

Reviews of The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses



If you loved *TinTin* and Steven Spielberg's adaption into a movie, then you'll fall in love with Sammy in *The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses*. Yep, they both have red hair, and a retro feel like *TinTin* created in 1930-1950s with the extraordinary illustrations of Marjorie Crosby-Fairall.

What captures your heart? It's great characters, adventures and the challenge. Sammy is a boy. A super hero. A brave pirate who leads his crew of girls and boys. Until the day Sammy feels different. He gets glasses. His parents, teacher, family are happy for Sammy, because life is no longer blurry. So, the great miscommunication begins. The

super hero is still heroic, funny, determined as he uses clever tactics and quick thinking to stay on top. Through humour, self-realisation and the indomitable spirit of kids, Sammy wins the challenge of change. The heroic pirate returns leading his pirate crew. A picture book for all ages. www.sgervay.com






Children's Book Council Australia CBCA
Review by Jackie Hawkes

The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses UK

A super book that has been carefully and skilfully created to comfort and reassure children who are finding it difficult to adjust to wearing glasses. The story is narrated by the protagonist Sam in a tone you would expect from a young boy. The beautiful illustrations by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall really breathe life into the characters.

<https://www.littleparachutes.com/books/the-boy-in-the-big-blue-glasses/>

 A picture book which acknowledges that getting used to wearing glasses can be  a challenge for some children. The boy in the story ultimately grows to accept them.

 Add to your book list



Author: Susanne Gervay
Illustrator: Marjorie Crosby-Fairall
Publisher: EK Books
Age: 3+

Sam doesn't like his new glasses. They make his ears hurt. His parents say he looks handsome in them. But Sam just wants to look like himself. His teacher doesn't recognize him; she says he must

be a new superhero. But Sam doesn't want to be a superhero. He just wants to be himself. At least his best friend George recognizes him and thinks he looks okay. Sam does everything he can to lose his glasses but they keep being found. And then things get even worse, and Sam has to cope with googly-eyed turtles and giant penguins! Eventually, with a bit of confidence and a lot of humour, Sam finds out that wearing glasses isn't so bad – and people still like him just the way he is after all.

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The messages we found in this book:

Acknowledgement:

- Sam worries that people won't recognise him in his glasses and will treat him differently.
- Sometimes well-meaning comments can upset children if they don't fully understand the motivation behind them. The adults in the story try to make Sam feel good about his glasses by saying he looks handsome or like a superhero, but Sam just wants to be himself. Only his best friend George 'says it like it is' and simply states that 'Sam's got glasses'.
- Sam is upset when his classmates tease him about his appearance.

Information:

- If glasses are uncomfortable, an optician can adjust them

Inspiration:

- Sam cleverly uses his sense of humour to get his classmates laughing along with him. He shows resilience, bouncing back from his sad feelings about his appearance.

Hope:

- Sam ultimately gets used to his glasses and realises that his friends see 'the old Sam' after all.

Review by: Claire Ward-Dutton

Categories: [Being Different & Being Yourself](#), [Wearing Glasses / Eye patch](#)

Tags: [anxiety](#), [appearance](#), [co-](#)

[operation](#), [confidence](#), [fears](#), [friends](#), [glasses](#), [persistence](#), [prejudice](#), [rudeness](#), [school](#), [st](#)

[ubbornness](#), [transition](#) 

The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses

thebottomshelf.edublogs.org/2019/07/01/the-boy-in-the-big-blue-glasses/

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thebottomshelf.edublogs.org/2019/07/01/the-boy-in-the-big-blue-glasses/

Superhero Sam has had to get glasses – big blue ones – but he doesn't like them. They make his ears hurt and even though, his well-meaning parents and grandparents and even his teacher say he looks handsome in them, he hates that. It's as though it's all about his glasses and he, himself, is invisible. They make such a fuss about this new superhero, it's as though they've forgotten the old superhero he was before.

His best friend George still knows him and plays with him though, but then the day comes when George is not at school and the other children start to make fun of him...

Every now and then you pick up a story that really resonates with you and Sam was me 60+ years ago, my son 40 years ago and my granddaughter seven years ago. Each of us had to go through the trauma of appearing in public wearing glasses, and despite the well-intended comments of others, it's tricky to know who you are when you don't recognise yourself in the mirror but you know you are still you inside.

