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# Big Mouth



## Synopsis

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD SHERMIE THUFF is a Big Guy with a Big Dream – to become the most famous competitive eater in the world. But every big dream has to start somewhere, and Shermie’s determined to start his in the spotlight. If he can take first place in Nathan’s World Famous International hot dog eating competition, fame will be his. The catch? The current record is 53-1/2 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes. Shermie’s personal best? Seven. Clearly, Shermie has some training to do. . . . Only, no matter how hard he tries, he can’t get past nine measly wieners. Then, just when Shermie’s about to crack under the pressure, he gets his biggest shake-up of all: news that the 53-1/2 record holder is an itty-bitty, 130-pound guy. So Shermie vows to lose his restrictive Fat Belt the only way he knows how – with the help of Gardo, a weight-cutting fanatic determined to turn Big Shermie into a lean, mean eating-machine. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (June 10, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385733941

ISBN-13: 978-0385733946

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.2 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,505,551 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight](#) #5464 in [Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#) #9192 in [Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Reversal, what 14-year-old Sherman Thuff calls vomiting, plays a major role in this attenuated story about a boy who plans to become the fastest, richest, most famous competitive eater in the

world— an ambition born of watching The Glutton Bowl on TV. Setting his sights on a July 4th hot-dog eating contest, Shermie enlists his friends as trainers, then engages in a cycle of gorging and reversals that come in for prodigiously detailed descriptions. Conveniently, Shermie's science teacher assigns an experiment that familiarizes him with butyric acid, which smells like vomit. Puke. Throw-up, a passage typical of the sensibility at work. Other ham-handed scenes at Del Heiny Junior High, named for the ketchup manufacturer that serves as its corporate sponsor, revolve around attacks by anonymous Mustard Taggers. Halverson (Honk if You Hate Me) tries to build up the mystery of who's behind the mustard revolt but the absurdity of this ketchup vs. mustard feud fizzles any real tension. By the time she rolls around to her point, that boys suffer from eating disorders, too, the audience may have checked out. Ages 10— œp. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Grade 7 Up— •By day, chunky 14-year-old Shermie Thuff works in his grandfather's ice-cream parlor, but at night he dreams of reaching competitive-eating stardom. Only thing is, he can't handle more than 10 hot dogs before he barfs, literally. To break the record, he deduces he's got to lose weight fast, so he enlists his friend Gardo, a member of the school wrestling team, to help him drop the pounds. The story is a subtle cautionary oddity that's probably too long for its own good, and has a niche audience, particularly with the competitive-eating theme. On a broader scale, it's a story of a young sportsman with an eating disorder, which is a rare find in teen fiction. The only trouble is that the plot is probably much too winding to reach this audience, and, instead, will likely find its place among a much younger crowd, who may or may not be patient enough to sit through Shermie's huffing-and-puffing inner dialogue. The gross-out factor promises plenty of puke, however, and that may be enough in itself to hook readers.— Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

An excellent depiction of character. Shermie is so centered on his ambition of becoming a competitive eater, he does not see the problem he is developing. I am a middle school teacher, and I find this novel to be a very real depiction of the troubles teens face in our society wanting glamour above all things, blinding themselves to the dangers. Shermie's absent parents also depict a growing problem in our society in which parents are becoming too self involved and not paying attention to their children's lives. I would recommend this book to all of my students.

Book excessively descriptive and while the subject was interesting, the book could have been about fifty pages shorter or more.

This book is a fun read for the tween set. Halvorsen does a great job of creating relateable characters that are fun to read. And it is really gross at times, which is awesome!

I bought this book for my 12 year old granddaughter but before I gave it to her I thought I would skim through it myself. Well, Shermie's story grabbed me immediately and I read the whole thing - often gagging at some of the highly descriptive and gross "training" scenes. I liked the characters, the story, the writing style and the several subtle messages about how to tackle some of the problems we all face growing up. And, it cracked me up - laughing out loud - several times, always a nice surprise in a book. Because of "Big Mouth" we made a point of watching the National Hot Dog Eating Contest on TV - gagging all the way through - just watching and thinking about Shermie.

Bought this book for a teenage relative and we read it, together. We both enjoyed the story of Shermie and his big dreams. We also learned quite a lot about the kind of "training" that goes in to eating contests. This book was highly informative, humorous and well written. Definitely a great read for the young (and young at heart!)

This is an tale of how a young person deals with the weighty pressures of everyday life. Not only is the story amusing, it also emphasizes the need to set goals and the battles sometimes required to reach them. Great swift read for both girls and boys.

This is a captivating, funny story. But also in a delicate and humorous non-offending way tackles the child overweight issue. It was also very imformative on how one prepares for an eating contest. I had no idea! Also teaches accept people for who they are and their differences. Great book!

i am! this book kept me laughing and groaning in disgust. the plot is grea.BUY THIS BOOK. YOU'LL LOVE IT^\_^!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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