



The Last Day of Kindergarten

Nancy Loewen, Sachiko Yoshikawa (Illustrator)

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Today is the last day of kindergarten. I wish it were the FIRST. Then I'd meet Mrs. Popinski all over again. A little girl is sad that kindergarten is coming to an end. She wishes it were the first day again, when everything was exciting and new and there was such a fun year ahead. But then she realizes that graduating is exciting, too, and maybe first grade won't be so bad, after all! Bright mixed-media artwork is a perfect complement to the text.

The Last Day of Kindergarten Details

Date : Published February 1st 2011 by Two Lions

ISBN : 9780761458074

Author : Nancy Loewen , Sachiko Yoshikawa (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Academic, School



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From Reader Review The Last Day of Kindergarten for online ebook

Mymcbooks says

My Review: While the last day of kindergarten may bring happiness to a lot of children looking forward to starting a new school. We never do think the last day of kindergarten will bring sadness to some children.

The Last Day of Kindergarten will not only help children to understand that leaving kindergarten is a step to attending first grade, but how much fun first grade will be from eating lunch in the cafeteria to going on field trips and learning fun and new exciting things.

Great illustrations by Sachiko Yoshikawa with snap shorts of different activities through out the book. I highly recommend this book for parents to read to their children who are about to attend first grade.

FTC Disclosure: I received a review copy of this book from the author in exchange for a fair and honest review. I was not monetarily compensated for my opinion in any way.

Kim says

This was cute. Made my 5 year old a little sad about kindergarten ending in a few weeks. Gave her an idea of what first grade might be like though.

Billy says

Today is the last day of Mrs. Popinski's kindergarten class through the eyes of a little girl. She reflects back on the first day of school when she hung up her bookpack for the very first time. She remembered playing with the other students during Creative Playtime, dressing up for Halloween and students having birthday parties.

The last day of school was different than the first, as today the students were washing the tables, throwing away old crayons and dried-up paints, and collecting their drawings off the wall. They gather together with the teacher and talk about their favorite summer things and what they looked forward to in the first grade. The kids line up and head to the auditorium for their graduation.

The Last Day of Kindergarten is the heartwarming story of a little girl's last day of kindergarten. I think every child is sad about their last day of kindergarten, so readers can easily connect with the main character. I believe the book could be a good tool for parents to read to their pre-schoolers about to expect during their first year of school. Plus, I can easily see teachers reading the book on the last day of school. Overall, I loved reading the book and enjoyed the colorful illustrations. I recommend the book to parents and young readers.

Anne says

So I just read this to my daughter.

- A) Because tomorrow is her Last Day of Kindergarten and
- B) It was in her bookbag. So I guess I was supposed to?

Anyway. I'm not sure how useful this was at helping her *move on*, but she seemed to like it.

Unfortunately, her older brother was sitting on top of us, and commenting on everything that he felt was an inaccurate portrayal of the last day of kindergarten.

Because that's what he does.

Swear to God, I don't know where he gets his obnoxious personality from...

Then I read the part about her being able to go on the Big Kid Playground next year.

Which is evidently a HUGE perk. Who knew the K-5 playground was so shitty?

Anyway, it suddenly struck my son that he would...and I quote:

Never be able play with her on the Big Playground.

insert sad eyes here

See, he's heading to middle school next year, and I guess it just now struck him that this was the last time they'd be in the same school together.

Awwww.

Yeah, don't feel too bad for him. He's going to be in the same school as his older brother. And the soon-to-be-first-grader will still be at the same school as her big sister.

Yep. So this turned into quite a little hug-fest for about 2 minutes.

Then they realized that they still live together.

And that was the end of *that*.

In reality, all this book did was remind me that my babies are all growing up, and I'm getting older.

Thanks a lot, Loewen!

I'm going to go have a drink now.

Laura Salas says

I love the narrator of The Last Day of Kindergarten. She loved the year so much, she wants to do it all over again! She imagines reliving the year, and we get to relive it with her, with details like losing her first tooth in Sammy McGregor's birthday cupcake and having pointy, new crayons. But instead it's the last day, and Mrs. Popinski leads the class in brainstorming what they're looking forward to about summer: sprinklers, blue raspberry ice pops, etc. And what they're excited about for first grade, like the big kids' playground and eating lunch in the cafeteria. The book ends with kindergarten graduation and a joyous scene of celebration. What a lovely book that really captures both the excitement and melancholy of the end of the school year as well as the constant series of other beginnings and endings kids have to adjust to.

