



2020

The Invisible Boy

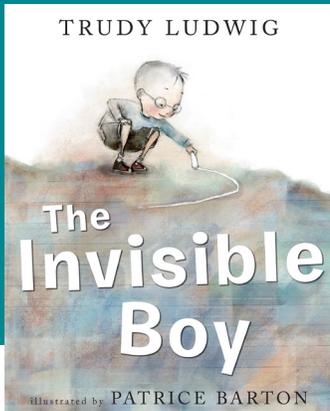
Erica Sonzogni

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Book Review

The Invisible Boy

Author

Trudy Ludwig

Illustrator

Patrice Barton

Reviewer

Erica Sonzogni

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

32

Year

2013

ISBN

9781582464503

Publisher

Alfred A. Knopf

Brian, an elementary school boy, feels invisible in his classroom. The teacher spends a lot of time with the children who are having difficulties or who misbehave, which leaves Brian alone. Even the other children in the class ignore Brian until one day, a new student comes into the class. Justin eats authentic Korean food and the other students laugh at him. Brian quietly writes Justin a note to tell him that he finds his food delicious. Justin appreciates this act of kindness and the two become fast friends, and Brian does not feel invisible any longer.

Many books do not discuss how kind, well-behaved children can feel invisible, but *The Invisible Boy* does a fabulous job at portraying this feeling through words and illustrations. The illustrations depict Brian in black and white at the beginning of the story, when he is feeling the most invisible. After his act of kindness, the illustrator progressively adds a little bit of color until the end, when Brian is as colorful as the rest of the book. This story also has a strong message about how being kind to others changes the person doing the act of kindness. This message shows that if you are feeling hurt or sad, spreading good can help others as well as yourself.