

by Sam

Paul Fleischman's novel *Whirligig* is about a 17-year-old boy named Brent. Brent's family moves to new places a lot, so Brent is used to being a sophomore in a completely new town or even state. In the book, Brent makes some good things, and some terrible things happen. I'm going to write about Brent's good and bad actions throughout the book.

When Brent moves just outside Chicago, he meets a guy his age in school, and they soon become friends. When Brent's friend is invited to a party, he calls Brent to give him a ride, and brings Brent to the party as well. At the party is a lot of scotch, whiskey, brandy, and other liquors. Brent gets a bottle of scotch and you guessed it, got drunk. While he's drunk he follows a girl he likes who lets him down hard by shouting, "Get off me! You're like a leach or something clinging all over me!" Alcohol makes people depressed when sad already [Brent's friend forgot to tell him about the dress code], and Brent is also put down by the person who's hosting the party. Brent then storms off to his car and drives off without his friend, saying to himself, "He can get his own damn ride!" Brent later tries to take his own life by letting go of the wheel and drifting into the other lanes. The crash knocks Brent unconscious. When Brent wakes up he is being loaded into an ambulance, and is told he is okay but he killed a young woman named Lea.

After killing Lea, Lea's parents want to meet with him, and the meeting leads to him traveling the U.S. to set up whirligigs in memory of Lea. Brent's parents say it's an insane task, but Brent accepts the wishes of Lea's parents, and ends up traveling the U.S. to put up whirligigs in memory of Lea. Soon Brent is on an old Greyhound bus on his way to Maine to put up the first whirligig.

Brent is then going to go to Miami, San Diego, and Washington.

After discussing actions and consequences with the class and learning about it in the book, I know that not all actions are good but not all consequences are bad. You should always be careful of your actions and think about the consequences that will follow. If you think your actions and consequences are bad, then don't do it; do something else, and as Brent can tell you, don't drink and drive.