Kim says

A cute story, but one of those very specific books. Great for a Kindergarten teacher to read on the last day, or for a parent who knows their child is about to graduate and may or may not have anxiety about it.

Ms. Poe says

Nancy Loewen has written another incredible story that children will love in *The Last Day of Kindergarten*. This book is a memory of all the things that were accomplished in kindergarten throughout the year. Sachiko Yoshikawa's beautiful illustrations, present a mix of media resembling brightly colored photographs taken throughout the year. The story takes us through a year of kindergarten and builds up to the final steps; graduation and then 1st grade, here we come. Leaving kindergarten can bring on a lot of mixed emotions for a child. The author leaves many areas that can lead to discussions about their accomplishment and fears in leaving behind familiarity. *The Last Day of Kindergarten* will help children understand that leaving kindergarten is an accomplishment and first grade is going to be a fun and new exciting experience.

This story is told through the eyes of an adorable kindergartener reliving the 1st day of school and taking us to the end of the school year. Her teacher Mrs. Popinski, tells the students that they are ready for 1st grade. They have reached a great accomplishment, made many friends and learned many things. We even get a sneak peek at what graduation, summer and what 1st grade will be like. I love the conclusion of the story, where the graduation cap is thrown in the air and our adorable character is saying, "I did it!" "First grade, here I come!"

This story will help students overcome their fear of the end of kindergarten and help them realize that 1st grade will be a happy experience. Nancy Loewen did an excellent job giving plenty of opportunity for discussion. I highly recommend this story of accomplishment to all children from pre-kindergarten through graduates. Every student should have this book, as kindergarten is a special time and this book will serve as a special memory.

Debbie says

The last day of school can be sad, scary, exciting and even hopeful. For one little girl finishing Kindergarten, the last day of school is all these feelings. Lucky for her and all of her classmates, their wonderful teacher is there. Discussing the parts of Kindergarten that were fun and the parts that they are all going to miss the most. Helping the children to face their fears of what will be found in First grade by talking about what they are looking forward to the most, what they can expect and what will be the same. The sadness of the last day turns to fun as the day becomes a celebration of accomplishments. The proud Kindergarten class gets a chance to show what they have learned in front of family then proceed in becoming First graders.

Fantastic storyline that is easy to relate to. I may not remember my own time spent in Kindergarten but watching my children go through it was almost as good. While I think that the book could have flowed better between remembering their time in class and their anticipation of the future. Or touched some of the deeper concerns of this emotional time for kids. I appreciated how simple it was to start the "I remember when"

conversations with kids about their time in Kindergarten. I believe that point is to make the transition easier on the child and this story just might help. The illustrations by Sachiko Yoshikawa are colorful and happy, they do a great job of depicting the story as it is told. I have already offered to donate the book to a favorite Kindergarten teacher in our Elementary school. I hope she and all her classes to will enjoy it as much as my family has.

Azriana Johnson says

My current cooperating teacher used to read this story at the end of the year when she taught kindergarten. This story is told through the eyes of a little girl graduating kindergarten. This book is great to help ease the transition students have to make.

Tiffany Higgins says

The story made me feel excited to start kindergarten. It tells me that I will make new friends. It sounds like kindergarten will be fun. I'll get to paint and I'll clean up my messes. I'll get to play.

I liked The Last Day of Kindergarten because it's such a good book. My favorite part was when they were peeking in to see the crowd. I really liked their hats. It made me happy that their mom and dad was there, too.

I think other kids will like this book, too. They should read it and keep it forever. They should even keep it for their kids.

~Alexandra, 5 years old, almost a kindergartner~

I chose The Last Day of Kindergarten by Nancy Loewen in the hopes that it would help to ease some of my daughter's worries about kindergarten, even though the story itself is clearly about the end of kindergarten. I was not disappointed. The story covers many aspects of kindergarten, from the first day all the way until the last.

The intended message of helping a child just finishing kindergarten to be happily and comfortably prepared to transition into the first grade was well done. I am positive that many kindergartners are worried about what will happen when they come back for first grade in the fall. This book is a great way to help ease those fears.

