

by Erin

Over a period of time, my L.A. class read Paul Fleischman's novel *Whirligig*. It was a good book, but a bit sad for my taste. I'm going to be writing about how the main character, Brent Bishop, grew and changed during the book.

In the beginning of the book, Brent is irresponsible and thinks only about himself (at least in my opinion). He tried obsessively to fit in and ended up doing some things that, in hindsight, were weird. For instance, he goes to a "COOL GUYS" party without being invited and is obsessively stalking this girl Brianna. This shows that he is really rude. He's had a lot of liquor to drink at the party, which contributes to depression, tries to kill himself, and ends up killing someone else instead.

After Brent has killed Lea, her mom (Mrs. Zamara) asks Brent to make whirligigs with her daughter's face on them and put them in the four corners of the U.S.A. He agrees. On the way, he realizes he has something to offer the world and forgives himself.

At the end, Brent was a different person. He became less self-centered and selfish. He learned to open up more and he learned who to trust. While traveling he learned to play the harmonica, and that helped him, too. He had made friends and become a better person.

I learned that growth and change are good things. Variety is the spice of life, so without change, everything would be boring. Growth is good, too. I mean, who likes being short?