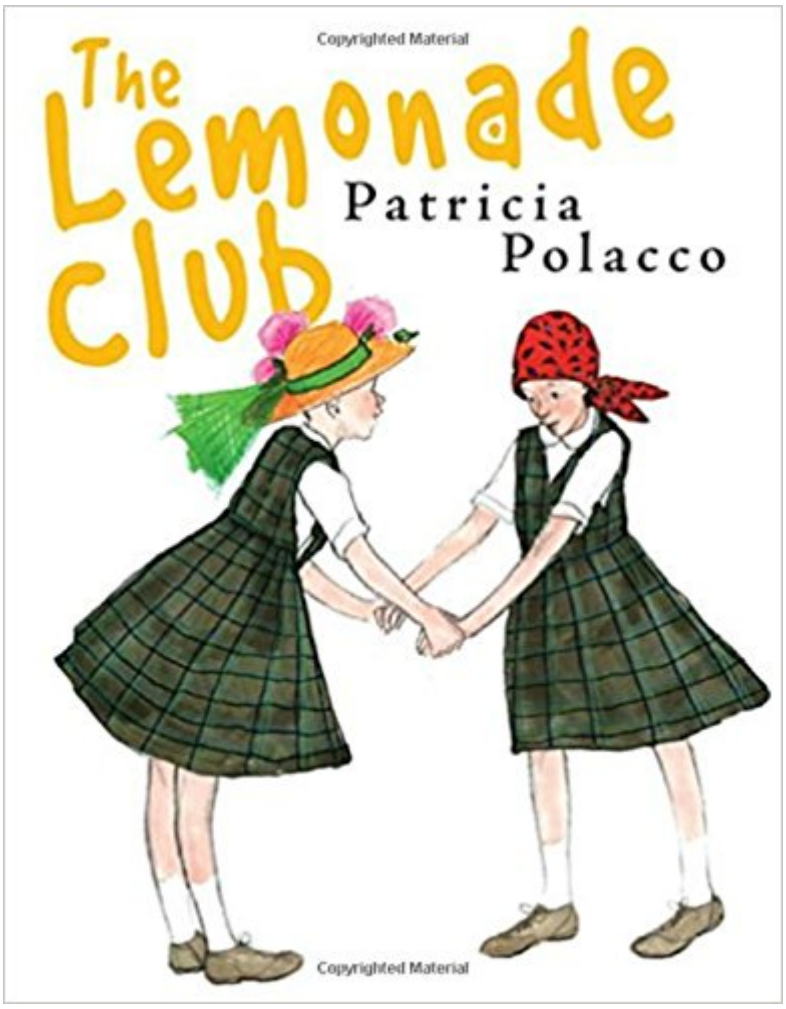
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The Lemonade Club



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Synopsis

Everyone loves Miss Wichelman?s fifth-grade class?especially best friends Traci and Marilyn. That?s where they learn that when life hands you lemons, make lemonade! They are having a great year until Traci begins to notice some changes in Marilyn. She?s losing weight, and seems tired all the time. She has leukemia?and a tough road of chemotherapy ahead. It is not only Traci and Miss Wichelman who stand up for her, but in a surprising and unexpected turn, the whole fifth-grade class, who figures out a way to say we?re with you. In true Polacco fashion, this book turns lemons into lemonade and celebrates amazing life itself.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD740L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #132,709 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #195 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases #1306 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

"I was born in Lansing, Michigan in 1944. Soon after my birth I lived in Williamston, Michigan and then moved onto my grandparents farm in Union City, Michigan."I lived on the farm with my mom and Grandparents until 1949. That is when my Babushka (my grandmother) died and we prepared to move away from Michigan. I must say that living on that little farm with them was the most magical time of my life...and that my Babushka and other grandparents were some of the most inspirational people in my life."My parents were divorced when I was 3, and both my father and mother moved back into the homes of their parents. I spent the school year with my mother, and the

