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Third Grade Angels



Synopsis

The long-awaited prequel to the bestseller *FOURTH GRADE RATS* George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" - which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated. Does he have to be good even outside of school? (Does he have to be nice to his annoying little sister?) And if Mrs. Simms doesn't actually see him doing a good deed, does it even count? A warm, funny return to elementary school from master storyteller Spinelli.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 390 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books; Reprint edition (July 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545387736

ISBN-13: 978-0545500753

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 82 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,178 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School #144 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship #285 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4-In keeping with the rhyme, "First grade babies! Second grade cats! Third grade angels! Fourth grade rats!," Suds Morton's new teacher considers each of her students an angel. She has high expectations, and the prize-spending a week as boss angel while wearing a cardboard halo-has Suds and his classmates falling over one another to prove just how angelic they are.

Everyone wants to earn the first halo of the year-especially Suds. He picks up trash, holds the door for others, and even treats his little sister kindly. Will Mrs. Simms notice his hard work? This beginning chapter book moves at an enjoyably brisk pace; readers will appreciate the familiar school and home settings, and they'll look forward to meeting the characters again in a forthcoming book. A story kids will relate to, with valuable, down-to-earth messages about character and motives.-Amanda Struckmeyer, Middleton Public Library, Madison, WI (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Reflecting on a school-yard rhyme, "First grade babies! / Second grade cats! / Third grade angels! / Fourth grade rats!", Suds happily leaves babies and cats behind to start third grade as an angel. His cheerful teacher explains that her third-graders can earn their halos by doing good deeds. Suds is determined to be the first to win his halo, but the competition is fierce and his anxiety level rises. Just when the outcome seems clear, surprises come from both his classmates and his teacher. Spinelli works in some interesting concepts, such as levels of niceness (positive actions versus cessation of negative actions) and the questionable value of goal-oriented goodness. A prequel to Spinelli's *Fourth Grade Rats* (1991), this accessible chapter book features a simply written, first-person narrative and believable, true-to-third-grade characters. Illustrations include plenty of black-and-white pictures (most not seen in final form) and a clever, eye-catching image on the jacket. For discussion, pair this with Claudia Mills' *Perfectly Chelsea* (2004), featuring a child who strives for goodness in a religious context. Grades 3-4. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

daughter loves the story

Our son @ 8 said he liked it..

I loved this book because it was funny! In one part of the story a lady's hat blew over the fence and all the children tore it when they tried to get it to give it the lady. It was also good because it isn't too long or short.

My eight year old son loves to read. We are always looking for good books, not just comics, but reading books for him. He has read this book four times and he wants more from the author!

A lovely book with an important message on integrity and strong character. My 1st and 3rd grade son's really enjoyed reading it.

My 7 yr old son and I pick a book to read before bed, and he is a picky customer. He liked it and was excited to read every night. The story was engaging and the main character was a very nice boy, the kind of boy I'd like my son to be, so having him enjoy it so much was a positive experience. And we have integrated the phrase "Chipmunky" into our daily vocabulary, though it applies more to my daughter than my son. In any case, a good read for 7-10 year olds.

I used it as a read aloud in September in 3rd grade but it doesn't have much depth or richness to it. Great for a child to read though

Great book for those entering third grade! Tells a great story and inspires thoughtful actions! Highly recommend.

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