



2010

Short: Walking Tall When You're Not Tall at All

Ruth-Anne Brown

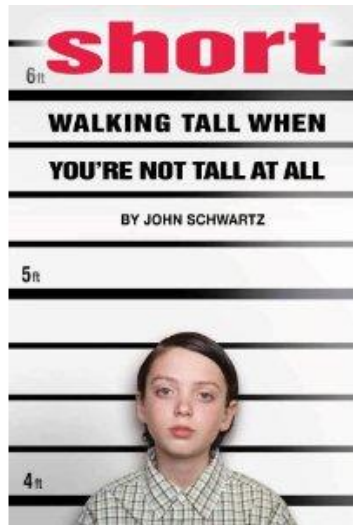
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Schwartz, John. *Short: Walking Tall When You're Not Tall at All*. Roaring Book Press, 2010. ISBN 9781596433236. \$16.99. 132 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Schwartz, John, 1957- --Juvenile literature; Stature, Short--Social aspects--Juvenile literature; Human growth --Psychological aspects --Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews

John Schwartz stands five feet three inches tall. He writes of being well below average in a world obsessed with appearances. *Short* analyzes the motives behind expensive growth-hormone injections that allow kids to become a few inches taller. Schwartz challenges published studies which imply that short people are less happy, less successful, or less intelligent than taller peers. Schwartz celebrates Pablo Picasso, Danny DeVito, and George Stephanopoulos for their success despite their height. His advice on eliminating bullies is to stand up and gain respect. Schwartz's summation is that "being too short, or being too tall, or too whatever is only as big a problem as we let it be."

Schwartz defies society's view of perfection and promotes self acceptance. The theme of *Short: Walking Tall When You're Not Tall at All* is being happy with yourself regardless of looks and not comparing yourself with other. Readers will be probed to think about their own views on superficial treatment of others. Short, tall, or in between, readers will relate to Schwartz's message.

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