The story line flows nicely. It starts off a little sad and as the story progresses you can feel the excitement building. "I did it! First grade here I come!" This is probably exactly the flow of emotions a kindergartner feels on the last day.

The illustrations are very bright and eye catching. There is a softness to the illustrations that keeps them well-blended to the page. Even the illustrations build with excitement. Sachiko Yoshikawa did a beautiful job with these illustrations.

Nancy Loewen did an excellent job with this book, and I recommend it to all mothers of kindergarten aged children.

~Tiffany A. Higgins, children's author~

Amanda says

I saw this book and thought that it would be a fun book, especially wanting to teach Kindergarten, thinking this would be fun to read to potential students.

This book tells the story of a girl who is going to graduate kindergarten. She explains what she will miss and why ending kindergarten is sad. The story then shifts from sad and focuses on what she is excited about and will love in 1st grade.

This is a book that students can relate to, and maybe even get them excited about being in kindergarten or going into 1st grade.

This book is fiction; the pictures are fun, showcasing the types of things done and learned in kindergarten.

Shanna Gebhard says

The Last Day of Kindergarten by Nancy Loewen is close to my heart. See, right now my daughter is in kindergarten. And she's having a blast. Everyday she comes home and talks about her teacher, about all the neat things they did today and how she cannot wait to go back tomorrow. But I know in a few months it will all come to an end. On June 3rd she will graduate kindergarten and we will be in the same boat as the children in the book.

The Last Day of Kindergarten is a book every teacher and parent needs to read to their child when the time is nearing the last days of the school year. The book starts out with the little girl recounting all the wonderful things that have happened over the past year. And how if it was the first day of kindergarten she would be looking forward to doing all those things again. But it's not. It's the last day of kindergarten and now they are cleaning up the room, taking their pictures down and sitting criss-cross applesauce for the last time.

Then it's time for them to go down the hall and onto the stage for their graduation ceremony. And it's over. That was it. Kindergarten is behind them and 1st grade is ahead. I really appreciated how Nancy Loewen addresses the fears and concerns every kid will have with the ending of kindergarten. And how she points out all the wonderful times ahead. I know for us it really helped my daughter put it all in perspective. Even though kindergarten is ending and it was a lot of fun there is still so much ahead for her to experience.

I gave The Last Day of Kindergarten a 5 star review because it's a wonderful book that helps soothe a young child's nerves, addresses their fears and gives them hope and excitement for the future. I received The Last Day of Kindergarten complimentary in exchange for my honest and unbiased review. All thoughts and opinions expressed are 100% my own.

Heidi-Marie says

This book was not for me. I didn't click with the illustrations, though I'm sure there are children who will. I didn't like the overall feel to it, but I know that's me. I tried not to roll my eyes over a graduation ceremony for Kindergartners. (I mean, really?) I like the message that the book is trying to convey, and I'm sure there aren't many end of school books compared to the plethora of starting school books. Plus, Kindergarten and 1st grade are very different, so this can be good to help lessen a child's fears. It also can help a child reflect on the accomplishments they've made, or remember what they have enjoyed--another way to lessen fears.

Lindsey Schultz says

The kids are going to love this book. Especially Kindergartners or younger. I will probably keep the book in the class for freee reading or looking at pictures. I might read it towards the end of the year, as a way to close out the year.

Laura says

This is a delightful book for kindergarteners who are just a little apprehensive about starting Grade One. I remember my daughter telling me that Grade One was hard and not as fun as Kindergarten. I think this book would have eased her transition.

The story, told in first person point-of-view, follows a little girl who is sad that it's the last day of kindergarten and she wishes it was the first. She reminisces about all that she's done. The teacher then helps the class to look forward to summer and Grade One. There is even a graduation ceremony at the end. My kids both made their own graduation hats, but their small ceremonies was not held on a stage with an audience of parents as described in the book. Nonetheless, it brought back memories for my kids and me.

I just loved the bright, colourful and detailed illustrations in this book. As I was reading it to my son, I would ask him to find in the pictures objects that I named, and he would scour the pages in search of them. He is ending Grade One, though, and thought this book too "young" for him. Unlike my daughter, he had no problem transitioning from Kindergarten.

If you have a child who is approaching his last day of kindergarten, this book will resonate and help him understand the transition from school to summer and back again. A cute book, to be sure.
