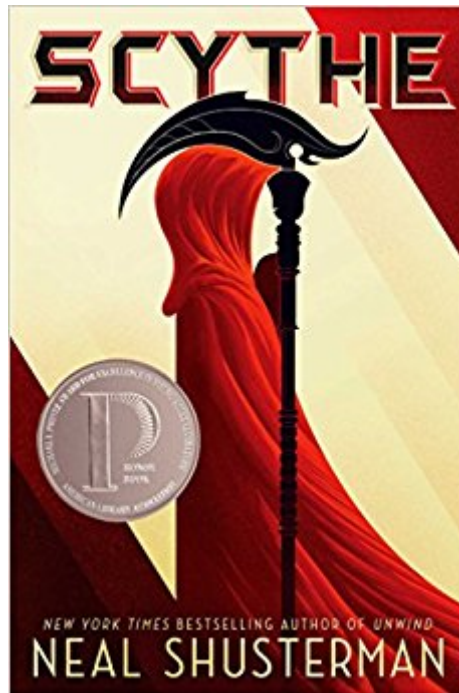




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# Scythe (Arc Of A Scythe)



## Synopsis

Two teens must learn the art of killing • in this Printz Honor-winning book, the first in a chilling new series from Neal Shusterman, author of the New York Times bestselling *Unwind* dystology. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the art of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. *Scythe* is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award-winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Series: Arc of a Scythe (Book 1)

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (November 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442472421

ISBN-13: 978-1442472426

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 175 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,400 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #18 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #27 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Science Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up "In a world in which humanity has conquered death (no aging, no disease, no poverty, no war), ruled by the Thunderhead, an omniscient evolution of today's cloud, Scythes are the only ones who are allowed to take a human life. They are considered to be the best humanity has to offer, and they roam the world "gleaning" people in order to keep the population in check. Scythes are treated

like royalty and feared. The last thing Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch want is to become Scythes, but when they are chosen by Scythe Faraday to become his apprentices, they are thrown into a life in which they need to master the art of death. They prove to be apt pupils, but when Scythe Faraday mysteriously gleans himself and Citra and Rowan are apprenticed to two other fearsome Scythes, they will have to put their skills to the test against each other. Intertwined with the fascinating concept of humanity conquering death and the idea of Scythes is the prospect that perhaps this is not the ideal world in which to live. Humanity has perfected itself "so what does that leave it to accomplish? Shusterman starts off this series in dramatic fashion as he creates an engrossing world that pulls readers in and refuses to let them go. VERDICT A truly astounding, unputdownable read and a fast-paced beginning to an excellent sci-fi series. A must-have." Tyler Hixson, School Library Journal

"Elegant and elegiac, brooding but imbued with gallows humor, Shusterman's dark tale thrusts realistic, likeable teens into a surreal situation and raises deep philosophic questions. A thoughtful and thrilling story of life, death, and meaning." (Kirkus Reviews)"Shusterman is no stranger to pushing boundaries. Scythe owes an obvious debt to *Unwind* (2007) and its sequels, and this succeeds as a sort of shadow companion to Patrick Ness's *Chaos Walking* trilogy: instead of exploring the ways in which men are monsters, this deals in what happens to men when there are no monsters. When our reach does not exceed our grasp, when comfort is more easily obtained than struggle, when our essential humanity doesn't burn out but becomes slowly irrelevant, what becomes of us? Readers will find many things in these pages. Answers to such unsettling questions will not be among them." (Maggie Reagan Booklist, STARRED REVIEW) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Read the whole thing the day it came out- the ending was a prolonged, and surprisingly satisfying, finale. It reminded of the *Unwind* world another 200 years or so in the future. Humanity no longer has to steal body parts from children to prolong life because nannites repair all damage and prevent disease. A class of Reapers who go through Jedi like training has arisen because there is no longer any natural death, but like all powerful secretive subgroups, some of them increasingly begin to abuse their power.

I don't usually read this kind of science fiction futuristic type book. I read it because my 12 year old granddaughter was reading it and telling me about the story line. I thought the book was very well

written; loved the journal entries introducing each chapter. My only concern is that I find it very unfit content wise for "young adults" - does that mean teenagers? If it is meant to include young teenagers the content is too bloody, violent and brutal. An adult might find it interesting, and a real page turner as far as story line, but I find it hard to believe young adults should be reading this type of continuously violent story content.

This was one of those books that I did not want to end and read slower and slower as I needed the end of the book I did not want to know the end of the mystery because I cared for both Citra and Rowan. Just like in the Unwind series, Shusterman comes up with such interesting ideas for the future of society! Don't think we're quite ready for this one but I wouldn't mind having some of those pain nanites for my headache tonight! In all seriousness, loved this book and can't wait to read the next one from Shusterman!

I absolutely adore this book! It is a fresh take on the classic dystopia genre, where the society itself is actually fully functional. It is the one profession that the society can not control that is crumbling. The book is a rollercoaster of plot twists and emotions, while still managing to keep the reader captivated and avoiding the cliches found in most YA novels. The book provides entertainment, while also offering philosophy on what makes humanity human and beautiful. One of my favorites. I fully recommend to everyone.

I adored this whole book. It made me think real hard about life and death and how it would be to live in this world that Shusterman has created. It's quite scary what can happen when the wrong person is chosen to glean the living, they are essentially murderers, and no one should like doing that! Even if it is their job and there is reason behind it. Just read the book. The characters are really likable and you just cannot put this book down. Beautifully written. This book is still on my mind after almost a week of finishing it. Yes, it's THAT good!

What a fascinating book. I have not been so drawn into a book in a long time, but I could not put this one down. It is a surreal tale of a utopian society. What amazes me is not just the compelling nature of the story, but the way that it effortlessly moves you through itself. Yet, it remains cohesive. It does not use cheap tricks. It did not disappoint.

The author uses language a little above my personal English but word smart helped with that

(thanks Kindle fire!) But this book was an amazing read. I was worried I was not going to like the ending based on the direction I thought the book was going but I was so happy to be wrong. I can honestly say this book was great from start to finish

I love just about everything Shusterman has written. His imagination is wild but very logical. This book did not disappoint and I cannot wait for the second book to come out. I read it all within three days. I paid full price, received no discount and this is my honest feedback.

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