**Hate List** by Jennifer Brown

Have you ever felt like you just don’t belong?  Have you ever been picked on or made fun of just for being yourself?  Valarie Leftman knew exactly what it felt like and decided that she would write down everything she hates in a notebook.  One day, she shares her notebook with her boyfriend Nick and together, they add more entries of people and things they hate.  One day, after an incident on the school bus involving Valerie and one of those ‘hated’ girls, Valerie goes to Nick for comfort and Nick tells Valerie he’ll take care it.  She’s thrilled…happy to have that knight in shining armor…until he pulls a gun out of his bag and he opens fire on the school cafeteria of Garvin High.

Several students are killed and many are wounded, including Valerie.  When she wakes up in the hospital, she finds out that Nick has killed himself and now, Valerie is all alone.  Left to cope with the devastating situation that Nick caused, the loneliness without him, and the rumors that it was her fault as well.  She never meant for her ‘hate list’ to become a ‘hit list’.  She never meant for anyone to actually get hurt.  But is she really at fault?  And can she find the strength to forgive herself?

~ *Stephanie Wilkes’ Booktalk*