



First Grade Stinks!

By Mary Ann Rodman

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IT IS THE FIRST DAY of school and Hayley is excited. Things are different now. She isn't a kindergartener anymore; she is a bigger kid. She is a first grader.

Hayley quickly finds out that first grade is different from kindergarten, but in all the wrong ways! The classroom isn't as bright and colorful. Ms. Gray doesn't seem to smile as much as her kindergarten teacher Ms. Lacey did. The work is hard and there isn't enough time to play outside. Worst of all, her best friend Ryan says he likes first grade! Finally, Hayley has had enough. "First grade stinks!" she shouts. The classroom is suddenly very quiet. "You're in trouble now," Ryan whispers. But to Hayley's surprise Ms. Gray doesn't look mad at all.

Young readers will immediately empathize with Hayley and her increasing apprehension, as she tries to negotiate new expectations and challenges on the first day of a new school year.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 1—On her first day of first grade, Haley discovers that the routines are much different and decidedly less fun than kindergarten. She gets only one recess, no sharing time, a room without the familiar decorations, a teacher who is less demonstrative than her beloved Ms. Lacy, and, worst of all, a read-aloud that isn't even finished. Each time Haley discovers another difference she mutters to herself, First grade stinks! Finally, a gentle reprimand for whispering sends Haley into a full-blown meltdown, screaming her mantra of frustration aloud to the entire class. When she lists her complaints to her teacher, Ms. Gray explains about chapter books and reassures her that soon she will be reading them on her own. With her eyes opened to the possibilities ahead, Haley decides that first grade is great. The scratchy, fluid, full-color watercolor-and-ink illustrations feature plenty of white space. Perfect as a read-aloud, this book is a worthy successor to Miriam Cohen's *When Will I Read?* (Dell, 1996). Pair it with Kevin Henkes's *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (HarperCollins, 1996) for a spot-on depiction of teachers helping kids through rough patches.—Marge Loch-Wouters, Menasha Public Library, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS-Gr. 1. Entering first grade, with its increased structure and emphasis on reading, writing, and math, can be just as difficult a transition as starting kindergarten. Rodman acknowledges some of the changes new first-graders may experience in this book about two friends who loved kindergarten but have different feelings about starting school anew. "We first-graders know how to act," says Ryan when he and Haley cruise by the "poor little kindergartners" as they make their way to their first-grade classroom. It doesn't take long for them to feel the difference: no whispering, only one recess, and lots of work: "Haley, your A's and B's are not the same size. . . . Write them again, please." Soon Haley has had enough. "First grade stinks!" she yells aloud, her face, mouth open wide, taking up most of a page, making sure the point gets across. When her teacher acknowledges her fears, Haley calms down and admits that first grade isn't so bad after all. Ink sketches filled in with splashy watercolors depict a worried, increasingly frazzled Haley as she copes with new challenges in a busy, active classroom. An important book for kids making a pretty tough transition.

Stephanie Zvirin

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Review

STARRED REVIEW Nothing can measure up to a beloved kindergarten experience, as the spirited, pigtailed narrator in this story resolutely comes to believe during her first day of first grade. Haley and her friend Ryan pride themselves on being big kids now. "Little kids stand at the school door, holding their parents' hands. Not Ryan and me. We walk into school all by ourselves." Haley's puffed-up feelings soon deflate, however. Her new teacher, Ms. Gray, gives them only a "tiny smile. Not a sunny-morning smile" like their kindergarten teacher's. The walls are bare, the work is hard and there's only one recess instead of two. "No share time? No dragon kite? No smiley teacher in a daffodil shirt? First grade stinks!" Haley reasons. The pacing of the first-person narration coupled with Spiegel's (*Rosa's Room*) winsome watercolors keeps this lively tale on track. Comedic spot illustrations contrast Haley's fond remembrances of kindergarten with her disgruntled feelings about first grade. With the help of an understanding Ms. Gray, Haley soon starts to see the up side of being a first-grader. Rodman (*My Best Friend*) handles the turmoil of school transitions with realism and humor. A good jumping-off book for discussions about differences and change. Ages 4-8. (Sept.) --Publishers Weekly

PreS-Gr 1 On her first day of first grade, Haley discovers that the routines are much different and decidedly less fun than kindergarten. She gets only one recess, no sharing time, a room without the familiar decorations, a teacher who is less demonstrative than her beloved Ms. Lacy, and, worst of all, a read-aloud that isn't even finished. Each time Haley discovers another difference she mutters to herself, First grade stinks! Finally, a gentle reprimand for whispering sends Haley into a full-blown meltdown, screaming her mantra of frustration aloud to the entire class. When she lists her complaints to her teacher, Ms. Gray explains about chapter books and reassures her that soon she will be reading them on her own. With her eyes opened to the possibilities ahead, Haley decides that first grade is great. The scratchy, fluid, full-color watercolor-and-ink illustrations feature plenty of white space. Perfect as a read-aloud, this book is a worthy successor to Miriam Cohen's *When Will I Read?* (Dell, 1996). Pair it with Kevin Henkes's *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (HarperCollins, 1996) for a spot-on depiction of teachers helping kids through rough patches. Marge Loch-Wouters, Menasha Public Library, WI --School Library Journal

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Users Review

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Ricky Bradley:

Exactly why? Because this First Grade Stinks! is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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