How To Be Cool In The Third Grade
(Puffin Chapters)
Synopsis

It's not easy to seem cool when the whole class knows you wear superhero underwear and your mom still kisses you goodbye at the bus stop. But Robbie York has a plan. 1) Get rid of the name Robbie. 2) Get jeans. 3) Avoid bullies like Bo Haney. If only it were that simple!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0470 (What's this?)
Series: Puffin Chapters
Paperback: 80 pages
Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (July 1, 1999)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0141304669
Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches
Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars - See all reviews (72 customer reviews)
Age Range: 7 - 10 years
Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

This was a nice little story about Robbie who wants to start off the new school year the right way. He begins to make a list of things he must do to make himself cool, such as getting jeans and changing his name. He is paired up to work with Bo, a bully who is repeating the third grade. Robbie, get scared, but when he faces his mother and simply tells her he would like some jeans and that he can walk to the bus stop by himself, she agrees. He has a revelation that people did not know what he wanted them to do unless he asked them to do it. From then on, he had a new outlook. For his first meeting with Bo, they hit it off and Robbie became one of the cool kids. But, not because of his new jeans or that his mom stopped kissing him at the bus stop. Robbie became cool because of the way he thought about himself. A good lesson for all children at such an impressionable time in their lives. This is a good introduction to chapter books. The 13 chapters are dealt out over 69 pages. All of the chapters are short enough to hold an elementary child's interest. The illustrations are beautiful
and really add to the story. I would recommend this book as a way to lead children into chapter books and/or to begin a discussion on what being cool is, and the importance of self-worth. The only thing I felt this story was lacking was some of the realism and consistency of the characters. At times Robbie, Doug and Bo can be young for their age and then on the next page seem to be overly mature for the third grade. Robbie’s parents have also become caricatures. Why 4 stars?: Nice story, nice illustrations, good introduction to chapter books. Wonderful way to introduce topics of coolness, bullies and self-confidence. Characters can become somewhat unbelievable at times, but all in all a book worthy to be added to your classroom library. This book also lends itself well for reading groups and read-alouds because the chapters are so short.

Robbie learns that the best way to cope with third grade is to say plainly and directly what’s on his mind. That’s not a bad message. His focus on coolness starts out annoying, but ends up more as a refrain, tying the chapters and the story together. I could see this being good summer reading for a second or third grader, getting them into a school mindset and encouraging them to think about growing up. I don’t think this is great reading, but it isn’t full of off-putting false notes, either. It is a cheerful attempt to help a young reader focus on some social skills, and I don’t see how that is bad. It is modest and calm and I would be interested to talk about the book with a second grader after reading it together. It could be a very good conversation starter, and might help a kid verbalize pre-school concerns.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a great book to give a child 7-10 years old. Children often experience many feelings when entering a new school or third grade. This book address some of those issues such as school bullies, clothes, and names children consider as funny. It also encourage children to communicate those concerns to their parents. It’s funny and very well written. Children will love reading it to find out how Robbie deals with his mom kissing him in front of other kids, the school bully and changing his super hero underwear.

This is a cute story. I am a teacher and we just read this as one of our chapter books. It has a really cute lesson that Robbie learns about being cool. The students were interested in it. The only thing I didn’t like was the chapters were short and not numbered which made it harder to do daily lessons, but overall this is a cute book. I received it before schedule and in good condition. Will be reading with my son, who also happens to be in third grade.
I read this with my son the first week of third grade. Helped ease anxiety and make him feel like a big boy. Deals with bullies, parental embarrassment, rumors, the bus, friends and typical anxieties.

"How to Be Cool in the Third Grade" is a great book! This story, written by Betsy Duffey, takes place through Robbie’s first days of third grade. Robbie struggles to find ways to be cool and keep away from the bully Bo Haney. Will his plan to be cool work? This is great book because it will teach you how to be cool in the third grade!

this is a cute story chapter book, perfect for this age range that deals with the real things these little kids are experiencing. I forgot how hard it was in elementary school. kids can be cruel, you need to have high self esteem. Great little book!

Book was shipped to me in very good condition and shipped quickly. Ordered the book for one of my great-grandchildren who is having a reading disability. I am sure he will love the story. Haven’t mailed it to him yet.

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