



# Kindergarten Diary

*Antoinette Portis*

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## **Kindergarten Diary** Antoinette Portis

Starting kindergarten can be a little scary. But Annalina shows us there are lots of new and exciting things to look forward to—meeting your teacher, playing on the monkey bars, feeding the pet tortoise, and making new friends. Experience the ups and downs of the first days of kindergarten through Annalina's very own diary (as told to Antoinette Portis) and discover why the kids in room 2K are just fine!

## **Kindergarten Diary Details**

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Author : Antoinette Portis

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# From Reader Review Kindergarten Diary for online ebook

## Darcy says

Never hurts to plan ahead for my eventual kindergarten debut! -M

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## Tam says

My 4-year-old is not in kindergarten yet but he really liked this book. As a parent, I found some things pretty funny too. For example, the day before school starts, the little girl chooses what she's going to wear (rainbow bathing suit, ballet skirt, plaid shirt, cowboy boots, and NO socks) but of course on the first day of school her mother told her she had to look nice and she had to wear socks.

We liked how the children used their imaginations on the school playground. One day the monkey bars were a jungle! If someone fell, they landed in the alligators (but the author makes sure to include they are PRETEND alligators). Another day the monkey bars were outer space and you had to hold on or you'd float away forever.

One day the girl wanted the play cows and blocks to be only hers but she found when she shared with another student (David) they could make a bigger tower for the cows.

My boys loved cupcake day. Four students had cupcakes sitting in front of them. When you turn the page, the frosting is all over their faces transforming them into different things.

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## Paula says

Check out this quote from Kindergarten Diary:

We are Room 2K.  
We are fine!

Assertive. Clear-eyed. Defiant-like. Almost... anthemic. And, written as it is beneath a drawing of three little kids hanging upside-down, big smiles on their faces and their belly-buttons showing, "fine" begins to assume a whole bunch of meaning:

- \* First kid (subtext): "Not only are we 'fine,' we are happy and fine!"
- \* Second kid (subtext): "And we're just going to get fine-r!"
- \* Third kid (subtext): "Not only did we have nothing to worry about, you parents can quit your hand-wringin' too!"

Full review on Pink Me: <http://pinkme.typepad.com/pink-me/201...>

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## **Bethany says**

Read for 5420 class

Picture storybook with theme concerning how to not be afraid of kindergarten

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## **Tatiana says**

A reassuring account of the first month of school, counting down the kindergarten jitters on the day before the first day. This diary has the quirky voice of a little girl who voices her concerns about what to expect at school, but is determined to have a good time and enjoy herself. The illustrations are simple yet vibrant, and the story itself will resonate with all youngsters anticipating the first big day in kindergarten.

Highly recommended for ages five and up, and for the first day of school.

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## **Patricia McLaughlin says**

Delightful diary of a kindergartner's first month in school illustrated with colorful depictions of the tyke's activities cleverly superimposed on handwriting practice paper.

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## **Lacey Louwagie says**

One of my favorite genres to read is published diaries -- I don't really care what the diaries are about -- war, adolescence, writing, I'll read 'em all. I also like fictional stories that are told through diary entries or letters, such as *I Capture the Castle* or *Code Name Verity*. So I thought it might be fun to see what a "fictional diary account" from a kindergartener might look like.

While this book is cute, there is nothing that really distinguishes it as a "fictional diary" rather than just a first-person story in a child's "voice," except for the handwriting notebook paper backgrounds. It's cute, but not clever enough to be as fun for adults as it is for kids -- and even for kids, I think it's more of a "reassuring" story than one that will be enjoyed again and again. The best part about it is the collage illustrations, especially regarding the interesting textures that they give to the clothing.

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## **Dianna says**

This would probably be good for kids going into kindergarten who are a bit afraid. I won't be reading it to my son again, as I think it could plant a seed of anxiety that isn't currently there.

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## **Christy says**

Starting kindergarten can be a little scary. But Annalina shows us there are lots of new and exciting things to look forward to—meeting your teacher, playing on the monkey bars, feeding the pet tortoise, and making new friends. Experience the ups and downs of the first days of kindergarten through Annalina's very own diary (as told to Antoinette Portis) and discover why the kids in room 2K are just fine!

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## **Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says**

This is a great book to read to a kindergarten class at the beginning of the school year. However, I was sad to realize that in some ways, kinder is no longer like what is depicted in this book.

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## **Sheeba Virani says**

This is a great book to use in the Pre-K classroom towards the end of the year when children are getting ready to transition to Kindergarten. It helps children acknowledge their fears and worries about Kindergarten especially if they are changing schools. The book explains in detail the activities and routines that occur in a Kindergarten classroom. It helps children focus on the fun that awaits them and prepares them for easy transition.

### **Extension**

After reading this book in a large group setting discuss with the children what they think about Kindergarten and how it is going to be different. Then take them for a field trip to visit a Kindergarten classroom in an elementary school. Arrange for them to spend some time in there exploring the classroom.

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## **Stephanie Chiaro says**

I feel like this book had the capability to have been a lot better, to be more creative than it currently is, but for the purposes of assuring preschoolers that kindergarten isn't so scary, it works. The illustrations seem to do a really nice job at pulling the whole book together, most of them adhering to the same level of creativity kindergarteners normally have, but I expected the same level of creativity in the story portion as well. For example, on "September fifth," the author explains how the main character plays with "blocks and cows," but in a kindergartener's mind, they are not "blocks and cows." They are houses and villages and walls and cows and funny-looking dogs, and I feel like because this was supposed to be a "diary" of a kindergartener, that maybe the author should have considered play to be the primary centerpiece instead of explaining what everything is in reality because to adults, a child's mind is not supposed to make sense.

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## **Mary Ann says**

"I don't want to go to Big School with big kids. What if they're mean?" worries Annalina on the day before she starts kindergarten. But her mom insists that she really has to go to school, and here we have her diary of her first month in kindergarten. I loved how this story really helped get inside the feelings of the child,

showing what's scary and fun about school. The illustrations are lively and fun. Annalina has a wonderful imagination. When she worries that her teacher will be scary, she imagines a fierce monster teacher spewing out the alphabet. When she and her friends try to get across the monkey bars, they pretend they're in the jungle and then in outerspace. Annalina's diary finishes on the last day of September -- there are just too many fun things to do to keep writing! Annalina's voice is fresh and authentic.

Head over to You Tube to watch a video of the author, Antoinette Portis, talk about her inspirations for writing the story and see some of the illustrations.

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### **Amy Lafleur Meyers says**

Portis chronicles the first day of school (kindergarten) and lead up as well as the month of September. Descriptive and written in diary format with colorful illustrations, Portis takes kids' fears and reassures them that all will be fine.

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### **Brandy says**

Ms. Portis did a tremendous job with this book telling the story of an average five year old girl who is a little anxious and scared about starting kindergarten. As a teacher I would choose this book to share with my kindergarten class on the very first day of school. This book can lead to a discussion about what the children should expect for the year and special events or activities that may happen. It would also be a good time to talk about the differences and similarities between preschool and their new big school.

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