



The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to School

Laurie Halse Anderson , Ard Hoyt (Illustrator)

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Zoe Fleefenbacher has one blue eye and one green eye and bright red hair that goes on . . . forever. Her hair has always been unruly, but now she is in first grade and according to her teacher, Ms. Trisk, “first grade has rules.” It takes countless barrettes and scrunchies to finally hold Zoe’s hair. But when it can help with an uncooperative science lesson, will Ms. Trisk let Zoe’s hair free? Acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson and vibrant illustrator Ard Hoyt style a hair-raising story that is sure to be a ‘do!

The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to School Details

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ISBN : 9780689858093

Author : Laurie Halse Anderson , Ard Hoyt (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Hair of Zoe Fleeffenbacher Goes to School for online ebook

Natalie Sapkarov Harvey says

Zoe has wild, ginormous red hair that cannot be tamed. While her kindergarten teacher appreciated the help Zoe's hair gave, her first grade teacher insisted that Zoe contain her hair because "school has rules." She eventually comes around in the end when Zoe's hair helps her out during a solar system lesson. This is a cute and inventive book that I think I'd like to read to my future K-1 students - they'd get a kick out of it. I can almost hear them giggling now!

Amy says

My niece and nephew were both entertained by Zoe Fleeffenbacher's hair. It did lots of cool stuff. It made her unique and interesting. It made school an adventure in mayhem and in learning.

I think my fine-haired niece dreams of hair like Zoe's, but my nephew and I have a lot of hair that has a mind of its own. I've learned that pixie cuts keep the madness in check (crew cuts do it for the boy, but he hates them). So while my niece thought wistfully about Zoe's amazing mane, the boy and I embraced the sentiment behind Anderson's story. Plentiful hair can take on a life of its own. Wouldn't it be great if that unruly hair could be harnessed for the powers of good?

Jennifer says

From the YA and middle grade author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this fun picture book about a first grader with very big, unruly, disobedient hair. My son and his friend enjoyed it. I wasn't thrilled with the way one of the teachers was portrayed, but having encountered teachers like her in school, I understood why she was included. Maybe it reminded me of my own bad experiences in elementary school. In spite of that, this was still a fun read.

Robert Leabo says

The Hair of Zoe Fleeffenbacher goes to school, by Laurie Halse Anderson & Ard Hoyt. Published by Simon & Shuster Books for Young Readers in 2009. Lexile: 530 L; Guided Reading: K. 32 pages. Grade level: PK-3.

This book is great for teaching about individuality and accepting others as well as building a rapport in the classroom. Zoe—with her wild hair – go to first grade for the first time. The book talks about her life before first grade where her hair is helpful and appreciated by others around it, but when she gets to first grade, Ms. Trisk, is not as enthused. Zoe tries to hide and control her hair and make her way through each day. The book sends the message that it's OK to be different and to accept any special skills or abilities into our classroom.

I would use this book to describe characters in story and to talk about the theme of individuality and self – acceptance. We're all different; we all come into the classroom with different backgrounds, experiences, talents/ abilities, and we want to be proud of who we are. The book is great for talking about diversity and could be taught with similar texts. Depending on the class, I would have the students write a short story about a special skill that they have and how it can be beneficial to the classroom, like Zoe's hair.

3.RL.2 Recount stories; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text

3.RL.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

3.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

M.K. Aneal says

Hahaha. This book was awesome!! Here I was thinking my hair was too long and I kept yanking it in everything but after reading this book- I feel a whole lot better. Great book!! Haha XP

Kathryn says

Now here's a NY Times bestseller I can actually stand up and cheer for. I absolutely love this hilarious, zany and sweet story of Miss Zoe Fleffenbacher and her crazy-huge hair! The illustrations are fantastic and really add to the charm and humor of the story. The heart of the story is a familiar message in children's literature-- be yourself and people will come to appreciate your unique spirit in time--but this is just such a creative and funny way to show it since Zoe's school teacher really, REALLY wants Zoe's hair to conform to the proper rules of first grade despite the fact that Zoe's hair has been wild and free (and generally helpful!) all of her life. As a kid, I would have been totally fascinated by all the things Zoe's hair could do! It reminds me a bit of Imogene's Antlers which kiddie-me thought was a hoot. Thanks, Lisa, for the glowing review that brought me to read this in a hurry!