summers with my dad. In both households I was the apple of my grandparents' eyes! I would say that these relationships with my grandparents have most definitely influenced my life and my work. You probably have noticed that in almost every book that I write there is a very young person who is interacting with an elderly person. Personally, I feel that this is the most valuable experience of my life....having the wonder of knowing both children and elderly people."The respect that I learned as a very young person certainly carried over into my life in later years. I have always like hearing stories from these folks. My genuine curiosity for the wonder of living a very long life prepared me to accept the declining years of my own parents."To get back to the farm in Union City...this place was so magical to me that I have never forgotten it! This was the place where I heard such wonderful stories told...this was the place that a real meteor fell into our font yard...that very meteorite is now our family headstone in the graveyard here in Union City."Did I tell you that I now live in Union City? This is after living in Oakland, California for almost 37 years. But, you see, every year I'd come back to Michigan to see my Dad and family."Anyway..."In 1949 we left the farm to move, first to Coral Gables, Florida. I lived there with my Mom and my brother, Richard, for almost 3 years. Then we moved to Oakland, California. I remained there for most of my young life on into my adulthood. We lived on Ocean View Drive in the Rockridge District. What I loved the most about this neighborhood is that all of my neighbors came in as many colors, ideas and religions as there are people on the planet. How lucky I was to know so many people that were so different and yet so much alike."It is on Ocean View that I met my best friend, Stewart Grinnell Washington. We are best friends to this day! He has a younger brother, Winston and three sisters; Jackie, Terry and Robin. When I was a student in elementary school I wasn't a very good student. I had a terrible time with reading and math. As a matter of fact, I did not learn how to read until I was almost 14 years old. Can you imagine what it was like to see all my friends do so well in school and I wasn't! I thought I was dumb. I didn't like school because there was this boy that always teased me and made me feel even dumber. When I was fourteen, it was learned that I have a learning disability. It is called dyslexia. I felt trapped in a body that wouldn't do what everybody else could do. That was when one of my hero's, my teacher, found what was wrong with me and got me the help I needed to succeed in school. Of course, now that I am an adult, I realize that being learning disabled does not mean DUMB AT ALL! As a matter of fact, I have learned that being learning disabled only means that I cannot learn the way most of you do. As a matter of fact, most learning disabled children are actually GENIUSES! Once I learned how to read and caught up with the rest of my fellow students, I did very well."I went on to University, majored in Fine Art, then went on to do a graduate degree and even ended up with a Ph.D. in Art History. For a time I restored ancient pieces of art for museums. I

eventually became the mother of two children, Steven and Traci, and devoted much of my days to their education and upbringing."I did not start writing children's books until I was 41 years old. Mind you the "art" has always been there for me most of my life. Apparently one of the symptoms of my disability in academics is the ability of draw very, very well. So drawing, painting and sculpture has always been a part of my life even before I started illustrating my books. The books were quite a surprise, really. Mind you, I came from a family of incredible storytellers. My mother's people were from the Ukraine and Russia...my father's people were from Ireland. My extended family,(Stewart's family) were from the bayous of Louisiana...also great story tellers. When you are raised on HEARING stories.....NOT SEEING THEM, you become very good at telling stories yourself. So at the age of 41 I started putting stories that I told down on paper and did drawings to help illustrate them...I guess the rest is history."I have enjoyed a wonderful career of writing books for children . Who could have guessed that little girl that was having such a tough time in school would end up an illustrator and author. Children and adults alike ask me where I get my ideas...I get them from the same place that you do....MY IMAGINATION... I would guess the reason my imagination is so fertile is because I came from storytelling and, WE DID NOT OWN A T.V.!!!!!!!!! You see, when one is a writer, actor, dancer, musician; a creator of any kind, he or she does these things because they listen to that "voice" inside of them. All of us have that "voice". It is where all inspired thoughts come from....but when you have electronic screens in front, of you, speaking that voice for you... it DROWNS OUT THE VOICE! When I talk to children and aspiring writers, I always ask them to listen to the voice, turn off the T.V. and"LISTEN...LISTEN...LISTEN."Now that I have moved back to Union City I am intending to open my house and community and invite people to come there to take part in writing seminars, story telling festivals, literature conferences and various events that celebrate children's literature."Born Patricia Ann Barber in Lansing, Michigan, to parents of Russian and Ukrainian descent on one side and Irish on the other, Patricia Polacco grew up in both California and Michigan. Her school year was spent in Oakland, California, and summers in her beloved Michigan. She describes her family members as marvelous storytellers. "My fondest memories are of sitting around a stove or open fire, eating apples and popping corn while listening to the old ones tell glorious stories about their homeland and the past. We are tenacious traditionalists and sentimentalists.... With each retelling our stories gain a little more Umph!"Studying in the United States and Australia, Patricia Polacco has earned an M.F.A. and a Ph. D. in art history, specializing in Russian and Greek painting, and iconographic history. She is a museum consultant on the restoration of icons. As a participant in many citizen exchange programs for writers and illustrators, Patricia Polacco has traveled extensively in Russia as well as other former Soviet republics. She

