



The New Kid at School

Kate McMullan, Bill Basso (Illustrator), Stephen Gilpin (Illustrations)

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When a traveling minstrel foretells that he is to become a hero, Wiglaf sets out to fulfill his destiny: he signs up at the Dragon Slayers' Academy. But how can he ever hope to be a dragon slayer when he can't even stand the sight of blood?

The New Kid at School Details

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Author : Kate McMullan , Bill Basso (Illustrator) , Stephen Gilpin (Illustrations)

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Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Dragons, Humor

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From Reader Review The New Kid at School for online ebook

Killian Pennell says

I liked the part when his sword....when he said protect me...and it just lifted up into the air....!
I liked the part when their teacher tripped and did a split on the floor.
I also really liked when she dressed up like a boy and she was actually a girl.
I liked the part when the dragon slobbered.
I liked when the dragon sounded sleepy.
I liked when the dragon was actually getting weaker and weaker and weaker and he was in the sky and slammed down.

Denise says

Cute! Will make the perfect read aloud for my fantasy unit.

Julia says

I liked this book because even though it was short, it had a complete story. This story is about a kid who begins being a weak kid for his family, to slaying a dragon! This book is really inspiring because it demonstrates that you need to follow your dreams, and one day you will make them come true, you don't have to give up.

Something that I found hard about it are the words, because some of them are really fancy and difficult to understand. In conclusion I liked this book, it was short, complete and a little bit hard. I recommend it to readers who like fantasy stories.

Teri-K says

This series was recommended for me to read aloud to my 7 year old grandson who isn't crazy about books. We really enjoyed this one. The humor is silly - just right for his age, with knock knock jokes and silly names. There was enough story to keep him interested and several times he asked me to read another chapter. Which is always a good sign. And the book was short enough that we could finish it before it was due back at the library. We already have another one checked out.

Agos says

This story is about a kid who finds a poster that says Dragon Slayer Academy, he gets to go to an academy to learn how to slay a dragon, he passes through a lot of problems but he always gets the way to resolve them. I liked the book because it hooked me by the events that were happening. It was really interesting to see how

he passes through problems and how does he resolve them. It ends in a really good way, he finally gets to slay the biggest and powerful dragon. I really liked the book and I really recommend it to kids who are interested in fantasy stories and mostly dragons.

Teneka Howland says

Grades 4-5

McMullan tells the story of Wiglaf, a young boy who feels maltreated and decides to join a special school that trains heroes, The Dragon Slayer's Academy. Once there, Wiglaf realizes that the school is odd, but he learns to make friends. The story is full of comical adventures and jokes. The illustrations in the book are all black and white, but are very detailed. The pictures are spread out with about three to four pages of text in between. This book will appeal to children by enticing their imagination with an alternate world of reality. Through reading this book, they will join Wiglaf and his friends on this wonderful journey to find and slay the dragon.

Related Content Areas:

English Language Arts, Social Emotional Learning

Lesson Idea:

A review on figurative language would work well with this story as it is full of it from cover to cover. The teacher could have the children locate different types of figurative language in the text and identify them. They could also come up with some examples of their own.

Ethan says

The start of the book is pretty normal, a poor normal boy starts its own adventure by getting into the dragon's slayer academy. I think it's a good start because it's simple, it can let reader understand it easily and hook the reader for the next step. The middle of the book is also really simple, the boy got into the academy and started learning about how to slay a dragon and information about dragons. I think the author can improve the middle part of the story by adding more exciting movement and action, which can make readers excited. The end of the story is about the boy with a girl went to the forest to slay the dragon and find the dragon's weakness, jokes, but this part also doesn't have much excitement. The author can make lots of actions, like fighting movements, which I think can make the story better. The story, Dragons Slayers' Academy can improve all the kids' imagination and writing skills I think, so it's a great book to read, and it's not really hard to read.

Dolly says

This is the first book in the Dragon Slayers' Academy series by Kate McMullan. Our girls have been reading a few different dragon stories and so this one piqued their interest.

One of the series we've been reading (the Dragon Keepers series by Kate Klimo) paints the dragon as the hero and the slayer in a bad light. But this story gives us more of a typical look at dragons and their slayers, although the story is riddled with tongue-in-cheek humor.

This tale offers an interesting take on the dragon/knight saga. The story centers around a school where children are taught to become dragon slayers, primarily for the purpose of enriching the school's headmaster with the slain dragon's hoard. So far he hasn't been the beneficiary of any dragon gold, but I get the feeling that with 19 books in the series, he will keep sending his boys out, hoping to succeed at long last.

It's a very entertaining story, with lots of subtle humor and word play within the narrative. It's a quick read and we really enjoyed reading it together. We will certainly look for more of the books in this series at our local library. We look forward to learning more about Wiglaf and his friends.

Laurie says

I read this book to my boys, we have 1-10. They thought it was hilarious and I laughed as well. I recommend them to anyone, although I think they would appeal more to boys. We are excited to read the next one.

Dave says

This is a really fun read-aloud. I found myself laughing out loud at some points. Silly, stupid, predictable, but pretty funny all the same.

Carrie says

With wizards, dragons, and a medieval setting, this book introduces elements of fantasy while maintaining a light tone found in Wiglaf's jokes and mishaps. This is a fine book for children who want to experience fantasy, but aren't able to read Andrew Lloyd Alexander or J.K. Rowling yet.

Linda says

2.5 stars for me, probably higher for my kids. The audio book was a bit dramatic and slightly annoying, but my kids enjoyed it.

Vanessa says

This story is about a boy named Wiglaf who is told he is destined to be a hero. He goes to the Dragon Slayers' Academy where he defeats a dragon by telling him bad jokes. It's a funny story about adventures and friendships.

I choose this book because of its humor and fun adventurous spirit and because it is a part of multiple series. This book is science fiction and would be best suited for grades 2-5.

I would recommend this book to students in my class who were wanting to read the Harry Potter books, but weren't ready. It's a great way for kids to use their imagination and build their vocabulary.

Becky B says

When Wiglaf sees an advertisement for the Dragon Slayers' Academy, he manages to convince his father that he'd better serve the family off slaying dragons and gather hoards than helping his twelve brothers in the cabbage fields. By some miracle his father says yes, and Wiglaf gleefully leaves home (which wreaks of unwashed boys) and is off to school. There's just one teensy problem. Wiglaf may have issues with blood and gore, and killing things in general.

A delightfully quirky boarding school adventure with a satisfactory amount of dragon appearances. I particularly enjoyed the unexpected way Wiglaf manages to vanquish his first dragon. (view spoiler) So funny. Definitely will need to check out more in this series. And I can't see going wrong recommending this to kids who like fantasy or humor.

Miko says

3.5

The book was interesting and I did like it, but it wasn't what I was expecting. I was expecting more of a How To Train Your Dragon vibe. There is also an editing/grammatical error in the book that wouldn't be noticed if I was reading it to myself, but since I was reading this book out loud it stood out. I don't think I would continue with the series just because it wasn't a book that left a big impression and I felt like some of the events were really random. There was one character especially that really threw me for a loop and it didn't give any indication throughout the whole story until the ending. Over all, it was a nice read and I did like it, but not enough to say that I want to continue with the series.
