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School's First Day Of School



Synopsis

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him? The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,259 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School](#) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1—Step aside, other first day of school books: there's a new school in town. After construction and a summer of tender loving care from the janitor, Frederick Douglass Elementary's first day finally arrives. And what a day it is: hordes of children with all their feelings, mess, noise, new concepts, and even a fire alarm (which the school finds deeply embarrassing). Worried but curious, impetuous, and vulnerable, the school works as a perfect proxy for nervous child readers. Rex's warm and goofy text is brought to life by Robinson's vivid collage illustrations. His signature round-headed, tulip-handed figures are diverse and appealing, from the supportive janitor to the "little girl with freckles" who slowly warms up to school at the same time that the school is warming up to the children. VERDICT A+: an essential purchase that is simultaneously funny, frank, and

soothing. A perfect first day read-aloud." — Sarah Stone, San Francisco Public Library

Recipient of 7 starred reviews!"Robinson (Last Stop on Market Street) gives the school just a hint of visual personification in his flattened, paint-and-collage artwork, as Rex (Moonday) deftly juggles well-placed jokes and keen insights into feeling comfortable in one's own skin or bricks, as the case may be." — Publishers Weekly, starred "Using his signature, simple style, Robinson alternates scenes of the building and its interiors with shots that show the boisterously diverse kids' first day. A unique point of view makes this school book stand out." — Kirkus Reviews, starred "Sure to become a staple for first days of school everywhere." — Horn Book, starred "This charming reversal of first-day-of-school nerves will delight little ones and help put their own anxieties at bay." — Booklist, starred "An essential purchase that is simultaneously funny, frank, and soothing. A perfect first day read-aloud." — School Library Journal, starred "A delightful, perspective-tweaking back-to-school picture book." — Shelf Awareness, starred "Anthropomorphization of the whole building is a new and promising approach for school-shy youngsters, and it'll make the already school-positive want to give their beloved building a hug." — Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred

Bought this for my 4 year old granddaughter who absolutely loved it. The reversal of viewing the first day from the school's point of view is quirky and fun.

School's First Day of School is a charming, entertaining, and ultimately soothing look at that nerve wracking first day of school. The perspective is certainly unique and the sentiments are comforting without being too sweet. The text has a wonderfully smooth, read aloud flow as Rex looks at the first day of school through the eyes of the school itself. The author throws in just enough jokes to make sure things never get too serious and enough poignant moments to make sure every child listening to the story can relate to not only the children attending class that first day but also to the school itself, who is not too sure it likes all these children invading its spaces. There are children who are excited about school, and children who don't like school at all. There are confused children, sad children, and many children who are just trying to figure out what's what - just like the school. The school is terribly embarrassed by the fire drill and looks on with wonder at the kids climbing on the jungle gym. ("So that's what that is for") After a few bumpy disagreements, the school decides that it wants the children to come back the next day, just as many of the children decide the same thing. The school and the students take a journey together and learn they each have a lot to offer the

other. The simple illustrations perfectly complement the calm, understated text. The artist doesn't make the school too cartoony, instead giving it just the bare hint of a face. The characters are all expressive and the illustrations pop against the stark white background. Above all, school is portrayed as a safe, even whimsical place filled with fun and learning. These illustrations add to the book's rather old fashioned feel, with little touches that will make sure kids spend time re-reading the story. This is a sometimes subtle and always entertaining look at going to school that will be a perfect fit for any young student just starting kindergarten. An excellent gift for new students and a must have for classroom collections.

Great book for first day of school jitters! I purchased for my son who started nursery school and although the target audience is elementary school kids he seemed to understand the core theme behind the stories. He really enjoyed the illustrations too (same illustrator from Last Stop on Market Street and Leo: A Ghost Story). This is a keeper!

We all know that there are anxious kids everywhere starting school either for the first time or returning. And that 1st day is all about "will I know anyone"? or "what will my teacher be like"? But has anyone considered if the school itself had any jitters about the first day? I bought this book for my granddaughter who was starting Kindergarten.

This was such a great read-aloud for my first grade students. They really enjoyed how school was a character and even felt bad for "the school" when the kids came in. It was a great book to read for back-to-school. We just finished our 8th week of school, but the students still pick this book to add to their individual book bin on a regular basis.

I could not wait to get my hands on this book! It was my favorite back-to-school book this year! My kindergarten class enjoyed it and I was surprised at how many of my young students were able to understand the perspective of the school character in this story. I know I will pull this book out later in the school year to teach other skills.

What a cute book written from the school's perspective! Just in time for school to start - great artwork and easy to read phrasing make this perfect for my going-to-kindergarten grandson to love.

Bought this for the first day of first grade, my kiddos absolutely loved it! Great perspective and

absolutely love the illustrations. A new classic!

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