

by Zach R.

In *Whirligig* Brent Bishop gets drunk and embarrassed at a party. Being whiny, he decides to kill himself and causes a wreck. He of course is fine but a girl (Lea) driving that he hit died in the crash. As a retribution, the mother of Lea tells about a whirligig Lea loved and says he must travel the country and make a whirligig at the four corners of the U.S. During this time he grows and changes a lot for the better.

In the beginning, Brent was playing video games, listening to the radio, and talking to the readers about how much he moves because of his dad's job. He goes to pick up his "friend" and the friend turns out to be annoying. When they get to the party, his friend forgot about a dress code. The host Chad comes up and is a jerk. Brent gets rejected, is bullied, and tries to kill himself.

In the chapter "The Afterlife," he meets a biker from Canada who tells him all this stuff that helps him feel better, and he builds his first whirligig. Next he goes to San Diego and meets a woman who gives him a flier about a hostel. The register guy helps him fake being Canadian to get in. He meets Emil, a German guy who also helps him move on and gives him a book to read while traveling. He learns to play the harmonica and gets applause.

In Florida a maid leaves a note about Jesus that touches him. He meets a nice waitress. Brent also meets a group of kids while making a whirligig. When he's finished he lets a kid use some wood for helping him. The kid makes a rough whirligig, and the chapter ends.

At the end of the book, in the chapter, "Everybody Swing," he changes a lot. He meets a painter who teaches him some and becomes the only person he tells about what he did. She still is nice

and he knows he can move on. He goes to a dance and has fun for once in the book.

This book was a different choice from what I normally read, and I have to say I didn't like it at the start. I dislike his idea of killing himself after one bad party. But it did do well in the story. The end could've been better because of going around the country, or at least that corner.