Carson Gentry says

The book started off talking about a girl named Zoe Fleffenbacher and how her hair was so big. She had to have 2 cribs and 2 strollers when she was younger. One for her hair and one for herself. Zoe's hair could do crazy things that no one had ever imagined possible and sometimes with Zoe even wanting it to. When Zoe went to school her kindergarten teacher accepted her hair and the things it did and allowed it to help her out around the classroom, but her first-grade teacher wasn't so nice about it. Her first-grade teacher was very mean to Zoe about her hair and it caused all sorts of problems that the rest of the book discusses

I love this book! The illustrations made the story so much fun and really brought the idea of how BIG Zoes Hair was. The story was fun and can teach a bunch of different life lessons

I would use this in a 1st or 2nd-grade classroom to talk to my students about diversity and how its a good thing. We are all different and we all have different strengths and I think this book does a very job of showing that.

Lisa Vegan says

As someone with unruly hair, although not as unruly (or talented or helpful or useful or amazing!!!) as Zoe's, I got a real kick out of this book.

It's very funny and clever and sweet and completely zany. It's a terrific read aloud book. A mini astronomy lesson is included.

Zoe has parents and a kindergarten teacher who love Zoe and her remarkable hair. Unfortunately, when Zoe enters first grade, her new teacher is not only not impressed, but impatient and has no tolerance for Zoe's hair. The teacher only cares that "first grade has rules" and Zoe's hair doesn't follow rules, so the teacher says "no wild hair in my class." How the teacher comes to see the positive aspect of Zoe's hair is a journey I relished.

Zoe's hair is over the top, but I love how the book encourages self-acceptance and valuing what's unique about each of us. However, this book is light on moral and heavy on fun.

The illustrations are a hoot, the author giving the illustrator so much to work with here.

Sara Stalder says

Zoe Fleeferbacher is a very special girl with wild hair. When she goes to school, her first grade teacher says her hair has to be tamed because the school has rules, so Zoe has to figure out a way for her and her hair to keep out of trouble in school

Danielle says

Super picture book.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I didn't care for this story as much as I thought I would. I like the idea of hair with a mind of its own, but I felt that the illustrations just gave her too much hair. However, the story is really about working with someone uncooperative as opposed to fighting them. Zoe's kindergarten teacher understood this, but Ms. Trisk, the first grade teacher, didn't. You could say that Zoe's hair was like an ADD/ADHD child. Restraining it would only make the situation worse. Zoe understood that she could channel her hair's energy into helping rather than being a hindrance. This book was a 2010 honor book for the Horace Mann Upstander Children's Literature Award. Just wish I'd like the pictures more, because the story makes a good point.

Recommended, however, as I think children will enjoy it.

Jillian says

I'm adding this book to my hypothetical-future-children-to-read list because any child who inherits genes from my husband and I will be blessed and cursed with impossibly crazy hair. Plus, it looks fun.

Laura G says

I didn't know that Laurie Halse Anderson had written any picture books, and I enjoyed this book as much as her novels for older readers. The illustrations truly make Zoe's hair and story come alive, and they add to the humor of the book. Of course I didn't really like Ms. Trisk. A message of the book seemed to be accepting everyone's differences, but I kind of felt like Ms. Trisk only accepted Zoe and her hair because she found that Zoe could be useful to her, which is different than unconditional acceptance. Still, a fun book with awesome illustrations.

Lorna says

My youngest spotted this one at the library on our last visit and had time to read it while I was browsing the stacks. When she finished, she galloped up to me earnestly remarking that, "This one needs to go into the book back," for checkout. She was right, quite enjoyable with fun illustrations and a nice message about staying true to yourself.

Abigail says

Zoe Fleefebacher had one blue eye, one green eye, and long red hair that was wild and willful. Her parents loved her hair, and thought it beautiful, while her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Brodhag, found it helpful. But when Zoe entered first grade, her new teacher, Miss Trisk, was not amused. "*School has rules*," she declared, and insisted that Zoe's hair would have to be tamed. And so began an unusual battle of wills...

This lighthearted picture-book offers an over-the-top examination of some very real issues, from the difficulties that young students sometimes experience, going from one level of school to the next, and adjusting to a new teacher, to the ways in which being different can cause problems for children. I imagine that, with the right audience, its zany narrative and colorful illustrations will prove an appealing combination. But although I am able to appreciate its good qualities, and would recommend it to young children struggling with the feeling that they are different, and that this difference is somehow disruptive, I just wasn't as impressed as I expected to be. I didn't find The Hair of Zoe Fleefebacher Goes to School as humorous, or as charming as I thought I would, and I wasn't entirely convinced by the resolution. Still, I imagine that many young readers will feel differently. Perhaps I just wasn't in the right mood...?
