

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems



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Synopsis

A 15-year-old girl named Jessie voices typical—and not so typical—teenage concerns in this unique, hilarious collection of poems. Her musings about trying out new makeup and hairstyles, playing volleyball and cello, and dealing with her annoying younger brother are never boring or predictable. Who else do you know who designs her own clothes and writes poetry to her cat? Jessie is a girl with strong opinions, and she isn't shy about sharing them. Her funny, sarcastic take on high school life is revealed through concrete poetry: words, ideas, type, and design that combine to make pictures and patterns. The poems are inventive, irreverent, irresistible, and full of surprises—just like Jessie—and the playful layout and ingenious graphics extend the wry humor.

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #192,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #1140 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

"This irreverent, witty collection should resonate with a wide audience." School Library Journal, Starred"After suffering indignities at the pen of ... Robert (TECHNICALLY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT, 2004), big sister Jessie gets her chance." Kirkus Reviews"A cover that'll grab adolescent girls' attention--and the poetry inside is equally appealing." Horn Book"Friendly and accessible ... it will undoubtedly inspire a multitude of curricular uses." Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

John Grandits is a book and magazine designer and the author of *Technically, It's Not My*

Fault and Blue Lipstick, award-winning books of concrete poetry, and the picture books *en Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break If You Want to Survive the School Bus*, which received the Texas Bluebonnet Award, and *Seven Rules You Absolutely Must Not Follow If You Want to Survive the Cafeteria*. He and his wife, Joanne, live in Red Bank, New Jersey. Visit him online at johngrandits.com.

I loved this book because of its connection to girls' volleyball. I'm hoping my granddaughter will love it too...when she reads it.

My 12 year old daughter loves this book. I even use some of the poems when we do school.

My niece loved this book,

Great price and in great condition.

My daughter loves this book

Blue Lipstick is the perfect book to get teens interested in reading and writing poetry. Buy this and its companion book, *Technically*, it's not *My Fault*, and watch the teens in your classroom devour them!

My daughter (almost 13) was familiar with the first book by this author and I bought this for her as a gift. She really enjoys these "different" poems!

Might be useful while teaching the concept of concrete (shape) poems to middle school students. Personally, I'm not crazy about this type of poetry. It annoys me when I have to manipulate the printed page around and around and upside down and over and under just to get at the words and meaning. I especially don't want to have to dig around for a mirror in order to decipher mirror writing. I can see where it might seem "fun" for students and would be a good book to add to your arsenal of poetry books. Never hurts to have concrete examples of any type of writing. I believe concrete poems should be read in small doses. Whole books seem a little contrived, as if the author is trying too hard to come up with increasingly clever formats. One last criticism--I'm not crazy when adult males use the voice of young adolescent girls and take on that persona in their writing. In this case,

the author, John Grandits, writes in the voice of Jessie, a seventh grade girl. I'm not saying that he doesn't, at times, pull it off, but I can't get the image out of my mind of a grown man writing about having "a bad hair day", or the problem of seeing underwear through a black skirt, or chastising a younger brother to take "the oranges out of my bra." The poems just sort of lose their credibility. (IMHO) It also seems a little creepy. I remember reading the book, *She's Come Undone*, and really loving it. However, the fact that a man was writing as a female caused the author to hover in the narrative more than I wanted. ("How does this guy know so much about how a woman would feel getting her period? etc., etc..... you get the drift.) In the author's defense, this book is a flanker, riding on the success of his first book, *Technically, It's Not My Fault*, more concrete poems following the adventures of Jessie's brother, Robert. I suppose writing the next book from the point of view of Robert's sister seemed like the logical sequel.

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