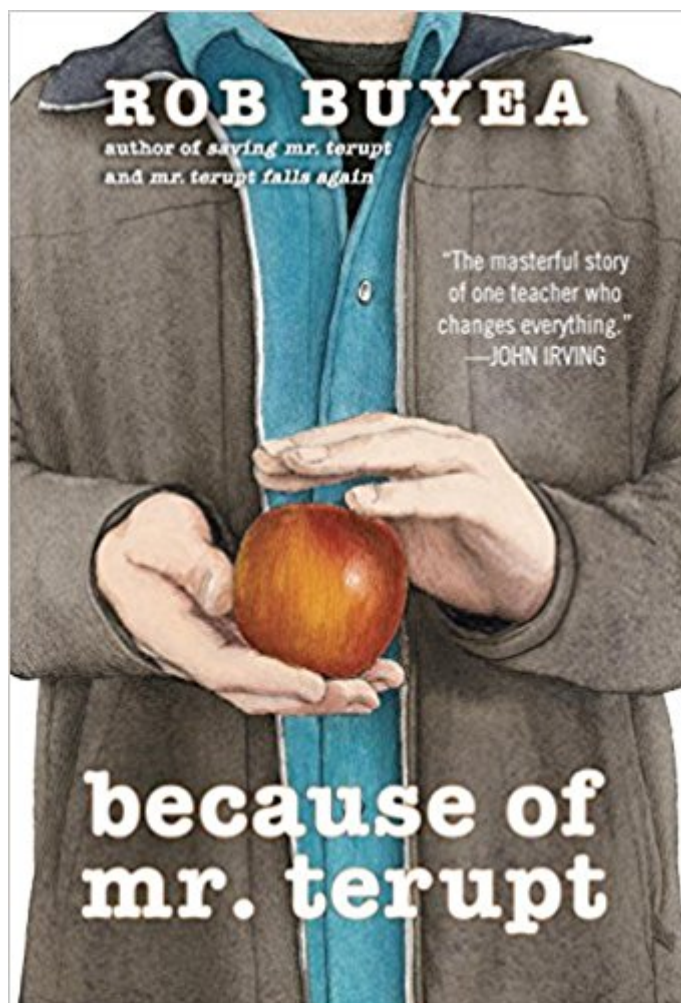




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# Because Of Mr. Terupt



## Synopsis

Features seven narrators, each with a unique story, and each with a different perspective on what makes their teacher so special. It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything and everyone. "The characters are authentic and the short chapters are skillfully arranged to keep readers moving headlong toward the satisfying conclusion."--School Library Journal, Starred "This powerful and emotional story is likely to spur discussion."--Publishers Weekly "No one is perfect in this feel-good story, but everyone benefits, including sentimentally inclined readers."--Kirkus Reviews "Compelling. . . . Readers will find much to ponder on the power of forgiveness."--Booklist

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6-Fifth grade is going to be pretty much like any other year, or so some students of Snow Hill School think. After all, most of them have already established their roles-the bully, the class clown, the kid who hates school, the shy girl, the fat girl, the boy who is smarter than he admits, and so on. This forms a pecking order everyone unconsciously follows. However, this year there's a new teacher, Mr. Terupt, who is young and has unusual ideas. He expects the students to adopt a form of personal responsibility. Many of them seem unable to rise to his expectations; problems related to their home lives and past history play into their behavior. Plenty of foreshadowing shows there will be a tragedy, but who is truly at fault? Buyea's thoughtful, inspiring book (Delacorte, 2010) clearly shows his understanding of the dynamics of this age group. Mike Chamberlain and Arielle Delisle create the voices for the seven narrators-the students who provide the perspectives on the school year, Mr. Terupt, and how a group of young people learn to cope with crisis and discover that change is possible. The story is inspiring and the multiple points of view add depth. This beautifully performed production brings the book to life and makes it accessible to even more young people who will also find their lives changed by Mr. Terupt.-Teresa Bateman, Brigadoon Elementary, Federal Way, WA

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Mr. Terupt follows in the footsteps of those inspiring teachers who encourage their students to think for themselves, question the conventions they understand about school, and become better people. The narration here is shared by so many that it is hard for readers to feel similarly inspired, but what they'll get instead is the school-year-long unfolding of each of seven fifth-graders as they face their own flaws, come to terms with their home lives, and reconcile their roles in a tragic accident that nearly takes the life of their beloved teacher, hinted at with the innocuous-looking snowball on the front cover. Some voices ring less true than others, which is a shame, since all of the characters have something important to say. Despite its flaws, this is a compelling novel with brief-sometimes very brief-chapters, which keep the story moving. Readers will find much to ponder on the power of forgiveness in Buyea's meditative first novel. Grades 4-6.

--Heather Booth --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I want to start this review by saying that as a parent, I really liked this book. It was well-written, fast-moving, and created enough curiosity to keep the pages moving well. However, since I bought

the book for my 9-year-old, I'm going to add a few more points to my review. The characters come from a wide variety of backgrounds, which I think is great. But I found some of the situations to be a little heavy for what I want my nine-year-old reading just yet. Two of the characters have parents that have had divorces as a result of affairs (other girlfriends). One child was born when her mom was still in high school (maybe 16 or 17 years old, I don't quite recall). Though these situations are real - along with the sadness, grief, shame, and guilt that accompany them - I don't think I'm ready for that to take up space in my daughter's leisure reading time yet. I realize that this is probably a more accurate reflection of society than I would hope, but those are a couple of things I would have wanted to know \*before\* my child read this book, so that I could have the chance to either 1) hold off for a while on introducing this book or 2) read it as a read-aloud so we could discuss these topics right then. As it happened, I was so intrigued by the book, I ended up reading it before I passed it on to her -- so for me, the problem was avoided. I'm definitely sticking the book on the shelf for a year or two though, and plan to bring it out later. It was an excellent read with many good examples of good and bad behavior, and characters changing (an excellent life skill to learn!). I just think the nine side of the 9-12 age range was a little low, even if reading ability was considerably higher.

