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The Boy in the Dress

Lisa Packard

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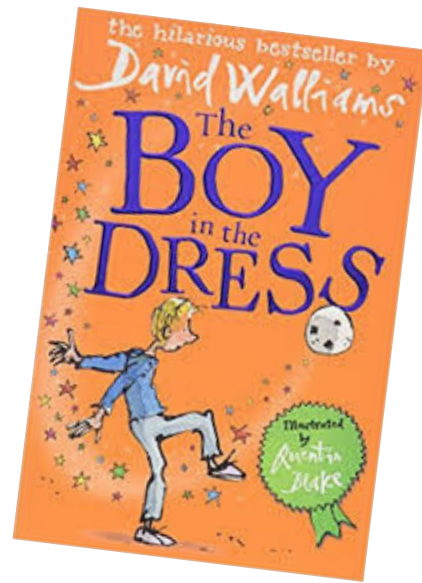
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Book Review

Title: The Boy in the Dress
Author: David Walliams
Illustrator: Quentin Blake
Reviewer: Lisa Packard
Publisher: Razorbill
Year: 2008
ISBN: 9781595142993
Pages: 232
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate
Rating: Excellent



Review

Ever since his mother left him, Dennis has been lonely and bored. It's difficult for him to be tough and play soccer, but he soon discovers a passion for fashion by reading Vogue magazine. And his world changes when he meets Lisa, a fashionista. Lisa convinces Dennis to wear a dress to school, posing as a French exchange student named Denise. Although it was fun, he is caught by the headmaster and expelled from school, disqualifying him from playing in the final soccer tournament. Thankfully, Lisa helps him become a part of the school again by dressing up the entire soccer team and discovering the headmaster's secret of dressing up. Dennis's family finally accepts him for who he is, even if it is a little different.

Walliams does a fabulous job of telling the story of someone who wants to be different, but keeps it fun and entertaining at the same time. Dennis is a very charming character. He's just a boy who wants to be different and misses his mom very much. The illustration by Quentin Blake is stunning. Blake also illustrated the Roald Dahl books, making the artistry very fun to look at and see the silliness of this story. This book isn't really about transgender or a boy wanting to be a girl; the story is about someone wanting to be different and finding their passion and going for it, even though it's different than what's normal. Overall, this story would help anyone who wants to do something different and needs a boost of bravery.

*Contains mild language.