continues to support programs that encourage Russo-American friendships and understanding. She is also deeply involved in inner-city projects here in the U.S. that promote the peaceful resolution of conflict and encourage art and literacy programs.The mother of a grown son and a daughter, Patricia Polacco currently resides in Michigan, where she has a glorious old farm that was built during the time of Lincoln.copyright Ã Â© 2000 by Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. All rights reserved.

I appreciated what the author was trying to do here... however, I found the sub-plot around the girl's weight to be very unwelcome & actually upsetting. First, being bullied for looking different -when still in good health + her stated desire to be thin + the suspicion that she's been dieting when she's really sick and loosing weight uncontrollably -these are very thorny complex story arc that should have their own book and not added to an already complex narrative. There isn't enough time in this book to treat those topics with appropriate care, caution and unpack what they mean for a young audience.Second, a huge number of the children who this book is being read to -have MISSHAPEN BODIES - are terribly swollen and 'fat' or are bone thin and wish so much they could look different and look normal. Framing 'thin' as being a desired body shape and casually introducing the pain of being teased for looking different -when she's still normal and HEALTHY- makes for impossible reading to a sick kid who doesn't look normal and isn't healthy. Because to my child, my sick misshapen child -in that moment the protagonist is everything she wants to be - normal and health. Attending school, with her full head of hair. It literally made my daughter cry with self-loathing that kids would tease her who looked so much different / worse / misshapen.If your audience is sick kids, then respect how different their journey is from normative kids. This specific subplot felt like a gratuitous add told for the benefit of parents or other healthy kids. But it pricks the anxieties & fears of sick children, which is very unkind.

I am collecting Patricia Polacco books for my children. We received our first, "bun bun button" in the mail through a program called Books from Birth that is sponsored by Dolly Parton. Children who are signed up at birth for this free program receive one book per month till they are five years and go to school. (Excellent Charity but that's another review) This is all about making lemonade from lemons that life throws your way. It is sweet. It is an excellent book. All of hers are. Patricia Polacco never fails to touch the heart.

Some of the stories about dealing with cancer have a sad ending, but this one doesn't, so it is even

better. I love Patricia Polacco's writing and drawing, and this is a terrific way to let kids hear about cancer in a way they can absorb. Although 5th grade is probably the target on reading level, you can edit as you read to younger children and it works just as well because of the terrific pictures. I have read it to Kindergarten and Second graders, and there were students in each class dealing with someone in their family with cancer - leukemia and breast cancer are the ones mentioned in the book, but it helps the kids deal with the topic.

GREAT, if not heart~tugging story... addresses a very 'today' & all-too-prevalent topic...WAIT...until you reach the end of the story to read the after~log information...you will be[pleasantly] amazed...! I'd say RL is 3rd grade & above for some of the delicate issuesbrought up, but...my 2nd graders were mesmerized as well.

I bought this book for myself after I lost my father to leukemia last year. This year at school, I was in charge of doing a fundraiser for the Leukemia Society. To help my first graders understand what leukemia was, I read this book to them. I do admit that I ad libbed a bit, especially when they talked about breast cancer. But my little ones really got it. They understood what being that ill meant. I shared how the leukemia society helped my family out when my dad was in the hospital. The next day, I had students bring in the contents of their piggy banks and give up their snack money to contribute instead. The story is beautifully written, of course, and it was a welcome addition to my classroom library.

Patricia Polacco has done it again. This poignant story tells of a little girl's struggle with cancer and her teacher's own personal fight. Our school partners with the Lukemia Lymphoma foundation through Pasta for Pennies. This book will definitely be added to our campaign.

This is a sweet book by Patricia Palacco. After teaching 3rd grade for many years, I can honestly say that my students and I have yet to find a PP book that we didn't like. Even after retiring, I continue to purchase her books and enjoy them very much. It's very special that most of her stories are based on actual events.If I had to pick a favorite from all of her books, I couldn't.

Patricia Palocca captures the essence of friendship when adversity comes in life. Her pictures capture so much, right down to the directions of the hair returning after chemo.

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