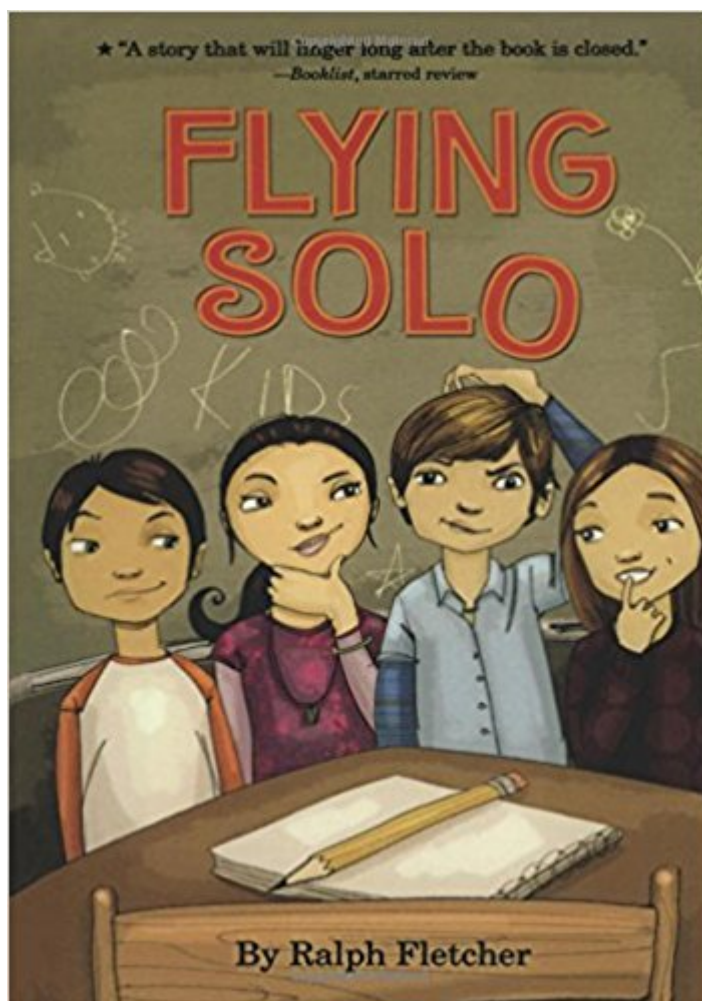


The book was found

Flying Solo



Synopsis

When the substitute for Mr. "Fab" Fabiano never shows up and his sixth-grade students are on their own, they set out to prove that they can run the class by themselves. With a little ingenuity and some careful planning, they might just succeed. But when a fight breaks out between Bastian Fauvell and Rachel White over a classmate, Tommy Feathers, who died six months earlier, everything begins to fall apart. Can Rachel deal with the anxieties that plunged her into silence the day Tommy died? Inventive and uniquely constructed, "Flying Solo" follows Mr. Fab's students hour by hour as they tackle the challenges of an unusual school day.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (November 10, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547076525

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 104 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #58,244 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #575 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #717 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8-Fletcher follows members of a sixth-grade class through a day when their substitute teacher never shows. The students decide not to report that they are alone and to run the class by themselves. Personal issues are woven into the day's events. Rachel has been mute since a classmate who had an annoying, unrequited crush on her died six months before. Bastian, an Air Force brat used to moving, has to decide whether to subject his beloved puppy to a lengthy quarantine when he moves to Hawaii the following day. Sean's alcoholic father and unnurturing home life make him too shy to express his feelings, especially his crush on Rachel. Karen, a natural

leader and "good child," takes the reins in the class, making her own evaluations of right and wrong. Jessica, whose parents are judgmental, can't get past her fear of recrimination to enjoy the class' freedom. The students learn about themselves and one another, and several issues are resolved by the end of the day (e.g., Rachel speaks, Bastian gives his puppy to Sean). The resolutions are simple but not pat, the prose is economical but not sparse, and the characters are developed as sketches rather than in-depth portraits, which helps keep the book moving briskly. The premise will make the novel easy to booktalk. Not a must-have, but a worthwhile purchase. July Siebecker, Hubbard Memorial Library, MA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 5[^]-8. What happens when a sixth-grade class is left unsupervised for a whole day? One might imagine that anything but learning would occur. But when a class usually led by a gifted teacher is left to its own devices, something unusual happens: when the substitute teacher fails to show, the children in Mr. Fabiano's class decide to run the day according to the strict but enjoyable routine ingrained in them by their creative, beloved teacher. Rest assured Fletcher's characters aren't goody-goodies. Rather, they are coconspirators as a countdown clock builds the tension: Will they make it through the day without being found out? As they go through their rote exercises, the kids gain self-assurance and self-reliance. They also come to terms with their feelings of guilt, grief, and sorrow about a classmate who died six months earlier. Fletcher expertly balances a wide variety of emotions, giving readers a story that is by turns sad, poignant, and funny, and, little by little, realistic portraits of the complicated kids emerge. There's no *Lord of the Flies* anarchy in this thoughtful, absorbing novel, which has a story that will linger long after the book is closed. Kathleen Squires --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The author chose to introduce each character separately so their stories gradually combined. I can appreciate the deeper themes that allude to independence and responsibilities. The book certainly sparks questions and discussions about with which character one might best identify.

First of all this was a great book, it had different narratives and was really personal and has great details. If you decide to try this book you should also try *Because of Mr. Terrupt*

After looking over a list of read aloud books that are appropriate for 5th and 6th graders, I chose this book. My 6th grade class was immediately engaged and picked up on the quirky nuances of each

character that Fletcher introduced. Fletcher used the setting of a classroom without a teacher as the backdrop for the book. How each of the students responded to this scenario became a microcosm for daily life. Fletcher masterfully illustrated a wide gamut of emotions that resonated with most of my class. From day to day, they were eager to hear more of the story. I am glad that I shared this book and recommend it to others.

I liked how the kids ran the class by themselves. I dislike how misunderstanding their parents were about them. Their parents should have been proud, amazed even how perfectly they ran the class!

This book is as heartwarming as it is sad. And I don't get all touchy and sensitive when it comes to fictional death! **•BEST BOOK EVER!**

I couldn't put the book down. My 6th and 2nd grader were sent to bed. But really wanted to hear more. I have to read them the final 5 chapters tomorrow. Lots of feelings and emotions. Excellent details with writing and the importance and beauty of writing. Wish I would read to my kids more often.

I ordered this book for my granddaughter at her request. She loves the book and shared it with her sister and requested that her Mother and Father read it so they could discuss it.

Interesting but sad. It really got my attention. I enjoyed reading the book. Michael R., 5th grader, Falls Church, VA

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