



# The Homework Machine

Dan Gutman

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*Dan Gutman*

## **The Homework Machine Dan Gutman DOING HOMEWORK BECOMES A THING OF THE PAST**

The unlikely foursome made up of a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker -- Brenton, Sam "Snick," Judy and Kelsey, respectively, -- are bound together by one very big secret: the homework machine. Because the machine, code named Belch, is doing their homework for them, they start spending a lot of time together, attracting a lot of attention. And attention is exactly what you don't want when you are keeping a secret.

Before long, members of the D Squad, as they are called at school are getting strange Instant Messages from a shady guy named Milner; their teacher, Miss Rasmussen, is calling private meetings with each of them and giving them pop tests that they are failing; and someone has leaked the possibility of a homework machine to the school newspaper. Just when the D Squad thinks things can't get any more out of control, Belch becomes much more powerful than they ever imagined. Soon the kids are in a race against their own creation, and the loser could end up in jail...or worse!

## **The Homework Machine Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2006 by Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers

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Author : Dan Gutman

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## **From Reader Review The Homework Machine for online ebook**

### **Vian Selvanathan says**

This book is about 4 kids named Brenton, Sam, Judy, and Kelsey. Brenton builds a homework machine and soon the other 3 kids find out about it. Brenton and Judy are really smart and they do not need the machine. Sam and Kelsey on the other hand really need the machine. The 4 kids become better friends and try to keep their homework machine from everyone else.

This is a good book and I would recommend it to anyone.

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### **Joey Oborne says**

I really liked this book, This book was about this boy named Brenton and his friends and Brenton made a machine that will do homework so all of his friends come over and use it but then they get in trouble because people found it out and now they can not use it.

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### **Christine (KizzieReads) says**

I read this to my son and he loved it. Dan Gutman is one of his favourite authors. The only thing I did not like in this book was the fact that a girl in grade 5 getting her bellybutton pierced. It works out in the end, but that was just not right. There is a reason there is an age requirement for that type of piercing and this is too young. Other than that, my son thought it was a great book and that's what matters to me.

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### **Cheryl says**

Has Dan Gutman ever been to Arizona? Does he know anyone in the US Air Force? Has he been to the Grand Canyon?

The answer to all of these questions has to be "NO!" or his book would be much more entertaining - and realistic.

The story is strange, the setting is unbelieveable, the characters are wooden stereotypes and their behavior is unlikely.

On a positive note: my children liked the book.

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### **Y says**

I love this book so much.... Finally got it again and enjoyed it just as much as I did the first (and second, and third...) time. Such a cute read for teens.

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### **Blake says**

This has 4 main character Sam Kelsy Judy and Brenton. Brenton is super smart. He creates a homework machine to do his homework for him. Sam says he does not believe that it will work. So Sam Kelsy and Judy come over after school that day to see if it's real. It worked!!! It had his handwriting and all the answers were correct on his piece of paper. So Sam, Kelsy and Judy decided they want to do it as well. But Brenton's mom does not know what is happening because Brenton never has anybody over. And they go there every day. A boy named John sees this and he is wondering what was happening. This book was 4 stars because it was not so exiting the whole time.

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### **Jac says**

This book was a good one that I'd recommend for kids ages 10-12. 'The Homework Machine' by Dan Gutman takes you on a sort of sci-fi adventure, when Sam, Brenton, Judy, and Kelsy find out that Brenton has invented a homework machine they nickname Belch. You see Brenton was different from the day he was born, he never cried as a baby, and wrote his first piece of music when he was six. He also never seemed to have friends. Then Brenton lets his little secret slip and tells Sam about the homework machine. If you want to find out what happens to them (and Belch) you'll have to read 'The Homework Machine' by Dan Gutman.

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### **Noah9kp says**

Four kids all have a last name that begins with a D so they are called the D Squad. One of the D Squad members, Brenton says he has a homework machine and so all the squad members go over to his house and use the homework machine. Can they keep their secret? Or will someone find out?

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### **Adam Nielson says**

The Homework Machine is a book that I enjoyed very much.

In The Homework Machine, a boy named Brendon invented a machine that does people's homework. The machine got the nickname "Belch." Inventing the machine wasn't exactly cheating for Brendon, because he was already a genius and got excellent grades. He invented the machine to create spare time for himself. His teacher did table assignments by last name, so he and three other kids whose last names started with D (nicknamed "the D squad") specifically Sam Dawkins "Snik," Brendon Damagatchi, Kelsey Donnelly, and Judy Douglas, started using the machine. After a while, their teacher got suspicious about their grades.

Other characters are important to the book too. A man named Milner started emailing Kelsey, and he became a mysterious element in the book. There was also a boy named Ronnie that is mean to the D squad. He had a suspicion that they were cheaters.

This book has big plot twists, but I don't want to reveal what they are. It reminds me of myself because I

always have wanted to have a machine to do my homework for me.

Part of this book reminded me of a nonfiction book called “The Tipping Point” that my mom told me about. In it, the author Malcolm Gladwell talks about people who make big things happen, like people who start trends. Brendon reminds me of that because one time he got everyone in the nation to wear red socks to school.

I want to recommend the book to anybody who has ever disliked homework.

