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# The Exceptionally, Extraordinarily Ordinary First Day Of School



## Synopsis

On the first day back to school from summer vacation, John is the new kid. When the librarian asks him if the school is any different from his last one, he begins a wildly imaginative story about what it was like. What follows are hilarious scenarios—his old school bus was a safari jeep pulled by wild creatures, the school was a castle, and the lunch menu included worms! His imagination wins him the attention and awe of his librarian and peers, setting the tone for a compelling story about conquering the fears of being a new kid, as well as the first-day jitters that many children experience. Albert Lorenz's over-the-top illustrations, reminiscent of the work of MAD magazine's early artists, bring the story to life. Speech bubbles and side panels make reference to and define objects in the art (in the most humorous and irreverent way).

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (August 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810989603

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.5 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,751 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #22 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > First Day of School #83 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4—John, the new kid in school, is looking for an unexceptional environment because his old one was just the opposite. “My old school was really, really old. And kind of a hangout for ravens. It could be sorta messy.” John's definitions of “Extraordinary facts” related to the various scenarios he describes are listed in glossary panels on the right-hand edges of the fantastical spreads. The pictures were created with watercolor, color pencil,

pen-and-ink, and airbrush. Humanlike animals “Anthropomorphism” The practice of thinking that your pet cat (or rat or rhino) has human qualities appear in the detailed visual feasts, which beg for inspection. Eerie surprises exist in the illustrations, and the glossary includes bathroom humor, outrageous comments on teachers, dark humor, and slang. The book’s format adds to its appeal with varying fonts for the artwork, a consistent font for the story, and speech bubbles. An unusual picture book, for most libraries. Mary Elam, Learning Media Services Plano ISD, TX (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Albert Lorenz has illustrated a number of bestselling books, including *The Trojan Horse*, *Buried Blueprints*, *Metropolis*, and *House*. He is a past president of the Society of Illustrators and has won numerous awards for his art. He lives in Floral Park, New York. Visit him online at [www.albertlorenzstudio.com](http://www.albertlorenzstudio.com).

I bought this hoping it would be a good read-aloud book for my 4th and 5th grade class. Although the pictures are great, much of the story is told through dialogue, and it’s hard to see the very, very detailed illustrations from any distance. It didn’t work out as I’d planned to use it, but the kids still enjoy looking at it individually.

Love the layout of this book! It has lots of fun content and each set of pages has definitions of words, etc. on the side of the page to give more background for children about concepts introduced. I can’t wait for school to start so I can use this book!

Too wordy for a "read aloud".

I bought this book for incoming first graders. It was much too wordy to hold their attention and there was just too much happening on each page. Reading all of the speech bubbles would have taken me all day! The illustrations were a little disappointing as well. I’ll be passing this along to a teacher of higher grades!

Great!

It said that this book was good for children 4 to 8 years old so I purchased it for my class of 4 and 5

year olds. It is way over their heads in regard to what they refer to and tone and not appropriate for this age group.

Little long to read but great ideas

Super strange book. Not for little kids.

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