



Class Clown

By Johanna Hurwitz

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"Once again Hurwitz exhibits her talent for creating characters who talk, act, and think just like real kids. Realistic dialogue . . . and commonplace situations that sparkle with humor combine to make this a fine choice."--School Library Journal.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Lucas is the most obstreperous pupil in Mrs. Hockaday's third grade. He races pencils and cracks jokes when things seem a bit dull, and he always forgets to raise his hand. When his teacher sends home a note, Lucas vows (although it won't be any fun) to behave in class. Somehow, though, most of his good intentions go awry. Nevertheless, Lucas perseveres, and by the end of the school year Mrs. Hockaday sends him home with another note that cites his improved behavior. Unlike many "class clown" stories, this one includes insights into Lucas's behavior, much of which was not originally intended to be defiant. While one entire chapter has absolutely nothing to do with school or the issue of being a class clown the rest of the story is told with warmth, humor and a light touch that should appeal to readers. Ages 6-9.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4 Hurwitz has created a third-grade classroom full of lively, true-to-life individuals, but Lucas Cott is the real star. A boy full of enthusiasm and an overabundance of energy, never deliberately misbehaving but always wanting attention, he tries the patience of everyone with whom he interacts. Once again Hurwitz exhibits her talent for creating characters who talk, act, and think just like real kids. Adults are also given three-dimensional treatment, from Lucas' often exasperated teacher, whose patience with him wears thin but never out, to his mother, loving yet harried because of Lucas and her twin toddlers. There are some very funny moments here, as well as some gentle and touching ones. An episode in which Lucas' decision to bring a bagful of fall leaves rather than the one or two his teacher has assigned backfires will make a perfect read-aloud chapter. Realistic dialogue, short sentences in large print, and commonplace situations that sparkle with humor combine to make this a fine choice for children just beginning chapter books. *Trev Jones*.

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About the Author

Johanna Hurwitz is the award-winning author of more than sixty popular books for young readers, including *Faraway Summer*; *Dear Emma*; *Elisa Michaels*, *Bigger & Better*; *Class Clown*; *Fourth-Grade Fuss*; and *Rip-Roaring Russell*, an American Library Association Notable Book. Her work has won many child-chosen state awards. A former school librarian, she frequently visits schools around the country to talk about her books. Mrs. Hurwitz and her husband divide their time between Great Neck, New York, and Wilmington, Vermont.

Sheila Hamanaka is an award-winning fine artist whose work has also appeared in *Scholastic* magazines as well as in *Permanent Connections* by Sue Ellen Bridgers and Barbara Campbell's *Taking Care of Yoki*. Ms. Hamanaka lives in Tappan, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Childers:

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