journey which meets a tragic fate. It's through this tragedy that Brent is forced to find meaning in life. Brent finds forgiveness and a new hope for the future by traveling to the four corners of the country experimenting with his new skills in carpentry. Sometimes some of the most important lessons are learned through the expense of a tragedy. Paul Fleischman gives us a chance to reflect on how our decisions in life can change us in a split second. But even when we make bad decisions, there is always a lesson to be learned and our lives can move forward. Fleischman also shows us the harsh reality that our decisions not only affect us as an individual but the decision affects the people around us.

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