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***Middle School: Ultimate Showdown* by James Patterson and Julia Bergen illustrated by Alec Longstreth**

Publisher: Young Arrow, Random House

RRP \$16.99

Siblings Rafe and Georgia Khatchadorian often get on each other's nerves. Kids with brothers and sisters will understand that does happen sometimes. Although Rafe is two years older than Georgia he is rather immature and dislikes most forms of work. Whereas lively Georgia is a goody-two-shoes who always tries to do her best. Obviously their opposite personalities clash at times.

In *Ultimate Showdown* the readers get to decide who is the most awesome character of the two. Each one puts their point-of-view across about a wide range of important subjects such as dance moves, bullies, homework, holidays, cafeteria food, farts, burps, and bad hair days.

A clever device is the many sections where readers can air their own opinions, write about topics that interest them, play games, fill in flow charts, and include their own artwork.

Black-and-white sketches add plenty of humour to the duel. The comic strip style enlivens the pages with speech bubbles, funny asides, pratfalls, and eccentric characters.

There are two other books in the Middle School series for upper primary school students who like an easy read.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Author's website:

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<http://www.alec-longstreth.com/>

