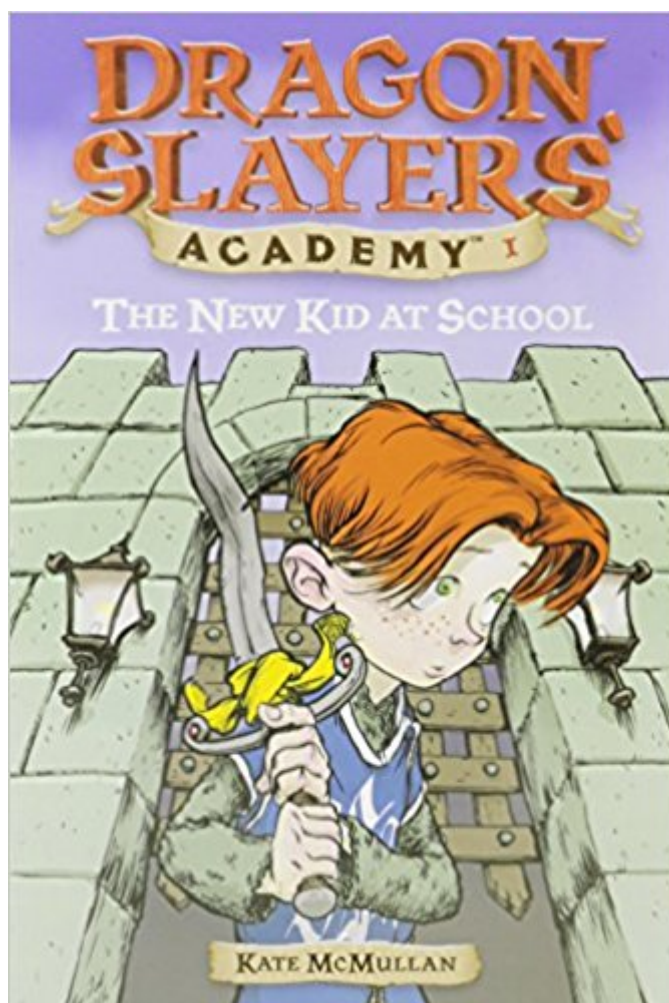


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The New Kid At School (Dragon Slayers' Academy, No. 1)



Synopsis

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?

Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap; Revised/Expanded ed. edition (May 12, 2003)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School](#) #219 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books](#) #345 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4AA fantasy adventure for beginning chapter-book readers. Wiglaf, the would-be hero, lives with his large, brutish family in abject poverty. Their hovel smells worse than their pigsty. Though Wiglaf is the smallest member of the family, he is made to do all the work, and is constantly picked on by the others because he is reluctant to kill any living thing. A traveling minstrel tells Wiglaf's fortune; it shows that he can improve his lot by performing a gallant act. The boy decides to sign up at the local Dragon Slayers' Academy. It guarantees to make him a hero. However, he finds life at the run-down school as difficult as it is at home, and he protests when he is sent out to slay the local dragon on his first day. When his magic sword doesn't work, he switches to another strategy. He has learned that the dragon can't stand bad jokes so he tries a few and, as predicted, the dragon expires at his feet. Wiglaf is a hero without spilling a single drop of blood. The fast-paced, snappy text is filled with jokes and insults; the accompanying black-and-white

illustrations are dark and cartoonlike. The tone and style suggest Saturday-morning animated films and will appeal to the same audience. For humorous adventure fantasy that is better crafted and more nourishing, try Jon Scieszka's *Knights of the Kitchen Table* (Viking, 1991) and other works in the "Time Warp Trio" series. A Virginia Golodetz, *Children's Literature New England*, Burlington, VT Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

In this first of the *Dragon Slayers' Academy* series, Wiglaf, the put-upon sensitive son in a family of louts, heads off to school along with his faithful pet pig, Daisy. On the way, he meets a wizard who gives him a magic sword, although he has forgotten the magic words to make it work, and gives Daisy the power of speech (in pig latin). Once at the Academy, Wiglaf discovers that it's not all it's advertised to be, and his first chance to slay a dragon comes all too soon. This lightweight, amusing adventure rattles right along, without pretensions and with, given the series title, a resolution that cleverly avoids violence--Wiglaf slays the dragon with bad jokes. An entertaining confection. (b&w illustrations, not seen) (Fiction. 7-10) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

My 8 yo was assigned this book as Summer Read. He finished in one day and wants me to get the ones that follow. Well written this is a must for young avid readers!

This book is fun and engaging as both a read-aloud and an early chapter book and has our kids asking for MORE, MORE, MORE! They are tearing thru this exciting series and cannot wait to get to the next book to find out what happens to the oh-so-sweet Wiglaf and his Dragon Slayer Academy friends as they go on dragon slaying adventures that often turn out to be quite funny! If you have a reluctant reader and/or a young child that is not yet ready for Harry Potter, this series is sure to grasp your child's attention and get them hooked on this series and reading in general. Any book series that has my children wanting to stay up late so they can read/hear more is a winner to me! I cannot recommend this series enough . . . try it, you will not be disappointed!

Great story. My daughter taught herself to read with this book.

I used this in a 5th grade guided reading group. They're a level O so this was a perfect book (also Level O). The kids thought it was hilarious and enjoyed the humor in it. It was recommended by F&P.

Not bad. Recommended series by my 3rd grader's teacher. My son is a decently advanced reader and this book has some difficult to pronounce names in it. There are also some scenes that were difficult for him to follow what was going on. But it was a good story. At some point we'll read the next in the series.

Great

Nice book! Easy to read and fun

A great and humorous book for all kids, but particularly fun for families that play tabletop games and genuinely enjoy fantasy. Most of the characters and roles are exaggerated, but in really great ways. My son who struggles with reading would beg to keep reading more.

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