



## Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

By Gary D. Schmidt

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It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. Despite his father's-and the town's-disapproval of their friendship, Turner spends time with Lizzie, and it opens up a whole new world to him, filled with the mystery and wonder of Maine's rocky coast. The two soon discover that the town elders, along with Turner's father, want to force the people to leave Lizzie's island so that Phippsburg can start a lucrative tourist trade there. Turner gets caught up in a spiral of disasters that alter his life-but also lead him to new levels of acceptance and maturity. This sensitively written historical novel, based on the true story of a community's destruction, highlights a unique friendship during a time of change. Author's note.

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## **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** By Gary D. Schmidt Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9-From the sad and shameful actual destruction of an island community in 1912, Schmidt weaves an evocative novel. When Turner Buckminster arrives in Phippsburg, ME, it takes him only a few hours to start hating his new home. Friendless and feeling the burden of being the new preacher's son, the 13-year-old is miserable until he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, the first African American he has ever met and a resident of Malaga Island, an impoverished community settled by freed or possibly escaped slaves. Despite his father's and the town's stern disapproval, Turner spends time with Lizzie, learning the wonders of the Maine coast. For some minor infraction, Turner's father makes the boy visit elderly Mrs. Cobb, reading to her and playing the organ. Lizzie joins him, and this unlikely threesome takes comfort in the music. The racist town elders, trying to attract a lucrative tourist trade, decide to destroy the shacks on Malaga and to remove the community, including 60 graves in their cemetery. The residents are sent to the Home for the Feeble-Minded in Pownal. When Mrs. Cobb dies and leaves her house to Turner, he sets off to bring Lizzie home, only to find that she died shortly after arriving at the institution. Turner stands up to the racism of the town. His father, finally proud of him, stands with him—a position that results in the reverend's death. Although the story is hauntingly sad, there is much humor, too. Schmidt's writing is infused with feeling and rich in imagery. With fully developed, memorable characters and a fascinating, little-known piece of history, this novel will leave a powerful impression on readers.

*Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME*

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 7-12. Turner, the rigid minister's son, doesn't fit in when his family moves from Boston to the small town of Phippsburg on the coast of Maine in 1912. It's not only that Maine baseball is different from the game he knows; he's just plain miserable. Then he makes friends with a smart, lively young teen, Lizzie Griffin, living in a small, impoverished community founded by former slaves on nearby Malaga Island. When the town elders drive Lizzie's people off the island, Turner stands up for them, but he can do nothing. Lizzie eventually dies in an insane asylum. The novel may be too long and detailed for some readers, with every plot strand and character accounted for. But the removal of the Malaga community really happened, and Schmidt weaves that history into a powerful tale of friendship and coming-of-age, adding a lyrical sense of the coastal landscape. Characters are drawn without reverence in this haunting combination of fact and fiction that has a powerful and tragic climax. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

"Gloriously figurative language...brilliantly evokes both time and place...both beautiful and emotionally honest, both funny and piercingly sad." Kirkus Reviews, Starred

"a powerful tale of friendship and coming-of-age...haunting combination of fact and fiction has a powerful and tragic climax." Booklist, ALA, Starred Review

"an evocative novel...with fully developed, memorable characters...fascinating, little-known piece of history...will leave a powerful impression on readers." School Library Journal, Starred

"Schmidt fictionalizes a true event... vividly realized...fully credible...subtly drawn." THE BULLETIN OF

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

"historical incident ignites a rich novel...a drama that examines the best and worst of humanity." HORN  
BOOK Horn Book

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Rohan:**

The book *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like wide open and read a reserve *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this publication?

#### **Susan Martinez:**

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#### **Jay Klein:**

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#### **Shawn Clay:**

The actual book *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. This

articles author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this book.

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