

Reader's Guide
For
Third Grade Baby
by
Jenny Meyerhoff
A Debut Middle Grade Novel

About the Book

Now that Polly Peterson has a baby brother she's supposed to feel bigger, but her parents keep treating her like a toddler! And Zachary, the new kid, won't stop teasing her, just because she's the only third grader who hasn't lost a single baby tooth. But when her tooth finally falls out, Polly has a new problem. She's not sure she can put her tooth under her pillow. Maybe third graders are too old to believe in the tooth fairy. If Polly still believes, does that make her a third grade baby?

About the Author

In third grade, Jenny Meyerhoff read *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret* twenty-one times. During her teen-age years, she wrote hundreds of angst-ridden poems and one picture book. She dreamed of becoming a professional children's book writer. So, Jenny studied creative writing at the University of Michigan, and received her master's degree in education at Northwestern University. She then became a kindergarten teacher, because in addition to loving children's books, Jenny enjoys sitting on the floor. (That's also why she practices yoga.)

Jenny is now a full-time writer and a full-time mom, which means she never sleeps. She lives in Riverwoods, Illinois with her husband and three children.

Discussion Questions

1. When Polly's mother kisses her goodbye on the first day of school, she uses a baby wipe to remove the lipstick from Polly's cheek. How does Polly feel about this? Why? Can you think of a time you've felt this way?
2. After Polly writes her name on the tooth board, she returns to her seat to find a mean note on her desk. Who do you think wrote the note? Why do you think that person wrote it?
3. After she loses her tooth, why does Polly think third graders might be too old for the tooth fairy?
4. Why do you think Polly tells Zachary that she has a picture of the tooth fairy? Why does she agree to bring it to school?

5. At the end of the book, Polly decides to let her baby brother Max go to Bill and Penny's Dollar Store with her even though she knows he will be disruptive? Why?

Activity

Polly's friend Oliver doesn't put his tooth under his pillow because he has a different tooth tradition. He puts his upper teeth under his bed and throws his lower teeth on the roof to help his teeth grow in straight, as they do in China. Can you invent your own brand new tooth tradition?