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This Is Just To Say: Poems Of Apology And Forgiveness



Synopsis

When Mrs. Merz asks her sixth grade class to write poems of apology, they end up liking their poems so much that they decide to put them together into a book. Not only that, but they get the people to whom they apologized to write poems back. In haiku, pantoums, two-part poems, snippets, and rhymes, Mrs. Merz's class writes of crushes, overbearing parents, loving and losing pets, and more. Some poets are deeply sorry; some not at all. Some are forgiven; some are not. In each pair of poems a relationship, a connection, is revealed.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (April 9, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618616802

ISBN-13: 978-0618616800

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.8 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #532,109 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #180 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #2602 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

This collection of poems features the authentic writing of students. The book opens with poems of apology and ends with poems of forgiveness. The topics range from the silly (a game of kickball) to heartbreaking (Jewel's poem to her father who walked out on the family). The range captures the interest of intermediate aged kids, who still love to be carefree and silly but are also dealing with serious topics like death and crushes. The book is unique because each writer's voice is unique. Some are long and flowery while others are succinct and to the point. The variety pulls the reader into the different emotions. The pictures are just as quirky as the poems and the kids who wrote them. There isn't a note from the illustrator, but it would be interesting to know if the kids who wrote the poem had any say in the picture for their poem. It's hard to pick a poem that should be shared with a class because I think the book as a whole is so important. It demonstrates that kids CAN

write poetry. The custodian, the school secretary, students' parents, and even students' siblings contribute to the book. Poetry is for everyone, and this book is a visual motivation for reluctant poetry writers. I will share two of my favorites that I think embody the idea of the book's title: apology and forgiveness."How Slow-Hand Lizard Died"I stole him.Took him home in my pocket.Felt the pulse beating in his soft green neck.Had no place good to put him.A shoebox.He got cold, I think.Watched his life wink out,his bright eye turn to mud.Brought him back,stiff as an old glove.Hid him in the bottom of the cage.Left the money on Mrs. Merz's desk.(Stole that, too).Won't touch the new lizard.

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