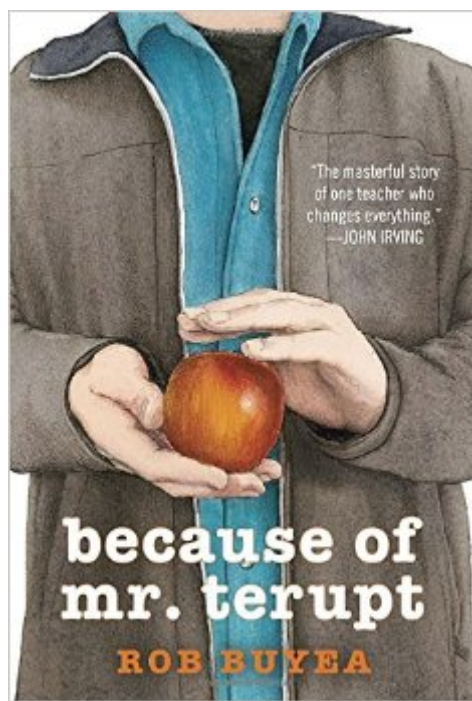


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# Because Of Mr. Terupt



## Synopsis

Features seven narrators, each with a unique story, and each with a different perspective on what makes their teacher so special. It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything "and everyone." The characters are authentic and the short chapters are skillfully arranged to keep readers moving headlong toward the satisfying conclusion."--School Library Journal, Starred "This powerful and emotional story is likely to spur discussion."--Publishers Weekly "No one is perfect in this feel-good story, but everyone benefits, including sentimentally inclined readers."--Kirkus Reviews "Compelling. . . . Readers will find much to ponder on the power of forgiveness."--Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (849 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,780 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills #35 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #48 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I want to start this review by saying that as a parent, I really liked this book. It was well-written, fast-moving, and created enough curiosity to keep the pages moving well. However, since I bought the book for my 9-year-old, I'm going to add a few more points to my review. The characters come from a wide variety of backgrounds, which I think is great. But I found some of situations to be a little heavy for what I want my nine-year-old reading just yet. Two of the characters have parents that have had divorces as a result of affairs (other girlfriends). One child was born when her mom was still in high school (maybe 16 or 17 years old, I don't quite recall). Though these situations are real - along with the sadness, grief, shame, and guilt that accompany them - I don't think I'm ready for that to take up space in my daughter's leisure reading time yet. I realize that this is probably a more accurate reflection of society than I would hope, but those are a couple of things I would have wanted to know \*before\* my child read this book, so that I could have the chance to either 1) hold off for a while on introducing this book or 2) read it as a read-aloud so we could discuss these topics right then. As it happened, I was so intrigued by the book, I ended up reading it before I passed it on to her -- so for me, the problem was avoided. I'm definitely sticking the book on the shelf for a year or two though, and plan to bring it out later. It was an excellent read with many good examples of good and bad behavior, and characters changing (an excellent life skill to learn!). I just think the nine side of the 9-12 age range was a little low, even if reading ability was considerably higher.

This book is definitely a story with heart. Mr. Terupt is a young teacher who not only wants to teach his students the 5th grade curriculum, but he wants to do more. He reaches out to each student individually, sometimes in very subtle ways, such as assigning two girls to be partners on a project whose families are at odds with one another. The story is told in alternating points of views from the students whose lives he's touched. The characters will be familiar, but they are in no way flat stereotypes. By getting inside the kids' heads, the reader begins to understand those who are different from them. Each fifth-grade class has these types of students, and so readers will definitely be able to relate to the cast: the mean/popular girl, the shy girl, the misfit, the brainiac, the new kid. In addition to this diverse group, the class gets involved with some special needs students as well, which is a surefire way to change the pre-adolescent "Me, me, me" mentality. This was a great book. It's the kind of book that will appeal to adults and tweens alike. This story will be with me for a long, long time.

Easy read that an average 5th grader can finish in 3 to 5 sittings. Multiple characters (six) ensure

that it is not too heavily for boys or girls. Chapters are short & print is well-spaced. Each chapter is that character's 'voice' and each 'voice' brings forward a distinct personality or family issue. Good pick if you want a contemporary-feeling early adolescent book that does not revolve around sex, drugs, or violence.

Overall I liked the book because it addressed issues grade school children confront daily such as family differences, tolerance, assumptions kids make about one another. I'm just starting to read these types of books in preparation for reading to my fourth grade grandson so I really had to damp down my fondness for plot, dialogue, subtlety, etc. I like the Dollar Word injections for vocabulary and math as a distraction. I particularly liked that a Collaborative Classroom aka special needs class was involved although I think the teacher could have objected to the word "retard" which was used repeatedly just as he objected to the word "babes" (referring to girls) when it was used only once.

This amazing book tells you the true meaning of hope, friendship and forgiveness, and plays with your emotions. All in all, this is a great book for ages 10-12

I read this to my 3rd and 4th grade class. I did have to ad lib some parts, like how a child is shunned because her mother had her at 16 and other children think she's a bad person because of this. Explaining why being a mom at 16 is frowned upon in this small town to kids who don't really know what sex is yet, was tricky. However, at the start of the book when then students are mean to each other was a great discussion as to why someone would be a bully. We discussed that this bully/child probably has some baggage that explains their behavior. We talked about how their behavior makes others not like them, but no one sets out to have no friends. Having kids develop compassion for these students was training we used later in the year when actual kids said or did mean things. The kids were able to still have compassion for that temporary bully. As the book goes on, readers understand the reasons for the bully behavior and watch them heal and become kinder. So many great learning opportunities to discussion compassion and bullies.

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