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Just A Teacher's Pet

Cynthia Phillips

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Title: Just A Teacher’s Pet  
Author: Mercer Mayer  
Reviewer: Cynthia Phillips  
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Interest Level: Primary  
Rating: Excellent

Review

A new student, Bunella, arrives at Little Critter’s school and everyone is curious about her. She’s different. She gives the teacher an apple, sits in the front, and receives special treatment from all the adults, especially the teacher, Miss Bunny. The students decide that Bunella must be the teacher’s pet. She gets to tell the other students what to do and what not to do when they’re on a field trip. There is a baseball game with the older kids that Little Critter’s class doesn’t ever beat. Miss Kitty tells them to remember to include Bunella. Bunella wins the game for Little Critter’s class! Suddenly everyone wants to be friends with her.

Just a Teacher’s Pet is a book about misunderstanding and judging others, which everyone can relate to in one way or another. The classic Mercer Mayer illustrations are wonderful at capturing the reasons behind the character’s actions and of course include the mouse and spider to search for on every page. This book is a My First Reading: I Can Read book which makes it easy to sit with your emergent reader and discuss together. The sentences are simple and early readers will be able to recognize several words and follow along. Mercer Mayer has a great way at approaching sensitive subjects with the care they deserve. This book addresses the need to welcome new students and to let yourself get to know them. If you love Mercer Mayer books you will not be disappointed with this one.