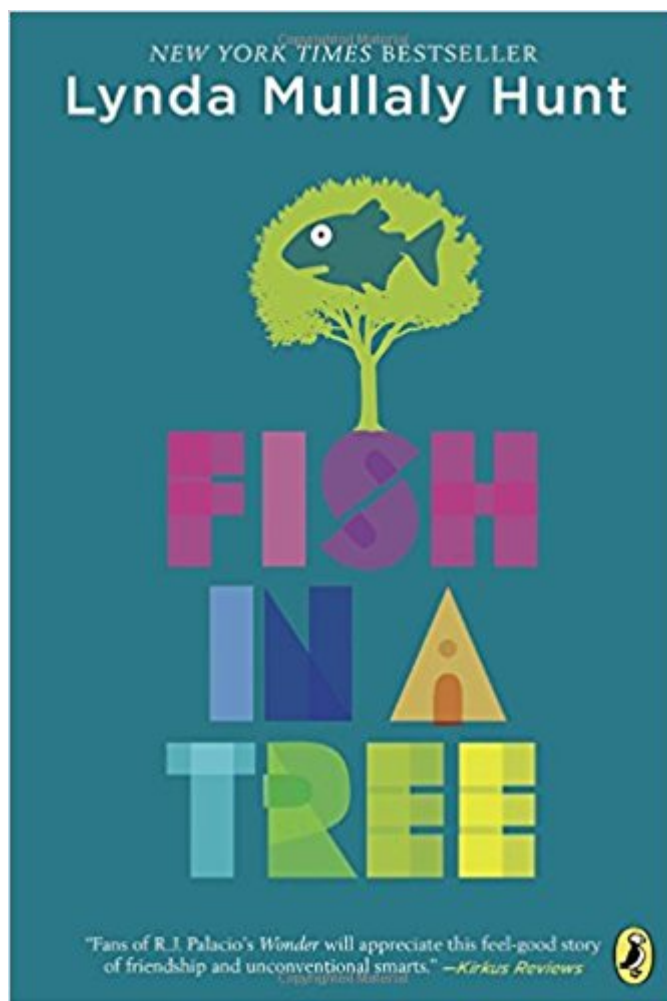


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# Fish In A Tree



## Synopsis

"Fans of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* will appreciate this feel-good story of friendship and unconventional smarts. • "Kirkus Reviews Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her and to everyone than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike. The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in. This paperback edition includes *The Sketchbook of Impossible Things* and discussion questions. A New York Times Bestseller! • "Unforgettable and uplifting." • "School Library Connection, starred review" "Offering hope to those who struggle academically and demonstrating that a disability does not equal stupidity, this is as unique as its heroine." • "Booklist, starred review" • "Mullaly Hunt again paints a nuanced portrayal of a sensitive, smart girl struggling with circumstances beyond her control." • "School Library Journal, starred review"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0550 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Dgs Rep edition (March 28, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142426423

ISBN-13: 978-0142426425

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 482 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #9 in Books

> Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life >

Friendship #15 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social

Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4â6â In her second middle grade novel (*One for the Murphys*, 2012), Mullaly Hunt again paints a nuanced portrayal of a sensitive, smart girl struggling with circumstances beyond her control. Ally is great at math, and her ability to visualize moving pictures makes her an amazing artist, but she has a terrible secret: reading is almost impossible for her. By using her wits and adopting a troublemaking persona, she's been able to avoid anyone finding out a truth she is deeply ashamed of, but a new teacher at school seems to see right through the defenses she's built. While Ally struggles to accept the help that Mr. Daniels offers, she also deals with a father deployed in the Middle East, crushing loneliness, and an authentically awful set of mean girls at school. Ally's raw pain and depression are vividly rendered, while the diverse supporting cast feels fully developed. As the perceptive teacher who finally offers the diagnosis of dyslexia, Mr. Daniels is an inspirational educator whose warmth radiates off the page. Best of all, Mullaly Hunt eschews the unrealistic feel-good ending for one with hard work and small changes. Ally's journey is heartwarming but refreshingly devoid of schmaltz.âElisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

