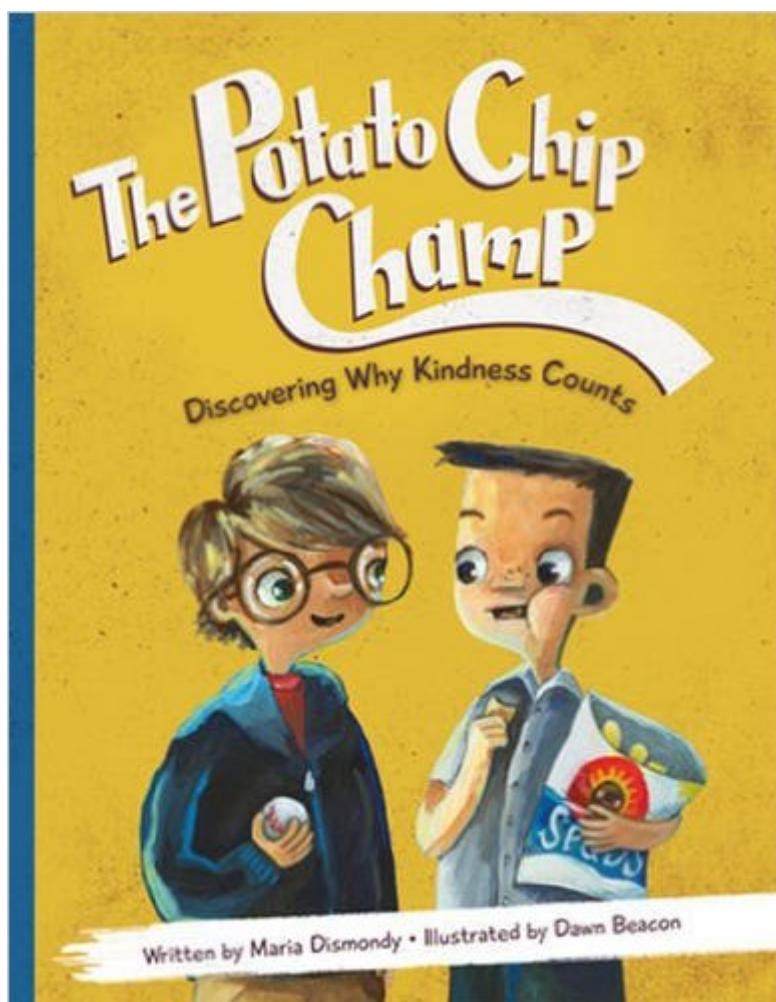


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The Potato Chip Champ: Discovering Why Kindness Counts



Synopsis

Champ and Walter Norbert Whipplemoore are about as different as two kids can be, well, except for their love of baseball and potato chips. Champ had everything, but always wanted more. Walter had very little, but was never seen without a smile on his face. In the end, it is Walter and some crunchy potato chips that teach Champ a lesson about character that can't be taught in school.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 11 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5

Customer Reviews

As Maria read The Potato Chip Champ, the students were active participants in this story. They were making inferences, connections, and asking questions. They really related to the characters in the story. Most of all, it was really wonderful to sit back and see the seven and eight year old children tackle the concept of empathy. This story really lends itself to 'putting yourself in other's shoes.' As a mother and a teacher, I often ask children, "How would you feel if..." This is a big question. The Potato Chip Champ opens up the young heart and pulls on those emotional strings. The children become cheerleaders for the main character and begin to get upset when he's not treated nicely by one boy. Without being prompted, they naturally shared how the 'bully' should have reacted. When he (the bully) does have a change of heart, the kids were proud for him. They forgave him for treating the main character in an unfair and unkind manner. I was amazed with

listening how their conversations were taking off - especially the boys. What a wonderful story to build classroom culture!

The Potato Chip Champ shows one young boy struggling to extend friendship and make empathetic choices. It isn't overly-preachy and presents a realistic portrayal of a child who is sometimes self-centered in his thinking and treatment of others. I look forward to using this book with my students as we discuss empathy and behaving kindly. I will be using this title with first graders, but I think older students would get even more out of reading and discussing it.

Perfect back to school, elementary read-a-loud to help build classroom community and includes some amazing curriculum tie ins, including a science experiment that is cheap and edible! Look online for classroom extension activities to go along with the book.

I had to share what my students thought about The Potato Chip Champ: they loved it! It is a great lesson in empathy, friendship and showing kindness. It also teaches kids that you don't have to "have it all" to be liked by others, it's what you are like as a person.

Champ is a boy who has many material possessions, but wants more. He resents Walter, a boy who achieves many things, has numerous friends, and seems happy, even though he has little money. Baseball and a potato chip fundraiser bring them together. This is a relatable book in terms of issues like class, jealousy, friendship, and kindness.

To have a generous heart and learn the ability to understand and share the feelings of another is a noble character quality to possess. Champ (the bully), who happens to like potato chips immensely, embarks on a journey of self discovery and personal growth when he meets Walter Norbert Whipplemoore, whom he immediately dislikes, rags on him and definitely competes with him at baseball. Only thing is that all the other kids are friends with Walter and love his caring ways. Soon the coach announces the doings of a school fundraiser with the winner receiving a truckload of potato chips for the reward. Through an unfortunate accident Champ learns who the real champ is in the warm conclusion of the story, and embracing a fun, new friendship. The story moves at a quick pace with great, engaging illustrations and a fantastic lesson for young people to understand and emulate.

Ms. Dismondy's books do a fabulous job at presenting and teaching children important character traits that will help them become the best they can be. The Potato Chip Champ gives us Champ- a true champ in almost every sense of the word, except for what is most important. Through Walter, Champ discovers what it TRULY takes to be a friend and what it means to be deserving. I loved using The Potato Chip Champ in my classroom with a lesson on empathy. The book is very well suited for primary-aged children. Ms. Dismondy doesn't talk down to students. I love the way Ms. Dismondy encourages the reader to come to conclusion about the events. There is so much opportunity for metacognitive thinking. The story unfolds in a manner that allows for prediction and inference as well as several empathy inducing places to pause and ask, "How would you feel?". My first grade class thoroughly enjoyed The Potato Chip Champ. It helped us take a look at ourselves and what we may or may not have been doing to be an empathetic person, as well as what we can do to ensure we always have this quality trait within us. I look forward to reading it to my students year after year.

I love the messages of Maria's books and it never seems to fail that the messages my children need to hear the most at that particular moment coincide with Maria's latest story! It is Christmas and kids every where have the case of the "I wants." As a teacher we have made letters to Santa and learned about other cultures but we have not gotten to the heart of the season. What is Christmas really about? More to the point, what is most important in life? Is it the things we want now that will soon gather dust or our character which will last a lifetime? This book teaches kids that what matters most is who you are not what you have. This is a great message for adults and kids alike!

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