



First Grade Dropout

Audrey Vernick , Matthew Cordell (Illustrations)

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The first grade narrator of this book has been lots of things: Hungry. Four years old. Crazy bored. Soaking wet. Pretty regular kid . . . until he makes a mistake so big that he's sure he will never be able to go back to Lakeview Elementary School. All readers, even those not in first grade, will find the narrator's feelings familiar, and discover that even though embarrassing things happen, they're usually not as bad as they seem. And sometimes they're even funny!

First Grade Dropout Details

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From Reader Review First Grade Dropout for online ebook

Lesley Burnap says

It DOES happen every year.

Susan says

We've all been so embarrassed we fantasized about dropping out of school, and in this clever, relatable picture book, the main character thinks up some elaborate ways to dodge his shame before realizing he'd miss his friends too much.

Kelly says

First Grade Dropout, written by Audrey Vernick and illustrated by Matthew Cordell, is a nominee for the 2017-18 South Carolina Picture Book Award.

What could be so bad that it causes a boy to consider dropping out of the first grade? He tries to think of other ways to escape the embarrassment he's feeling, but there's really only one choice. He can simply never go back to school after what he's done. The kids at school (including his closest friend) will never stop laughing at him!

There are some things about first grade he'll miss, though. He'll especially miss all of his friends. Maybe he can smile through the embarrassment. Or maybe it's not as big of a deal as he thinks it is.

Will this embarrassed boy stay in school? Find out when you read *First Grade Dropout!*

This book is an excellent story for helping young readers deal with embarrassment, something that everyone feels at one point or another. Mistakes might feel huge and impossible to get over, but they're usually never as bad as they are in a person's own mind.

babyhippoface says

One Sunday morning after church, when all the adults were still gathered below the church steps, chatting about the service or their families, I sidled up next to a tall man in a dark suit with deeply-tanned skin and slipped my hand into his. I looked up to discover the hand belonged to the music director and not my daddy. My stomach flopped and I was mortified to the point of tears.

So I can genuinely appreciate our hero's situation here. Mistakes happen. Sometimes we can erase them like an incorrect math solution, and sometimes we have to live with the public humiliation they bring (however short- or long-lived it may be). Audrey Vernick knows how kids think. As adults we view accidentally calling a teacher "Mommy" no big deal. To the child who does that, though, it can be traumatic.

The illustrations are a perfect match for the story. The slightly messy lines reflect the narrator's anxiety over

his mistake.

This is a fantastic book for helping new first graders calm their school-related worries.

Adrienne Pettinelli says

"I put my hand on my hip, like someone who doesn't care if other people laugh."

Oh, we all have BEEN THERE. Love this one.

Gwen Ayler says

Who hasn't been there? I've been on both sides of this. In 2nd grade I did it and when I taught 2nd grade a couple students did it to me. Cute story that would be fun to read to a class so that if it does happen they'd know they weren't alone, it happens to the best of us.

Leopoldo Del pino says

Conocido en latinoamérica como "El desertor de Primero básico" nos muestra de una manera ágil y entretenida como se pueden enfrentar las vergüenzas que suceden en la vida escolar y las respectivas risas de los compañeros y compañeras. Es un gran cuento ideal para los niños más pequeños donde la guía del padre o madre es un gran apoyo para comprenderlo y aplicarlo.

Erin Buhr says

This is a really cute story about an embarrassing moment. I think everyone can identify with the awful feelings that this little boy feels and the dramatic way his first grade mind views them. Funny, relate-able, and well resolved.

Donna Mork says

Cute book. Little boy is embarrassed that he called his teacher Mommy. He wants to quit school or build a time machine. He has a lot of ideas. But he realizes he will miss his friends. So he goes to school and holds his breath. His friend acts like everything is normal. All is well.

Connie T. says

After a young boy calls his teacher "Mommy" he decides he can't go back to school and face the humiliation. Later at the park, his friend makes a similar mistake and he realizes it isn't the end of the world. At first, I

couldn't get this book, it just didn't grab me. But then it picked up. The humor was cute.

Matt says

After an embarrassing mishap in class, this little boy feels that he has no choice but to drop out of school, in the first grade. He ponders how things might be and what he can do to make things better, only to discover that his foible is not as critical as once thought. Neo laughed at this story, though I was first to stress that dropping out of school in Grade One was not an option. Best get used to things not always being... peachy!

Cynthia Levinson says

Vernick gets cleverer and cleverer. There's so much depth and complexity to this endearing story that all kids can relate to.

Bookishrealm says

This was an interesting book and completely cute and hilarious. I won't go into much detail about what exactly happened, but I can tell you that it kind of surprised me at the reason why the little kid wanted to drop out of first grade. I don't know if I would say this is a good read aloud for something like storytime; however, I think it's a great story to share with kids that are anxious about going to any grade.

Aylea says

The boy in this story has been a lot of things (hungry, bored, and wet), but the worst of all those things is when he knows he will have to become a first grade dropout. He has done something so embarrassing that he cannot go back to school. He tries to come up with ways to avoid going to school, like casting a spell to undo what he did or building a time machine to go back before it happened, so that he doesn't have to face his classmates knowing that he called his teacher "mommy". He'll miss being around his friends, but he knows he can't go back. However, at soccer practices, he and his friend realize that everyone makes mistakes and it is okay to laugh when embarrassing things happen.

Although sometimes the vocabulary and thought process might be a little advanced for first graders, most first graders will be able to identify with something embarrassing happening to them and feeling like they need to drop out of school so that they don't have to deal with people laughing at them. Kids will enjoy laughing at the story and the funny pictures and side comments, and adults can talk to kids about how it is possible to laugh about things that are embarrassing for them.

Courtney says

My children love these little books. They thoroughly enjoy each and every story, as if they are all unique and individual without any cause for similarity among them. Even though sometimes, they might seem tedious

and repetitive to me as a parent, I do enjoy being able to read short-stories to my children that are clean and respectful.
