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# First Grade Stinks!



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 360L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Peachtree Publishers; Reprint edition (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561454621

ISBN-13: 978-1561454624

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.1 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,833 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School](#) #239 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#) #676 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

As a former elementary teacher, this delightful book is one that warms my heart. First grader Haley desperately wants to go back to Ms. Lacy's kindergarten class where things are fun, that is, until she discovers the best thing about being in first grade. Author Mary Ann Rodman's sense of humor is

evident from the first page to the last and my heart glows like Haley's orange sky whenever I thumb through this wonderful book. The illustrations by Beth Spiegel are perfect in every way, too! Perfect combination. Definitely a keeper!

...and I've yet to find a children's book that is so perfect...and absolutely gorgeous! Ms. Spiegel's illustrations add wit and charm to a lovely read-aloud experience that completely enchanted my students (now BIG second graders!) who remember the monumental transition from kindergarten to first grade very well. I look forward to more collaborations between this gifted author and her brilliant illustrator!

First Grade Stinks! is a wonderfully realistic look at the awkward transition from being a somewhat coddled kindergartener to being a first grader who must learn more and play less. Rodman's fresh, believable characterizations of Haley and her new teacher, Ms. Gray (!), are a true delight. Beautiful illustrations by Beth Spiegel add to a great reading experience.

My first graders loved this story. Before I read it, they were saying how much they liked 1st grade better than kinder and this just wrapped it all up in a story. After reading it, we talked about what they hoped first grade would be like and what they hoped to learn this year.

My 6 y/o loves it! Asks to read it again and again. I give it 4 stars because for most of the book the little girl has a crap attitude. It does change at the end - but while I was reading for the first time I was thinking to myself, am I going to keep reading this? WTF? But 4 stars because the kid loves it & the girl does change her tune.

This book came in great condition. My soon-to-be first grader was able to read the majority of the book. I think it's a great book to start a conversation about how things will be different in first grade. New teacher, new routines, new rules. It may seem to stink at first but it does get better. Very cute story. I am glad we got it.

My granddaughter found 'First Grade Stinks' a bit negative - I think because there weren't enough positive points made about first grade. After reading the book she was not looking forward to her impending big change. I had to supplement with other reasons first grade was so much better. However, she loved the graphicsâ |:)

This book is also great for the beginning of 1st grade. It shows the differences the main character is seeing between her Kindergarten class and her 1st grade class. At first, she doesn't like being in 1st, but she eventually comes around by the end of the story. Great book for doing a Venn diagram or compare/contrast chart with the kids.

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