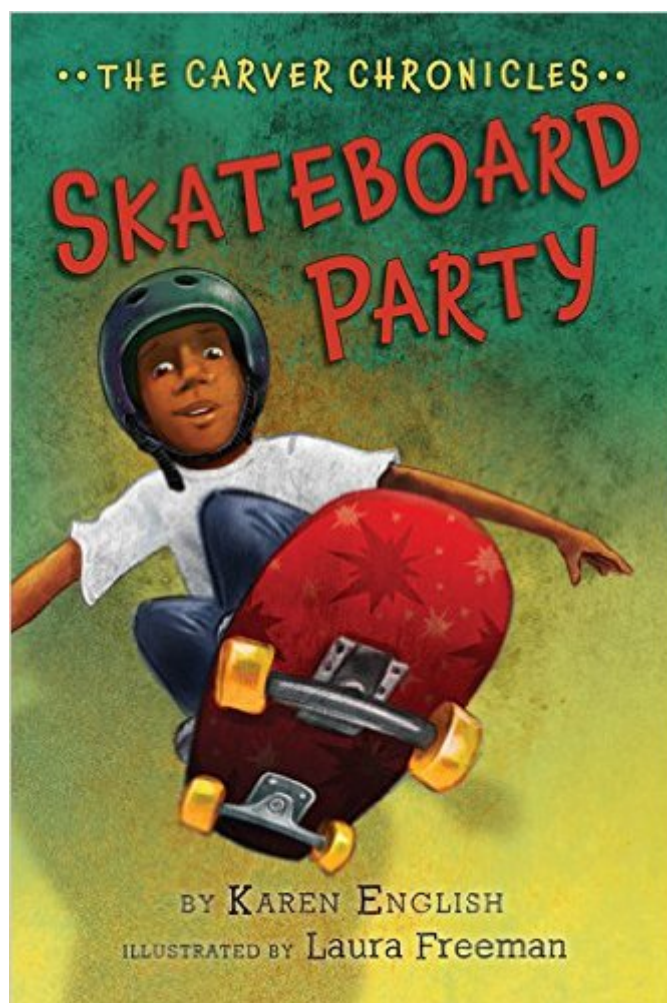


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# Skateboard Party: The Carver Chronicles, Book Two



## Synopsis

Richard can't wait to show off his flat-ground Ollies at a friend's birthday party at the skate park, but a note home from his teacher threatens to ruin his plans. He really meant to finish his assignment on howler monkeys, but he just got . . . distracted. If only he could focus on his schoolwork, he wouldn't get into this kind of trouble! Can Richard manage to put off getting the note signed (and facing the consequences) until after the party, or will the deception make things even worse? Nikki and Deja fans and their male peers are sure to recognize themselves and their classmates in this humorous school story.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Series: The Carver Chronicles

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544582268

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,278 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #120 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #200 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Skateboard Party: The Carver Chronicles, book 2 focuses on Richard, an urban boy of color attending Carver Elementary. He is a friend of Gavin, who was the story lead in book one. Richard is a distracted and distractible student, who is struggling with procrastination, as well as dealing with the consequence of poor choices, lack of studying, and procrastination. Cons:\* There are a number of poor attitudes spoken or thought by Richard. "He doesn't want a weekend of chores and thinking

about how he could do better....Who needs to think about that dumb note from Ms. Shelby-Ortiz when you're in the middle of having a great time on a Friday night?"\* There's a girl referred to as "fat Yolanda"\* Richard makes a lot of basic spelling mistakes in his journal entries\* He's more concerned with going to a skate party than in doing work or telling the truthPros:\* There are consequences for his actions - whether it is procrastination, not giving the note to his parents, not doing his work. There are real and consistent boundaries in place by parents and teachers.\* Richard should be a relatable character. English does a good job of voicing him.\* The relationship between Richard and his family (mom and dad plus two brothers) seems solid and believable. If I'd dropped soda on my bigger brother's head while he was sleeping, there would've been a take down, too.\* With application, Richard starts to improve in his school performance\* The teacher is interested and involved in achieving success\* The morals are clear to parents but are not beating kids over the head with the informationSo it sets up some really good opportunities for parents to talk through procrastination, considering consequences when making decisions, and ways to operate within "good behavior" boundaries.

This was a good book. I like that it shows how kids have to deal with the consequences of their actions. This is something we are dealing with with our three children so it was a good book to go into it. It could be good for a girl or a boy. It was an easy read. A few things bothered me - using the word fat and having some spelling mistakes in the journal, but overall a very good book. I enjoyed it.

Skateboard Party, otherwise known as book two of Karen English's The Carver Chronicles, follows Richard as he deals with the fact that he did not do a school project and now has to worry about the consequences. Richard is a third grader and this book feels like it's aimed at about that age group in terms of reading level. English's prose is pretty basic at times but throws in some good vocabulary words on purpose to spice up the reading. There is a lesson to be learned for Richard and it's one that a lot of students have to find out on their own. It's better to do your work and get it done on time rather than put it off and get in trouble for not doing it later. If he doesn't ace his spelling test and get his overdue project finished, Richard doesn't get the chance to show off his new skateboard trick at a birthday party. Whereas the first volume in this series followed Gavin, Richard's friend, the focus is all on Richard in this book and I feel he is the more interesting character. To find out about Gavin you'll have to read Dog Days, the first book, but you don't need to. They compliment but do not require each other which is good. It means that children who like this book have something else they can pick up and not have to worry about needing more information. What this book does well in

particular is build Richard's story in a sensible plot line, outline the consequences, and show how his decisions and behavior change as a result. Sometimes it feels a little less than exciting and some of the background characters feel a bit shoehorned in, but this is a good book for the age group and certainly one that has nothing objectionable. Note: ARC received via Vine program in exchange for an honest review.

I've never heard of this series but chose the second book from "The Carver Chronicles," a collection of books featuring kids from Carver Elementary. Reading book #1 is not required to understand this book. "Skateboard Party" is about a 3rd grader named Richard who procrastinates on a homework and gets into deeper trouble as he puts off what he has to do. How he got into his mess was surprisingly enlightening to me because as someone who was a good student and did all the work on-time, I wasn't aware of all the steps that a student or child who has issues completing assignments went through - there is a method to that madness, hah! All the characters were believable, and this short book manages to capture the chaos and the togetherness of family nicely. Both Richard's parents and his teacher stress the importance of consequences for not doing what he was supposed to do. By the end, Richard gets what he has to do and is motivated, with everything working out. It's an easy chapter book for newly independent readers. Initially, I was turned off by how irresponsibly Richard behaved, but that's how he had to be portrayed since the book is about accountability and honesty. No scary, offensive scenes, except there's a student named Yolanda who is referred to as "Fat Yolanda," though no one actually calls her that. I suppose that's how some kids think, but without malice because they're just being factual. Just know that there's a quick mention of a character, "Fat Yolanda."

My boys who are 7 and 9 really liked this book. They thought it was funny and cool. We haven't read the first book in this series but now they definitely want to check it out. The book grabbed their attention and they really wanted to keep reading.

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