



## TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

### *Wishtree* By Katherine Applegate Reviewed by Yovanka Nunez

**Name:** Yovanka Nunez

**Grade:** 8

**Book Title:** Wishtree

**Author:** Katherine Applegate

**Number of Pages:** 211

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 5/5

#### **Character List:**

- **Samar-** Samar is a Muslim girl who moved into the neighborhood in January. She lives in a tiny blue house which Red, the tree, shades. At night, she goes and sits near Red's trunk once her parents go to sleep, to relax. Then, once she is calm, all the animals come and join her. One thing about Samar is that she is very shy, and it is hard for her to make new friends because of her religion.
- **Red-** Red is a northern red oak tree, known as a *Quercus rubra*, who is "special" because she is responsible for Wishing Day. Wishing Day takes place on May 1st, and people hang their wishes on Red, which represent a dream or a desire that the people want to wish for. Red has a secret that no human is aware of - only her animal friends know what it is.
- **Bongo-** Bongo is a crow who has known Red since the day she was born. Bongo and Red are best pals who will never keep a secret from each other. Bongo is known as being too pessimistic and negative for being such a little bird. Bongo loves to ask people for chips and even takes peoples' lunch boxes away when they are not paying attention.
- **Stephen-** Stephen is the kid who lives right next door to Samar. He lives in the little green house next to the blue house. Stephen never liked Samar because his parents dislike her parents. When Stephen saw Samar he only waved his head as a hello, rather than speaking. Until one day, when he changed his attitude about life and about Samar.
- **Francesca-** Francesca is the great granddaughter of Maeve who started the Wishing Tree tradition, but, she does not like the tree, because of how annoying it is to her. Francesca owns the two little houses, the blue and green one; her parents bought them and painted them in order to rent them. Francesca does not like anyone and she especially hates children.

#### **Review:**

Red is a Northern Red Oak tree. Red has been alive for a century or even more – who knows? One day, Red notices a little girl who moves into the house that she shades. Little did Red know then that she would help Samar in her life. Samar, a sweet little shy girl, faces discrimination for being Muslim. How rude is that? Her next-door neighbor, Stephen, never even says hello to Samar. Someone must fix this problem, and can you guess who it is? It's Red, trying to come to the rescue! Red and her best pal Bongo try to make Samar and Stephen become friends, but will they ever become

friends? Then, a kid whom Red has never seen before, does something so horrible that it makes Francesca want to cut Red down. Francesca makes plans with tree cutters to cut Red down after the Wishing Day, since she never really liked it. Red must now do something quickly to give someone their wish before she is cut down. It's up to Samar and Stephen to save Red. What will happen next?

This book leaves you off your feet when you stop reading. The book is not for people who like action, but, it has everything else in it, from suspense to drama and many more genres. People who may not think they like this book may one day come to enjoy it. The author, Katherine Applegate, takes you on a ride through the mind of Red and what she wants to do before she dies. Red has many decisions to make, so follow her on a ride to make all of her and everyone else's wishes come true.