



Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth

E.L. Konigsburg

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth

E.L. Konigsburg

Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth E.L. Konigsburg

Elizabeth is an only child, new in town, and the shortest kid in her class. She's also pretty lonely, until she meets Jennifer. Jennifer is...well, different. She's read Macbeth. She never wears jeans or shorts. She never says please or thank you. And she says she is a witch. It's not always easy being friends with a witch, but it's never boring. At first an apprentice and then a journeyman witch, Elizabeth learns to eat raw ends and how to cast small spells. And she and Jennifer collaborate on cooking up an ointment that will enable them to fly. That's when a marvelous toad, Hilary Ezra, enters their lives. And that's when trouble starts to brew.

Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth Details

Date : Published June 1st 2007 by Aladdin Paperbacks (first published 1967)

ISBN : 9781416948292

Author : E.L. Konigsburg

Format : Paperback 117 pages

Genre : Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade

 [Download Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, El ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth
E.L. Konigsburg

From Reader Review Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth for online ebook

E.M. Epps says

Hmm. It's not that I didn't enjoy reading it, it just seemed a bit pointless at the end. There are better books about magic, about imagination, about friendship, about school in the 1960's, and there are better books by E. L. Konigsburg. Read some of them instead.

Some of these taboos seemed pretty hard. I told Jennifer that I didn't think some of them made any sense. She told me that if I were looking for things to make sense, perhaps I wasn't yet ready for promotion. I asked Jennifer if she always obeyed the taboos. She said that she always did—except that now she was allowed to light matches. I remembered that she had had to light a candle when I first became her apprentice. I was convinced that I could, I would, obey. I asked Jennifer for a list of the taboos so that I wouldn't disobey by mistake. She said that witches don't rely on lists. The list might get lost and fall into the hands of some good person and that would mean trouble for witches all over. She said that I must memorize the list before school started the next day. She was afraid that back at school my mind would be all cluttered up with school stuff. Right then I had to learn them all; Jennifer checked me. She stood up and said to me, "You have reached the end of your apprenticeship. You are now a journeyman witch."

Swankivy says

I read this in one sitting and it held my attention, but I was never particularly invested in the characters or the outcome of anything they were doing. I liked some of the interesting quirks the author came up with--the different scents in the air depending on if the factory nearby was making mint or butterscotch, the tricks Jennifer comes up with to get extra candy at Halloween, the redundancies and idiosyncrasies of Jennifer's writing style--but the friendship between Jennifer and Elizabeth felt almost antagonistic sometimes, and I didn't like Elizabeth always rolling over and letting Jennifer control her life because she had her convinced these sacrifices were necessary to become a witch. What was Jennifer getting out of making Elizabeth not use the phone or never touch pins or refuse to cut her hair, anyway?

There were also quite a few aspects of the book that would probably be off-putting or alarming to modern readers, such as the girls mixing their blood together, making references to cigarettes, mocking "Health Food," and having parties where you have to wear a frilly "party dress" to attend. Furthermore, the girls' antagonist, Cynthia, doesn't really seem to do very much that's deserving of their hatred; she's fake and prissy, and that's about it. Jennifer and Elizabeth, together, managed to step on her foot, plot to make her trip, undo her clothes before she went on stage, breathe onion in her face, and aspire to use witchcraft to make her sick. It's hard to like them when they seem to be doing a lot more jerky things than Cynthia is.

I liked that the book captured the feeling of finding out what's next in unexplored territory, though; I remember discovering new subjects and wanting to follow graded steps to understanding, and that's well

reflected in Elizabeth's desire to loyally obey Jennifer's commands in order to ascend the ranks of witchcraft. I was curious as to why Jennifer was always trying to get Elizabeth to feed her, though. She was constantly looking for free food, and there was never a follow-up to suggest she wasn't getting enough food at home. I also liked that Jennifer was black and it's mentioned *once*, even though she's apparently the only black student. While it seemed a bit unrealistic that a black child would not experience any mentioned racism in a book set in a white school in the 1960s, it was refreshing for a black kid to just be a kid and not have her race be invoked to make it some kind of "issue book," and Elizabeth herself never voices platitudes about race not mattering or not "seeing" color. The illustrations are accurate, always portraying Jennifer as a black child; they didn't whitewash her.

