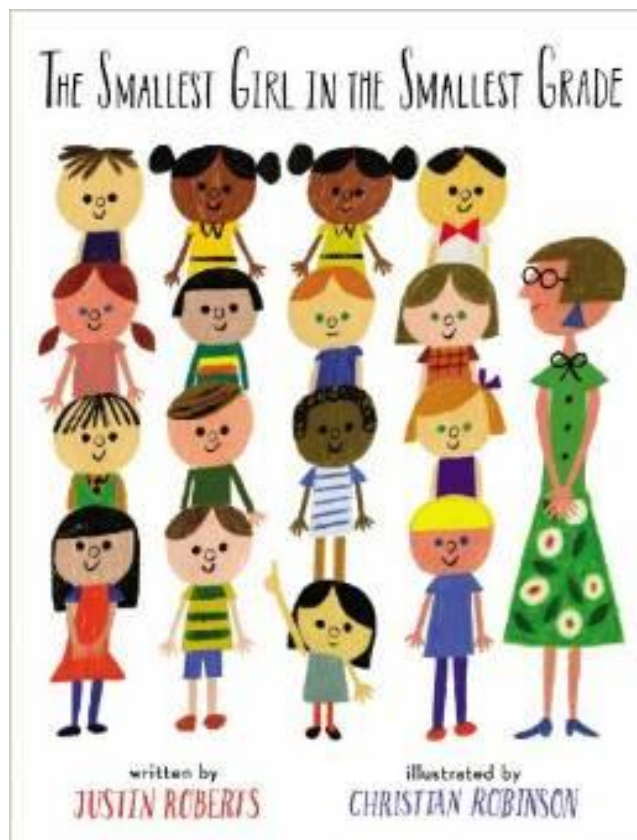


Children and Young Adult Book Review
Elementary School
The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade

Educator Reviewer: Chau Nguyen
Student Reviewer: Mattie Pittard



Roberts, J. (2014). *The smallest girl in the smallest grade*. Illus. by Christian Robinson. New York: NY: Putnam Juvenile Press.

Educator Review:

When reading this book, I really appreciated how thoughtful the author was in depicting the harsh reality of bullying, teasing and excluding others in a gentle manner and in kid-friendly language. Rather than directly exposing K-3 students, the potential and target readers, to these undesired incidents, the author tactfully portrays school life through the “super extra special” observations of the smallest girl in the smallest grade: Sally McCabe.

Through reading or listening to this story, children are encouraged to take a closer look at life in order to realize the true value of actions that may have been taken for granted. Characters in the story are applauded for raising their voices against unjustifiable actions. Additionally, the lesson behind Sally McCabe’s story can successfully inculcate a strong belief in children’s minds that no matter how small, common or unnoticed they may feel, they can still make a difference by “fighting” for justice.

This lovely story by Justin Robert (2014) and illustrations by Christian Robinson efficiently collaborate in engaging and surprising readers. Readers, young and old, will surely enjoy the pleasant moments of exploring every corner of the page to find our little heroine or of humming along with the rhythmic rhyming words of little Sally. As a result, this book can fit both one-on-one and out-loud class story reading. Students will want to hear this story again and again.

Xiaoli Hong
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

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Student Review:

Listen to Mattie’s Review by clicking the audio link.

Mattie Pittard
Hull Sandford Elementary, Hull, GA
1st Grade