



The New Kid at School #1 (Dragon Slayers' Academy)

By Kate McMullan

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When a traveling minstrel foretells that he is to become a hero, Wiglaf sets out to fulfill his destiny: he signs up at the Dragon Slayers' Academy. But how can he ever hope to be a dragon slayer when he can't even stand the sight of blood?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4AA fantasy adventure for beginning chapter-book readers. Wiglaf, the would-be hero, lives with his large, brutish family in abject poverty. Their hovel smells worse than their pigsty. Though Wiglaf is the smallest member of the family, he is made to do all the work, and is constantly picked on by the others because he is reluctant to kill any living thing. A traveling minstrel tells Wiglaf's fortune; it shows that he can improve his lot by performing a gallant act. The boy decides to sign up at the local Dragon Slayers' Academy. It guarantees to make him a hero. However, he finds life at the run-down school as difficult as it is at home, and he protests when he is sent out to slay the local dragon on his first day. When his magic sword doesn't work, he switches to another strategy. He has learned that the dragon can't stand bad jokes so he tries a few and, as predicted, the dragon expires at his feet. Wiglaf is a hero without spilling a single drop of blood. The fast-paced, snappy text is filled with jokes and insults; the accompanying black-and-white illustrations are dark and cartoonlike. The tone and style suggest Saturday-morning animated films and will appeal to the same audience. For humorous adventure fantasy that is better crafted and more nourishing, try Jon Scieszka's *Knights of the Kitchen Table* (Viking, 1991) and other works in the "Time Warp Trio" series. A Virginia Golodetz, *Children's Literature New England*, Burlington, VT
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From Kirkus Reviews

In this first of the *Dragon Slayers' Academy* series, Wiglaf, the put-upon sensitive son in a family of louts, heads off to school along with his faithful pet pig, Daisy. On the way, he meets a wizard who gives him a magic sword, although he has forgotten the magic words to make it work, and gives Daisy the power of speech (in pig latin). Once at the Academy, Wiglaf discovers that it's not all it's advertised to be, and his first chance to slay a dragon comes all too soon. This lightweight, amusing adventure rattles right along, without pretensions and with, given the series title, a resolution that cleverly avoids violence--Wiglaf slays the dragon with bad jokes. An entertaining confection. (b&w illustrations, not seen) (Fiction. 7-10) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"Wizards, dragons, a secret princess, a pig who speaks Pig Latin, and a hero who is served boiled eel on a bun. What more could you possibly want in a book." -**Jon Szieszka**

"Here's a young hero who could well be Harry Potter's little brother." -**Mary Pope Osborne**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Flora Young:

The book *The New Kid at School #1 (Dragon Slayers' Academy)* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the good thing like a book *The New Kid at School #1 (Dragon Slayers' Academy)*? A few of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim in which book can give many data for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you can give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *The*

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Dan Morris:

The New Kid at School #1 (Dragon Slayers' Academy) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing The New Kid at School #1 (Dragon Slayers' Academy) although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

Chad West:

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