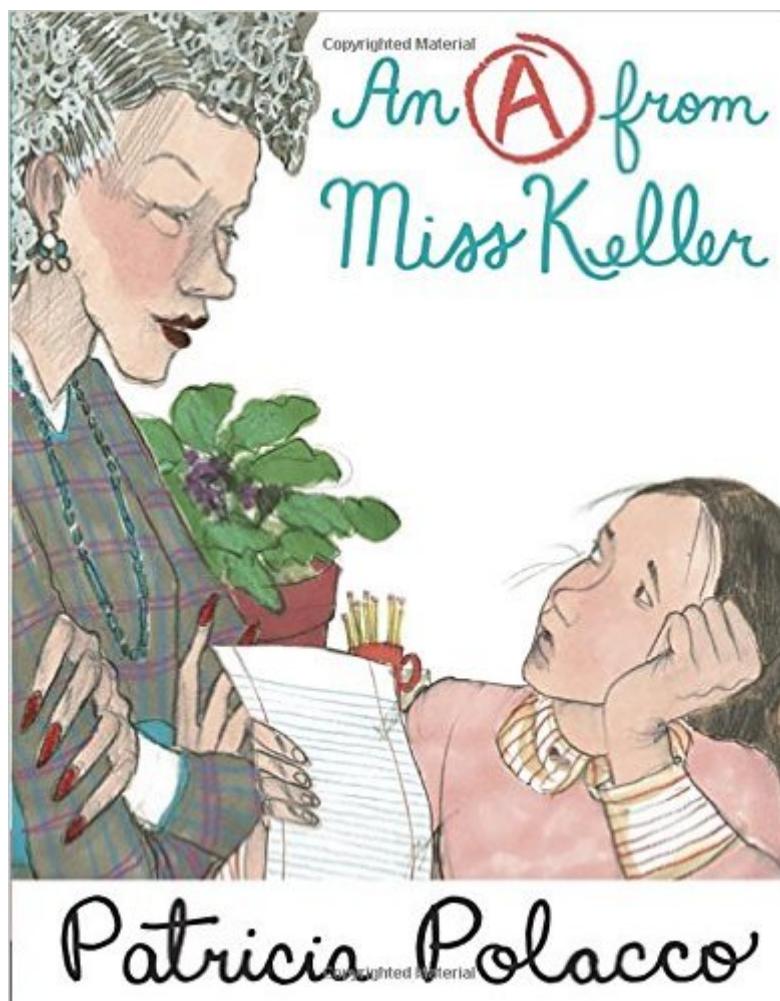


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An A From Miss Keller



Synopsis

How did Patricia Polacco become a writer? A perfect companion to the classic *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, *The Art of Miss Chew*, and *Mr. Wayne*'s Masterpiece, this book celebrates a teacher who inspired a young Patricia Polacco to become the writer and storyteller she is today. Trisha is nervous about being chosen for Miss Keller's writing class. "Killer Keller" demands that her students dazzle her with their writing, and rumor has it that she has never given an A. The rumors turn out to be all too true: "there's just no pleasing Miss Keller. Then an unexpected loss leaves Trisha heartbroken. Thoughts of teachers and grades forgotten, she pours out her soul in a personal narrative. And when Miss Keller reads it, she tells Trisha, "You've given your words wings."

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0700 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399166912

ISBN-13: 978-0399166914

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #19,945 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #287 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #330 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Miss Keller scares her students--she always has. She knows what she wants from them, and will take nothing less. She demands exceptional effort for the exceptional mark of "A". The problem is that the main character, Patricia (yes, the author at a young age), doesn't know how to write a personal essay which is emotional enough to tug at the heartstrings of the reader. Miss Keller is

critical, demanding, and of the habit of not easily giving praise to her students. Young students, especially, want to please their teachers, and themselves and their parents. But Miss Keller's reluctance to praise her students scares them. This reminds me of a college professor I had, similar to Miss Keller, who refused to accept a writing project I had to do for a language arts teacher-prep course. If I don't pass this final course, I cannot become a teacher (without taking the course over). My extensive and intensive effort is rejected and I am told to do it over. I do. I am told, again, to do it over. I begin to dislike my professor and two others who agree with her. I think, for sure, I can't please this teacher. But I have to somehow improve my writing project a third time. As I am trudging through this last attempt, I finally understand why my former efforts were inadequate and unclear. Upon submission I got an "A". I had to persevere, as a former reviewer alluded, to do my best. I later rewrote that "term" paper into my first professional magazine article. Miss Keller reminds me that a teacher does not have to be liked to be effective. But a teacher does have to be respected--and Miss Keller is. Young Patricia's inner struggles with her strict teacher and her commiserations with a neighbor friend are very emotional to read....

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