Sam is just one of hundreds of other kids who face this situation, and author Susanne Gervay is well-known for taking those everyday but confronting situations and putting them into the spotlight so the extraordinary becomes ordinary, and inspiring hope for happiness ahead. No one likes to be different when they are little and wearing glasses seems like a huge placard that tells others you are not 100% perfect and that somehow you are less than the other children in your class. Yet inside you know you are just the same person you were the day before when you didn't have glasses.

Superbly and sensitively illustrated, this is a book that not only belongs in any collection for young readers and which should be actively promoted because so many children will see it as a mirror and learn to love reading even more as they read about themselves. Others might see it as a window and begin to understand how self-conscious Sam and others feel and how they can be more empathetic, rather than unkind like the children in the story who call Sam "googly-eyes" and "pufferfish". It might even be an opportunity to explore other "disabilities" and the sorts of ways that science and technology can now assist in overcoming them comparing the advances to the days when no such help was available and life became a misery.

Excellent, down-to-earth, and one for everyone, glasses or not!

[Hazel Edwards's Reviews](#) > **The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses**

Want to Read

The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses

This picture book is a 'keeper' for the child-centred 'voice' of not wanting to be physically different, but also wanting to be a 'hero'. It's realistic. The stunningly designed artwork by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall also stands out. And the cover would make a great poster.

The title 'The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses' is memorable and relevant.

The 'blur' of the classroom, without glasses hints to other child readers with 2020 vision what it's like to be sight impaired. But there's also gentle humour in the artwork.

Groups such as Vision Australia who deliver the Felix Kits which contain books, audio and stimulus material to pre-schoolers with sight impairment, will LOVE this book. Author-social issues educator Susanne Gervay already supports many of these groups and a Braille edition exists.

Our family puzzled over the red Super boy glasses on a couple of pages, but decided they were super powers. Such wonderful attention to detail by the illustrator.

In her books, Susanne Gervay has re-created many reassuring child characters who 'cope' with a range of issues. 'I am Jack' is her best known.

And 'The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses' will be around a long time, for the story and reassurance but also because it reads well aloud and many parents and educators will appreciate that.

Your book is such a brilliant thing, Susanne. I'm sure there are still many kids like I was who do their best to cover up their short-sightedness out of some odd sense of shame. Hopefully this will change things. xx



Review: The Boy In The Big Blue Glasses

Sammy is sad. His eyesight is not the best but worse is his dented sense of self-esteem and identity. Forced to wear big blue glasses to enable better sight, Sammy feels they now segregate him from the rest of the world: his peers and family. All he wants is to feel like his old-self again. He does everything he can to bypass wearing his glasses but they always find their way back to him.

Despite assurances from the grown-ups in his life that the glasses make him look more handsome and heroic than he's ever looked (their acclamations only serve to define his difference), Sam is unconvinced, feeling lost, alienated and alone, even more so when one disastrous school day, his best friend, George is away sick.

Then, after a few innocent digs from his classmates persuade him to clean his glasses, Sam discovers a whole different world within his classroom and his way of viewing his situation dramatically improves.

Gervay's considered story from a small boy's point of view is suffused with enough emotional syntax and plenty of child-relatable context to ensure even the youngest of readers will appreciate and, in many cases, connect personally with, Sammy's dilemma. Childlike imagination and real-life expectations meld harmoniously together into an expose of the very real problem of undiagnosed vision impairment within classrooms and the impact it can have on young students.

Crosby-Fairall's all-encompassing illustrations sweep across every page, decadent in detail and beautiful muted colour, each brilliantly bringing into focus Sam's true feelings and unique perspective of his blurred world.

Stigmas can arise from nearly any situation; feeling different because you look different can lead to exclusion and deficits in confidence, detrimental factors that chip away at a child's emotional resilience. *The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses* triumphantly commands we recognise and acknowledge that having to wear glasses – even big bold blue ones - (or deal with any new adjustment to the norm) is no small deal for kids and can't always be magically made better by trying to persuade them they are something or someone they

do not feel.

The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses is a treasure to share and not just with those little ones who find themselves suddenly bespeckled (although this story makes an excellent vehicle for easing into the transition of wearing glasses). It is also a subtle cry out to carers and grownups to heed the negative effects of overstated affirmation.

Highly recommended.

Title: The Boy In The Big Blue Glasses

Author: Susanne Gervay

Illustrator: Marjorie Crosby-Fairall

Publisher: EK Books, \$24.99

Publication Date: July 2019

Format: Hardback

ISBN: 9781925335996

For ages: 4 – 8

Type: Picture Book

Buy the Book: [EK Books](#), [Boomerang Books](#)