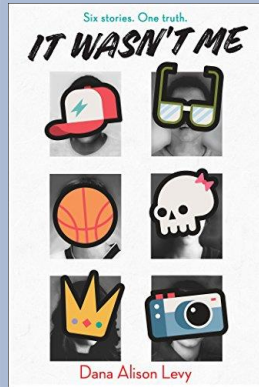


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction



It Wasn't Me.

Levy, Dana Alison (author).

Nov. 2018. 336p. Delacorte, \$16.99 ([9781524766436](#)); Delacorte, lib. ed., \$19.99 ([9781524766450](#)). Grades 5-8. [REVIEW](#). First published October 1, 2018 (*Booklist*).

Having to go to school over break stinks, but circumstantial evidence surrounding vandalism brings six unhappy seventh-graders together

for a justice circle facilitated by a favorite teacher. Like *The Breakfast Club*, each student carries a label by which they are automatically judged (the nerd, the princess, the jock, the weirdo, the screw-up), and this experimental gathering seeks to discover not only who destroyed Theo's photographs but why. Despite a slow start, the story becomes as much a whodunit as an examination of judging others based on assumptions. Each day, the five possible perps fill out a questionnaire, offering readers a glimpse into the characters' personalities and thin layers of clues. Meanwhile, the six learn about each other's backgrounds, passions, and commonalities, leading to surprising results. Told primarily via Theo's first-person narrative, readers join him as he discovers what happened and feel his ever-changing emotions about the events. Plenty of laughs and loads of interesting introspection help drive the story. Fans of Levy's Family Fletcher books will love that Jax is one of the suspects. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *It Wasn't Me*

- *The Writing on the Wall*
- *The Detention Club*