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Book Review
Mary Wears What She Wants

Not too long ago, boys were the only ones allowed to wear pants. It’s just the way things were. But young Mary didn’t like that her dresses were restrictive and uncomfortable. So she wore pants one day, and it was a cause for shock and anger among the townspeople. She encountered a lot of negativity as she headed to school in her pants the following morning. However, once she got inside the schoolhouse, she found that other girls had followed suit, and things were never the same again.

This picture book is based on Mary Edwards Walker, who was born in 1832 and was one of the first known women to wear pants. Mary challenged the social norms of her day in more ways than one. Her story encourages others to push themselves to succeed and stand for their beliefs. The illustrations were created using aquarelle pencils and cut paper. Together, the expressive illustrations and Mary’s bold story make this a standout book.

Author
Keith Negley

Illustrator
Keith Negley

Reviewer
Jazmin Gomez

Rating
Outstanding

Level
Preschool, Primary

Pages
48

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2019

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Balzer + Bray

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