



# Dirty Gert

*Tedd Arnold*

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**Dirty Gert** Tedd Arnold

**Gert loves dirt. She rolls in it, digs in it, even tastes it.**

But one day, while she's making mud pies, all that dirt changes her. Gert sprouts leaves, grows roots, and begins to photosynthesize in the sunlight! Gert is delighted, but the neighborhood can't believe it. . . and soon the notoriety becomes too much for the grungy, green girl.

Luckily, Mom and Dad know just what to do!

Told in rhythm and rhyme and full of fun, tongue-twisting vocabulary, *Dirty Gert* is a celebration of individuality and unconditional love. . . and, of course, of the fun of playing in the dirt. Tedd Arnold's cartoonish illustrations--complete with a cast of whispering worm commentators--express the joy of making mudpies, playing with worms, and most importantly, spending time with your loving family.

## Dirty Gert Details

Date : Published February 2nd 2013 by Holiday House (first published January 7th 2013)

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Author : Tedd Arnold

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## **From Reader Review Dirty Gert for online ebook**

### **Shiyun li says**

I do like the broad usage of vocabulary, especially verbs in this book. However, I am not sure what is the proper grade or age level for the readers.

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### **Kary says**

LOOOOOOVE IT!! Has fantastic vocabulary words too!!

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### **Danielle Mootz says**

Super cute illustrations for a super weird concept of a dirt bonding little girl.

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### **Anthony says**

Gert loves dirt, and all the worms love her. Discover how she became Dirty Gert, and how her parents knew just what to do ,and let Gert be Gert.

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### **Brandy Watkins says**

I thought this book was slightly disturbing even though the message was innocent and portrayed a family that loved their daughter- no matter how dirty she was. I believe children would like this book because they may find it odd that a young girl is eating and playing in dirt, while making little worm friends. This book was different in the fact that it was not a stereotypical boy in dirt. I did not like this book for its story-line and I thought it was poorly written.

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### **Julia says**

My 4 and 6 year old daughter love Dirty Gert! There are so many ways to use this story to teach science. Soil, plants, growth, nutrients....dirt is awesome! This is a story that makes science and vocabulary fun! We borrowed this from the library and loved it so much that I purchased a copy for our own library. I can't wait to read more books by Tedd Arnold.

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### **Brooke Milone says**

This was my favorite book while reading. It was about little Gert who loves to eat and play in the dirt, and all the worms loved her. She wanted to be dirt and live with the worms. Her friends didn't recognize her, neither did anyone else besides her parents. Her brother wanted to disguise her, the doctors wanted to analyze her, but her parent's just wanted to fertilize her. All she wanted to do was be in the dirt though. This book made me realize that everyone wants to help or show off what they think is wrong, but there is nothing wrong with a little girl playing in the dirt.

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### **Cecilia says**

WTF did I just read?

I did love the worms' side commentaries, but honestly...what?!?

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### **Shannon says**

Definitely one to read with the kids, as opposed to them reading it themselves, as some of the vocabulary is a bit advanced and will need explaining. But the story is adorable. I love how the parents just let the little girl be who she is. Also, I love books that break gender stereotypes and show little girls getting dirty or playing rough.

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### **Danielle Boccio says**

I don't quite get this one. Gert just really likes to play in the dirt. Ok. But she grows roots and becomes a plant? And even that wouldn't be horrible except that's the ending. Maybe the message is to be yourself. I don't know. On the bright side, there are a lot of "big" words that could be used as an opportunity to teach your child what those words mean.

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### **Erin says**

Ok I am not one to quickly judge a book. I know every book, is not made to please every single person. My five year old daughter picked this book out at the library, which I give her free roam to pick the books she wants to read. I think the fact there was a dirty kid on the cover, is what made her want to read it. We all know at that age, kids love to get dirty. So I honestly thought it was going to be a good book.

I was wrong.....I was sadly disappointed in the book. The writing, or better yet. Some of the words used was just a little more advance. And just overall weird. And yes, while the story would seem to encourage children to be their self. Which is a great message, to send any child. The story was just "corny". I mean yes, be your self. Draw, sing, express your self. But eat dirty.....really?

My children usually love talking about a book once we are done reading it. This book left little to talk about. Leaving my daughter disappointed in her pick from the library

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### **Mandy Moore says**

Summary: Dirty Gert by Tedd Arnold is a feel good book about a little girl who feels her happiest when she is digging around in the dirt. Gert loves to play, roll, dig, and taste the dirt. She spends every second of her free time in the backyard playing, and although her parents might not completely understand it, they love her and support her. Gert is ecstatic when she realizes all of her time in the dirt is starting to turn her into a tree, however when lawyers, film crews, and even doctors come on the scene to examine her, Dirty Gert has had enough. Lucky for Gert, her parents knew exactly what to do to make her feel all better.

Theme: This book is a great tribute to individuality, and gives us the reminder that we should never try and hide who we truly are, but instead embrace it! The book also has a wonderful theme of unconditional love and acceptance for all types of people, no matter how different they are from ourselves.

Classroom Idea: Gert's parents accept her for exactly who she is. In my own classroom someday, I hope to do the same for each of my kiddo's. For our lesson on Dirty Gert, I would have each child bring an object into class that describes who they are or who they want to become. This is a fun way not only for me to get to know what they love and appreciate, but also for the kids to get to know each other better.

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### **Erin Puskas says**

Dirty Gert was a cute story of acceptance and owning who you are. After spending so much time in the dirt, Gert essentially becomes part of the earth. This naturally draws a lot of attention from those in town, and it exhausts her. Instead of freaking out, Gert's parents let her be herself and merely trimmed and fertilized her. This book has a rhyming pattern which would make it a great book to read aloud to students.

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### **Sunah Chung says**

Gert loves dirt. She rolls in it, digs into it, and even tastes it. One day, Gert becomes a tree and loves being a tree. Her parents accept her as the way she is.

I think the story was creepy. Playing in dirt could be fun and educational for kids to explore nature. However, if kids try to taste it and do not wash themselves thoroughly after playing with dirt, it would cause serious health issues. Although this story is fiction, it could give a wrong message to young readers. I am not sure how it would be good for kids, but parents have responsibility for their educational philosophy when it comes to letting kids do whatever they want and respect what their kids would like to be. The parents in this story take care of Gert after she transforms into a tree. The message by the author must be that parents will love their child no matter what. Unfortunately, I could not erase creepy and uncomfortable feeling even though the parents' decisions and love toward Gert.

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## **Amy says**

What fun! Witty word play, whimsical illustrations, and a hilarious story! Gert loves the dirt, always has! She spends all of her time in it and even eats it! One day, while in the dirt, it begins to rain and she is moisturized (lots of word play with -ized words) and soon synthesized! No one knows quite what to do, except for her parents (who have been so understanding of her love for the dirt), as they give her a trim and a fertilize!

This would be a fun fictional pairing with informational books about plant growth and gardening. Might also be a fun connection with the Timothy Green movie. Could also be a fun reader's theater adaptation.

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