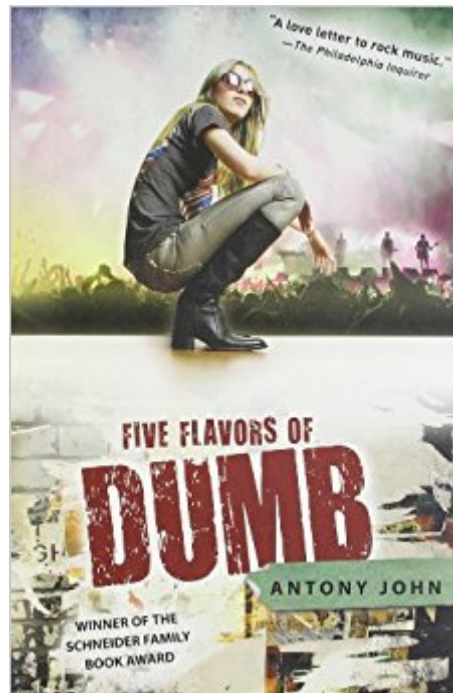




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# Five Flavors Of Dumb



## Synopsis

Piper is a seventeen-year-old high school senior, and she's just been challenged to get her school's super-popular rock band, Dumb, a paying gig. The catch? Piper is deaf. Can she manage a band with five wildly different musicians, nurture a budding romance, and discover her own inner rock star, though she can't hear Dumb's music?"Complex characterizations, authentic dialogue and realistic ups-and-downs give this title chart-topping potential." - Kirkus Reviews, starred review"I loved it and laughed out loud. Hilarious and so smart. Dumb proves that everyone, no matter what, deserves to be heard." - Catherine Gilbert Murdock, author of Dairy Queen

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0890 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #642,049 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—When in a rush of uncommon bravado high school senior Piper offers to manage Dumb, her school's most popular student rock band, her family thinks it must be a joke. A retiring student and member of the chess team, Piper is neither the stereotypical band manager nor a typical teen: she is profoundly hearing impaired. After she discovers that her parents have spent the majority of her college money to treat her infant sister's deafness with cochlear implants, Piper's quest to get Dumb a paying gig leads her to consider her managerial role as a potential source of income. John's novel is written with a reverence for popular music—particularly the work of

Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain—œand a respect for its ambitious teen characters. Although Piper's hearing is a characterizing detail that could have been used solely to add a type of politically incorrect and screwball humor to the story, her abilities are seen as assets: while lip reading allows her access to public conversation, she is not above using sign language to obscure her intentions. The parallel attention to Piper's hearing family and the strain her parents' decision to treat her sister with cochlear implants adds to the greater story and informs the novel's direction and ending in a satisfying way. Set in the Pacific Northwest, this rock-and-roll novel joins the ranks of Randy Powell's equally thoughtful *Tribute to Another Dead Rock Star* (Farrar, 2003) and Blake Nelson's *Rock Star Superstar* (Viking, 2004).—œAmy S. Pattee, Simmons College, Boston. (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"I loved it and laughed out loud. Hilarious and so smart. Dumb proves that everyone, no matter what, deserves to be heard." -Catherine Gilbert Murdoch, author of *Dairy Queen*

I learned about *Five Flavors of Dumb* when the ALA awards were being announced. *Five Flavors of Dumb* received the Schneider Family Book Award, and after looking it up on Goodreads I knew I had to read it. I started this Saturday night (1/29/11) and finished it early the following day. Antony John's writing style is easy to read and filled with wit and charm. I know I'll be reading more of his books! Many of my students are in band and/or choir, so I've read a number of books that fit with those students (i.e. *Dramarama* by E. Lockhart). Antony's book is a nice change of pace because it involves kids in their own band and playing instruments like the guitar and drums. I have quite a few guitar players in my classes, so I'm hoping this book will be a great fit. What I most enjoyed about this book is that nothing comes to easily for Piper; she really has to work and step up her game to get what she wants. Because she needs to break out of her shell, she also grows some confidence and looks past her deafness. It doesn't happen in a snap, but it's fun to watch her discover who she really is. The process also involves Piper's tense relationship with her family. Her dad won't/hasn't learned ASL, her mom is paying all her attention to her now-hearing baby sister, and her brother won't give her the time of day. Trying to work through that, while also trying to make *Dumb* hit it big throws some obstacles in her way. Thankfully, Piper is able to learn from it all without the book becoming cheesy. If you want to read a humorous, fun and heart-warming

book. It's mixed with plenty of rock, of course. Then I definitely suggest you pick up a copy of Antony John's *Five Flavors of Dumb*!

Well, that went by quickly... I accidentally finished this book way faster than I meant to because I was so hooked, I couldn't put it down. It was really the narrator's voice that drew me in. The plot was the kind of predictable, feel-good story where you kinda knew everything that was going to happen from page 1, but I didn't mind. It wasn't what the story was that pulled me in, it was how it was told. Piper's a fantastic character, and the supporting cast was pretty interesting as well. Also, I thought it was great how the book subtly wove in discussions around the character's deafness... it was a part of her, but it didn't define her.

**My Take** The book was great. It was fun, honest, and had some clever moments in the story that made me squeal! I could feel Piper's emotions from when she was dealing with the band and with her family. I could identify with Piper on some of the things she goes through when I was in high school. She is such a tough cookie who takes on such a challenge considering she's deaf. I liked that about her. Piper works hard and finds herself speaking up more than she has before. She also makes friends with some of the band members. This story also covers music and how can a high school band make it to getting known. I loved how the band has its up and downs in various events. It seemed to me it was all about self discovery for each character in this book which I loved. Each character realizes something and brings the whole story together. I loved how certain types of music is mentioned in the book and that Piper's dad joins in on the music scene just a bit. It gives you an idea how teens relate to music. I loved how Piper learns a bit of the music scene as well. Music had its way in this book for so many people. It made some relate to each other and some did not. There is a bit of love interest with Piper and another character called Ed which was cute. That all it seemed to me was cute. I liked how Ed finally tells Piper that he's crushing on her big time. It takes guts to tell someone that! It was a cute romance. If you are looking for something to read then this book is for you! Give it a shot. **Cover:** A **Story:** B

What an awesome book, the plot, the characters are perfect. I really enjoy the pace and plot development, not too fast, just fast enough to savour it. This book is told from the POV of Piper, who is an average teen, she has good grades at school, she is not popular but what set her apart from the crowd is that she is deaf, but being deaf does not prevent her from doing what she has to do, I mean she is the manager of a rock band! and a good one. This girl has a lot of attitude, which is

why I really liked her. Fortunately there is not much drama revolving her condition, of course this brings some extra problems but it does add to the richness of the plot. There are other loving characters, like her brother Finn, who lives under her older sister shadow but has a golden heart; exentric Baz, unfriendly Tash and beautiful Kallie. I recommend this book is refreshing among the YA topics, have a lot of funny moments and just the right amount of drama. So, I am looking forward to read more from this author, so much that I just bought two more books from him!!!!

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