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Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems

I know, I know. You're really mad. But I can explain. See, I was reading about Galileo, a guy who made all these great discoveries and did cool experiments. And the book said that he dropped a heavy object and a light object out of a window to show they'd land at the same time because gravity is constant. But I thought, No way! Heavy things fall fast and light things fall slow. We know this from Saturday morning cartoons, right? So I decided to do the experiment myself. I found a concrete block in the garage and I got a tomato from the fridge, and I took them up to the attic and opened the window and rested them on the sill. And it really, really looked like there was going to be plenty of room for them to fall between the house and the car. I mean, like, who knew? So then I pushed them out of the window together, but I must have pushed just the tiniest bit too hard, because the block went out a little farther than I expected, and it kind of landed on the car. But you know what? The tomato got there at exactly the same time, which proves that Galileo was right! Boy, did I ever learn a lesson—and that's the important thing, isn't it? I mean, even if you know something for a fact, like heavy stuff falls faster than light stuff, it's best to check it with a carefully planned scientific experiment. Oh, yeah, and I also learned not to drop concrete blocks out of the attic window. But in my opinion, the experiment was totally worth doing. There was just a slight mix-up, one tiny detail that went wrong, so even though the car has a concrete block sticking out of the roof,

BY JOHN GRANDITS

**technically,
IT'S NOT MY FAULT**

CONCRETE
POEMS



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Synopsis

An eleven-year-old boy named Robert voices typical "and not so typical" middle-grade concerns in this unique, memorable collection of hilarious poems. His musings cover the usual stuff, like pizza, homework, thank-you notes, and his annoying older sister. In addition, he speculates about professional wrestling for animals, wonders why no one makes scratch-and-sniff fart stickers, designs the ultimate roller coaster (complete with poisonous spiders), and deconstructs the origins of a new word, snarpy. A playful layout and ingenious graphics extend the wry humor that is sure to resonate with readers of all ages.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (16 customer reviews)

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#259 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills &

School Life > Boys & Men

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

My kids grew up reading "Where the sidewalk ends", by Shel Silverstein. Anyone who enjoyed that book will love "Technically, It's Not My Fault"! It's absolutely amazing! John has crafted some of the wittiest poems into the cutiest "concrete forms" imaginable. You have to see them to appreciate them. Don't think poetry. Think more like an ornery 11 year old boy's view of the world! Considering the low price on this book, there's no excuse for any child growing up to not have this book! Buy it. You won't regret it!

This little book is interesting to children, since it is written by a boy around their age. He chooses

amusing kid-friendly topics that engage children, and the presentation of poems in many shapes and patterns helps them think of incidents in their own lives that they might write about. The author makes use of a variety of presentations, such as circular, tall thin poems, different sized/cute print fonts for emphasis, and other unique fresh appearances of the final product. I have used several of his ideas for creativity assignments after students in grades 4-5 have written a number of poems in traditional format, and they've been quite successful. They always want to take their work home to show their parents, because they are proud of the results. It is a little bit "catching", reminding me of times when I've taught Haiku and they begin rolling out poem after poem whenever they have extra time, just for fun.

I got this for my son, and he enjoys its offbeat teenage humor. I enjoy that he is seeing reading and writing presented in a different way.

I love this book -- not only is it funny and totally nails the 11-year-old boy experience, it is also in a format (concrete poetry) that is user-friendly and may well encourage readers to write concrete poems of their own. I gave away my copy and now need to buy another one!

I was wandering through the Red Bank, NJ Public Library a few years back when I came across an exhibition of the original artwork for this wonderful series of concrete poems. You don't need to be a kid to love Grandits' work. He is spot on and side-splittingly funny. If you are a Diary of a Wimpy Kid fan, you MUST check this out. And if you like a witty marriage of words and images, you MUST check this out!

My daughter used to get this book from the library every month. And every single month she read it over and over again - for nearly two years. So we got her a copy. She was five when she first read the easiest poems. And now she is eight she knows most of them by heart. She adores poetry and her enthusiasm is contagious. This book is a family favourite! This remains the best concrete poetry book for children that we can find. Miss 8 still creates her own concrete poetry. Miss 5 still prefers performance poetry - but this book has a special place - the poetry book that introduced modern, funny, insightful, quirky poetry to a surprisingly young age.

A little young for my 7th graders. I was hoping for a few more poems with literary elements I could teach. This book is a little young, but the pictures and the imaginative format will make it a good

"library" choice. Unfortunately, there isn't anything I could use here for lesson plans.

This is not rhyming poetry. But the prose and drawings are the laugh-out-loud-funny view of an 11-year-old boy about life. One thing that makes the stories fun is that they are not written straight out. The words are integrated into the drawings. It's a nice change of reading pace.

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