



The Invisible Boy

By Trudy Ludwig

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A simple act of kindness can transform an invisible boy into a friend...

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.

When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

From esteemed author and speaker Trudy Ludwig and acclaimed illustrator Patrice Barton, this gentle story shows how small acts of kindness can help children feel included and allow them to flourish. Any parent, teacher, or counselor looking for material that sensitively addresses the needs of quieter children will find *The Invisible Boy* a valuable and important resource.

Includes backmatter with discussion questions and resources for further reading.

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The Invisible Boy By Trudy Ludwig Bibliography

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- 40 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2—Brian feels invisible. His teacher hardly notices him, the other kids never invite him to play, and he eats lunch alone. But he loves to draw, so at recess, he creates comics about greedy pirates, battling space aliens, and superheroes with the power to make friends everywhere. One day, a new boy, Justin, joins the class. The other children make fun of him for eating Bulgogi, a Korean dish, but Brian slips him a friendly note. When it is time to find partners for a class project, Justin asks Brian to join him and another boy. Brian's artistic talents come in handy, and finally he is no longer invisible. This is a simple yet heartfelt story about a boy who has been excluded for no apparent reason but finds a way to cope and eventually gains acceptance. Barton's scribbly illustrations look like something Brian may have made. Pencil sketches painted digitally are set against lots of white space, and sometimes atop a background of Brian's drawings on lined notebook paper. At the start of this picture book, Brian is shown in shades of gray while the rest of the world is in color, a visual reminder of his isolation. Color starts to creep in as he is noticed by Justin. Once he becomes part of the group, he is revealed in full color. The thought-provoking story includes questions for discussion and suggested reading lists for adults and children in the back matter. Pair this highly recommended book with Jacqueline Woodson's *Each Kindness* (Penguin, 2012) for units on friendship or feelings.—Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association, CTα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

For the first half of Ludwig's picture book, a lonesome-looking boy appears rendered in gray and white. Even the teacher has no time for "invisible" Brian, as she is busy dealing with the noisy children in her class. Brian, with his big glasses and toothy smile, gets his hopes dashed when he isn't picked for the kickball team. He finds solace in his drawings, where fire-breathing dragons scale tall buildings and superheroes have the power to make friends. When new student Justin arrives, Brian befriends him when the others don't, and they become buddies and even add a third boy to become a trio. Now visible in glorious color, Brian and his new friends present a project to their newly appreciative classmates. The joyful last pages show Brian with the children playing happily in real and imaginary activities. Brian's childlike drawings, done in ink and collage, are spot-on in representing the way children depict their imaginary world and their very real feelings. "Questions for Discussion" in the back matter provide guidelines for teachers and parents. Preschool-Grade 2. --Lolly Gepson

Review

USA Today, August 22, 2013:

"Illustrator Barton adds a wonderful touch by drawing all the other characters in color but sketching Brian in faint shades of black and white - at least at first....Before long, Brian, in living color, is not so invisible after all. It's a **lovely lesson in the simple acts of friendship**, especially recommended for the most popular kids in class."

Scholastic Instructor, Fall 2013:

"**Pitch-perfect** words and art."

Starred Review, School Library Journal, September 2013:

"This is a **simple yet heartfelt** story about a boy who has been excluded for no apparent reason but finds a way to cope and eventually gains acceptance."

Kirkus Reviews, September 15, 2013:

"Tender illustrations rendered in glowing hues capture Brian's isolation deftly...Use this to start a discussion: The author includes suggested questions and recommended reading lists for adults and children. **Accessible, reassuring and hopeful.**"

Publishers Weekly, August 26, 2013:

"**Ludwig and Barton understand classroom dynamics...**They portray Brian's situation as a matter of groupthink that can be rebooted through small steps. It's a smart strategy, one that can be leveraged through the book's **excellent discussion guide.**"

"Trudy Ludwig has given us the gift of another empathic, poignant book for children that addresses the complex topic of peer relationships...A must-read."

- **Carrie Goldman**, award-winning author of *BULLIED: What Every Parent, Teacher, and Kid Needs to Know about Ending the Cycle of Fear*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ellen Garcia:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Invisible Boy* was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book *The Invisible Boy* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to be your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship while using book *The Invisible Boy*. You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Virginia Mack:

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Samuel Potter:

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Ruth Paiz:

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