I thought the ending was random and weird. Jennifer and Elizabeth have a fight, resolve nothing, and then Jennifer shows up without explanation at her home and they're over it and they don't play witchcraft games anymore. There is also the fact that witches are described as being "bad" in the book and some of the things the children do to play at witchcraft are kind of similar to what modern practitioners of witchcraft do (but some are completely the opposite of accurate). I am giving this a middle-of-the-road rating because I didn't actively dislike it and was entertained by it--especially the little-kid-style of the writing that captured a *sense* of being a fifth grader--but it wasn't anything special for me.

Barbara says

This is Konigsburg's first book, and while I liked it, it definitely doesn't measure up to her later books. But it does have a fantastic title! Elizabeth is befriended--sort of--by Jennifer, who takes her on as an apprentice witch. Jennifer is a fantastic character, singularly herself; she divulges no personal details and doesn't seem to care what anyone else thinks (often with hilarious results).

Sara says

I am so glad this showed up in my recommendations! I've been thinking - what was that book I read in third grade where that girl becomes friends with that witch and they try to come up with a potion that lets them fly? I'm pretty sure this is it. I loved this book. It was fun. Even when me and my friends decided to come up (unsuccessfully) with a potion that let us fly. From what I remember, there was some lesson to be learned at the end, but that escapes me. The odd girl and the flying ointment - that's what I remember!

April Rogers says

Elizabeth new to the area meets Jennifer who is unlike anyone she's met before and claims to be a witch. I enjoyed this and know if I'd found it as a kid it would have been a favorite. It didn't feel as dated as I expected (1967).

Gary Butler says

92nd book read in 2017.

Number 421 out of 656 on my all time book list.

Odd story of misfits finding friendship in each other.

Kate says

I don't know how I missed this book in childhood given that I loved others by E.L. Konigsburg (chief among them, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*). But no matter, I'm just glad to have discovered it now thanks to the recommendation of a friend (thanks Amy!). It's a marvelous book about not fitting in and friendship which I have no doubt speaks to the young readers for whom it was written, but it also has many layers for the adult reader to savor. Jennifer, the self-professed young witch under whose spell narrator Elizabeth falls while friendless and new to town, is a wholly original character. And so too is Elizabeth, although in less obvious ways. My questions about the two of them and their respective motivations were probably very different than those that I would have pondered had I read it as a child. Either way though, this slim novel offers much to think about and much to appreciate. I was particularly struck by how well Konigsburg conveys the independent universe that kids manage to carve out for themselves apart from their parents, even when they have the benefit of caring and present parents. Like so much else about the book, this rang very true for me. Highly recommended.

Shawn Thrasher says

Elizabeth and Jennifer are two of the more well drawn and memorable best friends in children's literature in this well respected (if not quite beloved) classic. The fact that they are interracial friends probably meant a ton in 1967, although I don't recall thinking that was such a big deal twelve years later or so when I first read this (probably around 1980). Elizabeth, who narrates, is far snarkier and less shy than you would imagine; Jennifer is perfectly serious in a hilarious way. The book has some incredibly funny moments, subtle but great. It's the end that completely pisses me off; I don't remember caring all that much about the end as a kid, but as a grown-up, I thought it was really abrupt and unexpectedly squishy. Konigsberg published *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* later that same year, and it's a slightly better book; it certainly has a better ending!

Alison says

One of my favorite authors. This one feels a little off-kilter, but maybe it's just the way that this girl friendship works. Zoe really liked this one, and maybe I'd like it more if I read it again. I like "The Mixed-up Files" and "The View From Saturday" WAY better.

Melki says

I **KNOW** I read this book LAST YEAR and even wrote a review, but now all record of it is gone, gone, gone like the mastodon!

Becca says

Some books are timeless-- this one, even with Koningsburg's charming style, is oddly locked in time.

And although it's a light story with a non-plot, from four decades away some things that were benign are a little troubling.

In an attempt at post racial colorblindness (hah!) the author mentions only once that Jennifer is black. But the awareness pervades the book with its non-acknowledgment. The narrator never critiques her own race and her friend's race... And although it seems well-meant, it's the kind of intentional ignoring of race that has sealed America's racial issues in amber. White people ignore race because of discomfort, which often means ignoring "racial" people (since whiteness is invisible and therefore not a thing, right?). Does the narrator ignore Jennifer at school because they are being witchy and mysterious or because openly being friends with a black girl would have marked her as well?