\* âUnforgettable and uplifting. . . . Deals with the hardships of middle school in a funny, yet realistic and thoughtful manner. Ally has a great voice, she is an unforgettable, plucky protagonist that the reader roots for from page one. This novel is a must-have.ââSchool Library Connection, starred review\* âFilled with a delightful range of quirky characters and told with heart, the story also explores themes of family, friendship, and courage in its many forms. . . . It has something to offer for a wide-ranging audience. . . . Offering hope to those who struggle academically and demonstrating that a disability does not equal stupidity, this is as unique as its heroine.ââBooklist, starred reviewÂ \* âMullaly Hunt again paints a nuanced portrayal of a sensitive, smart girl struggling with circumstances beyond her control. . . . Allyâs raw pain and depression are vividly rendered, while the diverse supporting cast feels fully developed. . . . Mr. Daniels is an inspirational educator whose warmth radiates off the page. Best of all, Mullaly Hunt eschews the unrealistic feel-good ending for one with hard work and small changes. Allyâs journey is heartwarming but refreshingly devoid of schmaltz.ââSchool Library Journal, starred reviewÂ â[Huntâs]

depiction of Allyâ€™s learning struggles is relatable, and Allyâ€™s growth and relationships feel organic and real.â€”Publishers Weekly â€œPoignant. . . . Emphasis on â€˜thinking outside the boxâ€™. . . . Allyâ€™s new friendships are satisfying, as are the recognition of her dyslexia and her renewed determination to read. Fans of R.J. Palacioâ€™s Wonder will appreciate this feel-good story of friendship and unconventional smarts.â€”Kirkus Reviews â€œReminiscent of Polaccoâ€™s wonderful Thank You, Mr. Falker. . . . Allyâ€™s feeling of loneliness and desire to fit in will resonate with young teen readers, as many share those feelings without the difficulty of dyslexia. . . . A tribute to teachers who go the extra mile to reach every student. . . . A touching story with an important message.â€”Voice of Youth Advocates â€œEntertaining dialogue . . . Allyâ€™s descriptions of her â€˜mind moviesâ€™ are creative and witty. . . . The treatment of a group of sixth-graders with various quirks who face down their bullies extends the bookâ€™s interest beyond the immediate focus on dyslexia.â€”The Bulletin of the Center for Childrenâ€™s Books â€œReaders will . . . cheer for this likable girl.â€”The Horn Book

When I met Ally at the beginning of the story, I immediately wanted to help her and that feeling grew through the story. I felt thankful that she met a teacher who could see her potential and help her with her challenges. FISH IN A TREE by Lynda Mullaly Hunt is one of those book that makes me sad to finish it. I want to stay in touch with the characters and see where life takes them. I highly recommend this story for children 4th grade through middle school. Boys and girls will enjoy getting to know the characters.

I LOVE this book! I read it myself on the day it was released and I have now read it to two of my 4th grade classes. Both classes loved the book and could relate so well to all the characters. They were both sad when we finished the book and wanted more. Those kids who struggle with reading and writing are especially sympathetic to Ally. This book also complements our growth mindset lessons as well as our literary lessons about changes a character makes over time. We're anxiously awaiting the announcement of a new book by Lynda Mullaly Hunt!!

I myself haven't read this yet, but my nine-year-old almost 10 son couldn't put the book down. He finished it in two days and told me how much she loved it and looks forward to the next book mentioned in the back. Mind you, this is a kid that really hasn't liked to read up until recently.

What a fabulous and realistic story! Too often behavior is mistakenly labeled as poor or bad.

Children are motivated by something and as a future educator, I hope that I am half as good as Mr. Daniels! Reading is possible!

Great story about finding yourself/having people in your corner when you're "different". As a teacher, I also really enjoyed how supportive this teacher was to all of his students!

So...VERY...GOOD! I just finished this as a read-aloud to my 8-year-old 2nd grader over spring break. She and I both loved it. Don't waste a second and conning this purchase. It's a fun book with memorable characters that packs a great message. You can't do better.

This is a delightful story! The characters portrayed seem real because they are real. This is an absolute MUST for teachers and for anyone who loves OR hates to read.

Read together with my 10 yr old. This book has a great message we both very much enjoyed. Will make you laugh and at times want to cry. Highly recommend for kids starting at grade 3.

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