



*Normal People* by Sally Rooney

Reviewed by Caroline



Romance

(Ages 16 +) See TV Review from [Common Sense Media](#)

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

*Normal People* follows the complicated relationship between Connell and Marianne, two teenagers in Ireland. It begins in County Sligo, where the two attend the same secondary school. Marianne is intelligent, but an outcast, while Connell is one of the most popular boys in school. The two begin a relationship in secret, as Connell is afraid of how his friends, who bully Marianne, would treat him if they knew. The pair end their relationship before graduation, but reconnect in the autumn at Trinity College. Through the rest of the novel, the two experience love, loss, and loneliness while they navigate the beauty and pain of coming of age. *Normal People* showcases the complexity of human nature and how we grow and connect with the world around us as we seek meaning in our lives.

### **What drew you to this book?**

The setting of *Normal People* drew me to read it as I'm attending the same school as Connell and Marianne.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

N/A

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

*Normal People* is great for people who want to slow down and appreciate a novel. Sally Rooney omits quotation marks from the dialogue in the novel. At first I found this frustrating but it made me slow down and figure out what was dialogue and what was narration. This then made me read more closely and appreciate the novel more.

### **Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Yes, I think a lot of people, especially teens and young adults would like this book. Connell and Marianne are characters that many readers will be able to identify with. The book is timely and readers will appreciate pop culture references. Readers will likely find it easy to connect the side characters with people they have encountered in real life.

### **Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

N/A