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### **Porter says**

I really like the format of the book its something that I personally I have never read before I thought it was a really awesome book and I would recommend to people who hate homework. I also thought that this book was really different because of the format it isn't verse but it isn't just regular either its more of an interview in a book telling the story

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### **Samantha says**

The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman is about four 5th graders with one thing in common; a big secret. Brenton is a genius and has invented, programmed and used a homework machine. When he spills the beans to the other kids at his table, he doesn't know what he has gotten himself into. With the police, parents, and a stalker involved, this could end up much more than a great idea.

This is a great book and I would recommend it to 4th and 5-6th graders. It is funny and exiting. I didn't want to put it down. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I did.

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### **Steph Su says**

I thought this book was just okay, in that it dragged on for me by the middle and all the way through to the end. But we had some pretty good discussions on this book for my EL410 class. Of course the kids were all wondering about how, exactly, Brenton created such a machine, but there was also lots of discussion about the 4 students' similarities, differences, and growth over the course of the book, and there was even some discussion about chess vs. war! So this was one of those cases where I didn't really enjoy it because I wasn't the target audience, but the target audience did like it, and even clamored to read the sequel.

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### **NoyNoy says**

This is a story about one group of kid; which there was two kids that was genius\_Brenton and Judy. But there were two more kids in the group ( Other are fine or bad) .  
that is not that smart. How would they get from the problem?

## THE HOMEWORK MACHINE!

(I read it while I read other book to look do it connect)

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### Reggie Overton says

Most every child dreams of the day when their is no more homework, and this book explores that fantasy and the age old wise tale of "be careful what you wish for." We are introduced to an array of students that fit just about every norm you may find in the average classroom, such as the class clown, geek, teachers pet, or slacker. These children create a machine named Belch that does their homework for them, but things spiral out of control and serious consequences are threatening to materialize if they don't regain power over their risky creation. The story is fun and colorful and I would recommend it to just about any child who wondered how cool it may be not have the worry of homework and get effortless A's.

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### Kelly says

Reading level: 4.8

Interest level: 4 - 6

Themes to be aware of: Divorce, death of a parent, "going out" (i.e. dating) in fifth grade, cheating, honesty, friendship

From School Library Journal:

Gr 4-6-Fifth-grader Brenton is a computer genius, but the other three members of his work group think he's a nerd. So, when he tells them that he has invented a machine that does homework, they taunt him until he agrees to demonstrate. The machine actually works, and Kelsey, Sam, and Judy convince him to let them use it. At first, they are delighted with their freedom, but things quickly get out of hand. Their teacher is suspicious of the suddenly errorless work, and other friends resent the time that they spend together. The dynamics within the group are stressful as well. Judy, a talented student, feels guilty about cheating, but is pressured to excel. Kelsey is concerned that her friends will shun her for associating with "nerds," but her improved grades earn privileges at home. Wisecracking Sam makes fun of Brenton but needs his help in playing chess by mail with his dad, who is serving in Iraq. The children gradually begin to bond, especially after Sam's father is killed in combat. Eventually, their secret causes conflict with the law. The story is told entirely through short excerpts from police interviews. This device shows the developing relationships through the kids' own observations. There are touches of humor in the way the four classmates talk about themselves and one another. Ominous hints about the legal trouble maintain tension throughout the story, but its exact nature isn't revealed until near the end. A dramatic and thought-provoking story with a strong message about honesty and friendship.-Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

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### **Cam Vincent says**

I didn't like this book because to me I felt like there wasn't much of a plot to the story and it doesn't make any since at all. So in the third grade me and my friend Alex read the homework machine because we thought it would be good and the story had no dialogue no plot and no conclusion so after we read and rated it re rate it with 2 stars. I wouldn't recommend this book to you.

Sincerely,  
Cameron

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### **Laura says**

This book was very unique and enjoyable to read. I think how the author put the book in a interview style was very creative. It worked out because they were getting interviewed while telling the whole story at the same time. I liked how two of the characters were kind of smarty pants and the others kind of just went with the flow. The story is great and the characters are too. I liked it maybe you will too.

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### **Elizabeth (NC) says**

This is good book that would pair well with Andrew Clement's The Report Card for fourth or fifth graders.

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### **Alice Cai says**

4.25\*

**This book was pretty weird and funny and the story shifts perspectives between a few different characters including the 4 main ones who use the homework machine.** They insert the homework into a scanner and then a printer prints out their completed homework (in their own handwriting). There's some weird stuff with a stalker and the machine near the ending. The story isn't so much about the hw machine as it's about the effect the machine has of the characters lives.

The 4 main characters are Sam, Judy, Brenton and Kelsey.

#### **Quotes from Sam:**

"Thomas Edison went to school for four months. He never did any homework, and look how he turned out."

"There's a name for working without getting paid. It's called slavery, and it was banned during the Civil War. If kids are forced to do homework, they should be paid for it."

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## **Meixiupan says**

This book was about these kids that had a same last name so they name them the "D squad".There was a kid in the D squad that invented a homework machine and it was Brenton.He didn't like doing homework nor did the other members of the D squad so they invented a homework machine.After a while the teachers found out that they invented a homework machine and it was on the school newspaper.They went to the principal's office and talked for a bit.They didn't get in trouble.A few days later they threw the homework machine out in a hole that was really deep.It was the Grand Canyon hole.They also cleared out all the information.It was because they thought that they would get caught by somebody.But they didn't

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