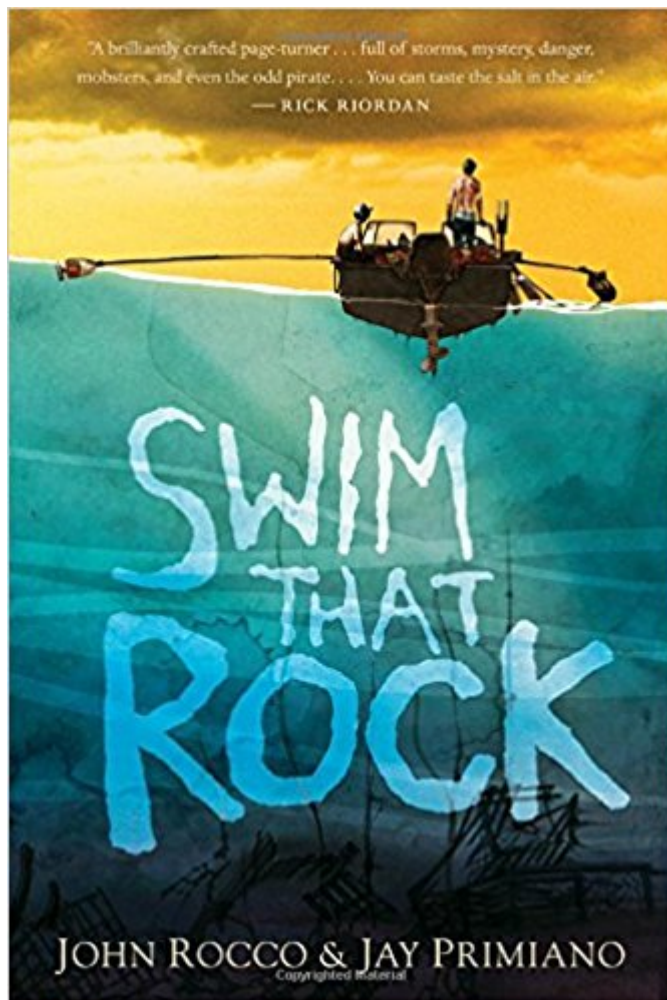




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Swim That Rock



Synopsis

A young working-class teen fights to save his family's diner after his father is lost in a fishing-boat accident. When his dad goes missing in a fishing-boat accident, fourteen-year-old Jake refuses to think he may have lost his father forever. But suddenly, nothing seems certain in Jake's future, and now his family's diner may be repossessed by loan sharks. In Narragansett Bay, scrabbling out a living as a quahogger isn't easy, but with the help of some local clammers, Jake is determined to work hard and earn enough money to ensure his family's security and save the diner in time. Told with cinematic suspense and a true compassion for the characters, *Swim That Rock* is a fast-paced coming-of-age story that beautifully and evocatively captures the essence of coastal Rhode Island life, the struggles of blue-collar family dynamics, and the dreams of one boy to come into his own.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up •After growing eight inches in only a year, 14-year-old Jake Cole has a knack for tripping over himself. Since his dad has gone missing-presumed dead in a fishing accident-it's not only Jake's body that feels out of control. If he and his mom can't come up with \$10,000 in two weeks, they will lose their diner on Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, and will be forced to move in with Jake's grandmother in Arizona. Determined not to leave his father behind, Jake takes matters

into his own hands, working any job he can get that will bring him closer to paying off his family's debt. During the day, this means quahogging with the local clammers. At night, Jake takes riskier jobs, working for a gritty and mysterious stranger known only as "Captain." On the water, Jake is anything but uncoordinated. He can bring in more quahogs than almost any clammer in the Bay, but will it be enough to save the diner? This fast-paced coming-of-age tale follows a predictable plotline that readers have seen before, but the rich imagery of life in a fishing town, combined with action that primarily revolves around intense quahogging expeditions, makes this a refreshingly unique read. The beginning feels harried, throwing readers into the middle of a confusing action sequence, but the authors soon find their rhythm. Although somewhat light on character development, this feel-good story illustrates the value of hard work and determination. —Liz Overberg, Darlington School, Rome, GA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Jake's dad is lost at sea, presumed dead. Unless Jake and his Valium-dulled mother can pay off a loan shark by the end of the month, they'll lose their café and be forced to leave for Arizona. Jake's desperate efforts to raise the money—working by day as a picker on one quahogging boat and by night on another that harvests from polluted beds closed off by the Department of Environmental Management—fall short. But thanks to the efforts of friends and his own act of kindness to an inexperienced quahogger, the debt is paid just in time. As a bonus, he finds that he has also worked his way past the worst of his grief and anger. A values-driven story developed around the tribulations and rewards of quahog harvesting seems unlikely to find a wide audience. However, Jake's willingness to work wicked hard on both sides of the law to remain part of his Narragansett Bay community is vividly conveyed for an interested audience. The coauthors incorporate autobiographical elements, which lend the tale's cast and setting a salty authenticity. Grades 6-9. --John Peters --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Great job on your book! I moved to RI 2 years ago and learned more about shellfish reading this book than 'instructional books'. The story was entertaining - my kids loved it and I did too (father). Thank you!

Started slowly but then picked up. To call this a "coming of age" novel would be a disservice. It is more. Many lessons are learned; hero's growth to self-understanding; an interesting philosophy of life; and ultimately that we all must "swim the rock." I enjoyed the details of quahog harvesting.

As a Rhode Islander it was so interesting because the book held so much information about the real world of clamming. The story held my interest and the interest of my students. This is a must read even if you are not from RI. Way to go!!

growing up in warren,i re-lived my youth again and again. i walked the same streets, boated and worked in the same rivers . the oyster houses and cannery ,the working boats,the fishermen., the drug store and the italian clubwere all part of my life in the 30,s and 40,s . cholly

I enjoyed the book very much. I could visualize the scenes in my head as I read the book, could almost smell the ocean and hear the waves. Brought me back to my own teen hood. I look forward to reading more by the authors.

Great read for adolescent males (and females too).

A great message hidden in the excitement and angst of young teens. The beauty, people, and charm of the Ocean State, Rhode Island, and enough excitement to keep you turning the pages of a good read.

If you love nautical themes and adventures, then you will enjoy reading this book. I could not put it down.

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