Anyway, as a story this is kind of a weird little book. As a mirror reflecting the narrator/author's unwillingness to acknowledge race, it's an interesting artifact.

I'd love to see it rewritten from Jennifer's point of view. She's clearly a much more interesting person. Why are we trapped in the dull friend's POV? I'd rather hear what it's like to be a brilliant black girl in the 1960s, obsessed with history, living on an elegant estate where your dad is the gardener or caretaker? Why does she play this long strange game with the main character? What does she think about the fact their friendship was secret at school? Whose idea was that really? Why did she make her friend give her food and eat weird stuff?

Nothing worse than being trapped in a dull character's mind...

As for recommending to my students.... Sure. Easy to read. But not very relatable...{

Chris says

Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley and Me, Elizabeth is a reading experience for me that would be akin to finding an old, well worn toy in the attic; I love to reread it, I think the story is wonderful (mostly because of memories), but this is not something that I would necessarily consider passing on immediately to a young reader-- mostly because of how well worn it is. The story suffers slightly from being a product of its generation. Images of children dressed as cigarette boxes for Halloween and the humor of relatives who eat health foods might creak along in these days of smoke-free zones and Whole Foods. Still, the strange friendship that Koningsburg creates in the story is one that can stand against the dated elements easily. The story is best for readers 8-12, especially those who may be a witch, or are strongly considering taking up the profession.

Jeffrey says

Koningsburg's first published book - has its moments as she traces lonely Elizabeth's unusual friendship with

Cruth says

"Before you can be anything, you have to be yourself. That's the hardest thing to find." E L Konigsburg

Author/Illustrator: E L Konigsburg

First Published: 1967

The first book published by Konigsburg. It went on to receive a 1968 Newberry Honor Award. (The Newberry Medal (for "for the most distinguished American children's book published the previous year") was first awarded in 1970/1971. The 1968 Awards were given in retrospect).

Not an author I had previously read, but from what I understand she is iconic. The (now) 7yo was given three of Konigsburg's books by an uncle who understands *the need to read* and chose this one to begin that very night.

Narrated in first person with a well-rendered child's voice, Konigsburg explores the meaning of friendship with an interesting, appealing story. Given the often pervasive racism of US books prior to that era, the subtle, inclusive nature of the relationship between Jennifer and Elizabeth is beautiful. The only way a reader would know Jennifer has dark skin is from the illustrations and a single very fleeting observation - there is really nothing in the story to indicate it. The story is simply about two girls who are friends, with a light refrain on *being different*.

While Elizabeth's age is never specified, both Elizabeth and Jennifer are in "5th form", and Jennifer is a "serious reader".

Jennifer - protagonist, says she's a "Witch" and becomes Elizabeth's friend.

Hecate - goddess associated with witches. Appears in Macbeth as the Witch Queen.

Macbeth - the prophetic witches from Shakespeare's Macbeth of *Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble*. fame.

William McKinley - Jennifer and Elizabeth attend William McKinley Elementary School. (William McKinley was the 25th President of the US).

Elizabeth - protagonist and narrator, Jennifer's apprentice witch.

Appealed to and engaged a young Aussie girl 45 years after it was first published. What more can an author (or parent) ask?

E L Konigsburg

<http://cms.westport.k12.ct.us/cmslmc/...>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/ar...>

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai...>

Age (taking into account comprehension, concentration, language):

Read aloud - 6+

Read yourself - 8+ (but the girls are "5th form")

Christy says

This was probably my favorite childhood book. I was thrilled to find a copy a few years ago at the thrift store. I remember giggling as I repeated the whole long name of the story to friends, telling them they HAD to read this book. Somehow the title seemed longer back then...

Lynn says

I reread this for the first time in years after hearing of Konigsberg's passing. It's as good as I remember. I like it that the author leaves us in doubt for a long time as to whether or not Jennifer is really a witch. I also liked it that she was black and Elizabeth was white, and it didn't make a bit of difference in the story.
