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Save Me a Seat

Sarah Rawle

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Book Review

Title: Save Me a Seat

Author: Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Illustrator: Mary Claire Cruz

Reviewer: Sarah Rawle

Publisher: Scholastic Press

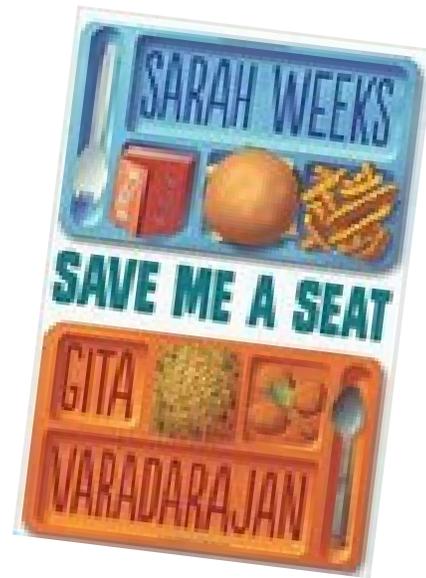
Year: 2016

ISBN: 9780545846608

Pages: 216

Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding



Review

Ravi is from India and he is a new student at Albert Einstein Elementary. It is only the first day of school and his teacher gets the wrong impression of what type of student Ravi really is; he was the top of his class in India! When Ravi sits at lunch with who he thought was his new friend, Dillon Samreen, Ravi realizes that he couldn't have been more wrong. Another boy in his class, Joe, hates school. Joe only likes lunch period and even that is ruined when his mom becomes the lunch monitor. And Dillon just can't leave him alone and Joe hates it. But when Ravi and Joe help each other with their reflection project, they realize that they have more in common than they thought.

This book is really funny and explores the experiences of two fifth-graders as they go through their first week of school. The narrative switches between Ravi to Joe each chapter and gives a neat perspective of the assumptions they make of each other. The book explores the theme that sometimes we may make wrong assumptions about people, which can lead us to treat them differently. As Ravi is adjusting to his new school he learns that giving up is not an option. The meaning of the title of the story is better understood at the end of the book, and the cover shows the difference between what a typical school lunch is for Ravi compared to Joe's school lunch.