Because of Mr. Terupt Random House, 2010, pp. 269, \$7.99 Rob Buyea ISBN 978-0-375-85824-6 "I think it was a case of Mr. Terupt being a special teacher." Seven normal children are awed when the dazzling Mr. Terupt becomes a teacher. These seven children, similar to you and me, all have different personalities, but all have one thing in common: a bond with Mr. Terupt. Before the school year started, they thought that school was going to be the same old, boring building, but they were proven wrong by Mr. Terupt. This heart-warming tale as Mr. Terupt is knocked out cold shows what being there for someone in their time of need really means. Mr. Terupt doesn't teach normal; he teaches differently. He even makes math fun! He shows what it really means to learn. But then, all it takes is one mistake to go from good to bad. When one big mistake knocks Mr. Terupt down, he isn't able to get back up, which shocks the group. They all feel bad, and don't know what to do. Then they realize what it means to support each other. I could really connect with this book as I was a mixture of the seven characters: Peter, the clown, Jessica, the new girl, Luke, the brain, Alexia, the queen bee, Jeffrey, the slacker, Danielle, the pushover, and Anna, the shy one. I recommend this book to anyone in middle school or at the end of elementary, and to anyone who has felt what the true meaning of friendship really is. Although there is much drama, sadness, and mistakes all throughout the book, there is happiness scattered all around, by connecting with each other. Buyea, a former teacher, really knows children, and proves it with this hit book.

Ava BabcockMs. ShinePeriod 3March 3, 2017 A journey of classmates that stay strong together

This book is so great it grabbed my attention right as my eyes met the page and there were many life lessons never to end. Mr. Terupt's fifth grade class goes through an emotional rollercoaster that seems to never end, but they get through it by staying strong, having courage, and being true to themselves and others. It has emotional times to make you connect, it has funny times to keep you interested, and is hard to put down so you will never get bored or want to stop reading. In the end, we learn about dealing with pain more than anything. This story takes place in modern time. There are many main characters that tell the story in different parts. All the kids in the book are entering the fifth grade with a new teacher, Mr. Terupt. Everyone isn't so sure about him in the beginning of the year, but soon realize that he is a really nice guy with a great sense of humor. Everything is going amazing for most people until something horrible happens and the kids have to try and find ways to help themselves get through this tough situation as a team. At one point in the story, Danielle, one of the main characters, felt very self-conscious of her weight and is doing her part in the book saying how no one likes her. The text says, "The only time I've got friends is when I'm in Lexie's group. Nobody wants to be friends with the fat kid. I don't know what to do." This was very sad because she really cares about what others think and is always pushing herself down. Another emotional time in the story is when a character named Jeffrey was having a tough time with the tough situation because someone in his family had had that happen to them too. The text states, "I'd like to see Terupt, but I can't visit him. I can't do it. Luke told me it was scary. I know. [...] This sucks. School sucks. Everything sucks. It was better when I didn't care." This is extremely emotional because he has gone through something like this and now has to go through it again. Imagine having to go through something as deep and emotional like this. This book is very emotional. Other than all of the sad moments in this book, there are some times that can be funny. For example when a very main character, Peter, was trying to skip class by using the pass all the time but Mr. Terupt wasn't getting fooled. The text says, "If the bathroom pass is free, all you have to do is take it and go." "I take the pass all the time and the teachers never notice." "When I came back into the classroom after my fourth or fifth trip, Mr. Terupt said, 'Boy, Peter, I'm gonna have to call you Mr. Peebody, or better yet, Peter the Pee-er. You do

more peein than a dog walking by a mile of fire hydrants. Everybody laughed. I was wrong. He had noticed. This was funny because it was the first time the teacher had made a joke. The text also says, Luke mixed his junk together and it started smoking. The next thing we knew, the stupid fire alarm was going off. The whole school had to go outside and even the fire department showed up. It was great! This was funny because Peter was acting like he was pretty mad about the whole thing but then said it was great. This book can be very funny. And , the book also is really hard to put down. One part in the story when all the kids were talking about times with their teacher and waiting to get the news about the teacher from the doctor. The text says, The microphone moved around our square, and we shared different stories and memories. It was perfect. Then a doctor came into the waiting room. This part made it really hard to put down the book because I had no idea what would happen. I just had to keep reading to find out what was going to happen. Another time in the story was when Mr. Terupt had just gotten back and Peter didn't want to see him because he thought he would be mad at him. The text states, Out of nowhere I heard screams. Mr. Terupt! Everyone around me jumped up and ran toward the door. I couldn't believe it. Mr. T was back. I started crying. [...] I stayed in my seat, trying to look small. But he spotted me. The room grew quiet as Mr. T walked toward me. I was scared again. I couldn't put the book down at this part because I was so excited about what was happening and what was about to happen. This book was super hard to put down. Through all of this, the children learn to deal with the fear of losing someone they love and the stress of it all. We learn that to deal with these types of struggles, you really just have to keep moving on and don't be afraid. I definitely give this book 5 out of 5 stars. You have to read this book!

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