



Dogs Don't Tell Jokes

By Louis Sachar

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A sidesplitting classic from Newbery Medalist and National Book Award winner Louis Sachar (*Holes*), with a brand-new cover!

Gary W. Boone knows he was born to be a stand-up comedian. It's the rest of the kids in his class who think he's just a goon. Then the Floyd Hicks Junior High School Talent Show is announced, and he starts practicing his routine nonstop to get it just right. Gary's sure this will be his big break—he'll make everyone laugh and win the \$100 prize. But when an outrageous surprise threatens to turn his debut into a disaster, it looks as if the biggest joke of all may be on Gary himself.

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Dogs Don't Tell Jokes By Louis Sachar Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #48367 in Books
- Brand: Yearling
- Model: FBA-|280366
- Published on: 1992-08-11
- Released on: 1992-08-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.62" h x .57" w x 5.12" l, .34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

PW praised the "strong, realistic characterization" in this "gracefully told story" of a compulsive comic, the scourge of his seventh-grade class. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-- Gary Boone (who calls himself "Goon") is the self-proclaimed clown of his seventh-grade class. He never stops joking, despite the fact that nobody laughs much, and he has no real friends at school. Entering a talent contest as a stand-up comedian forces him to look more closely at the effect his humor has on others and on himself. Sachar balances the fun with moments of insight and feeling. Gary, who appeared as a fifth grader in *Someday Angelina* (McKay, 1990), is not very funny as the book begins. He has moments of true wit, but they are overshadowed as he reels off one-liners culled from books. As he begins to notice how his family and classmates react to his jokes, he gradually becomes funnier. He also stops falling back on the self-deprecating humor that has helped to make him unpopular. His hilarious performance at the talent show is a fitting climax, full of real surprises. Hurwitz's *Class Clown* (Morrow, 1987) deals with a similar theme but is for a younger audience. *Dogs Don't Tell Jokes* is an excellent choice for junior high readers, and Sachar's younger fans will enjoy it too. --Steven Engelfried, Pleasanton Library, CA

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From Kirkus Reviews

Gary "Goon" Boone tells jokes instead of having conversations; almost everyone--parents, teachers, schoolmates-- is tired of him. When a talent show with a \$100 prize is announced at school, Gary decides to make his stand-up debut memorable. His parents promise him another \$100 if he stops telling jokes for three weeks. For Gary this is a minor struggle; he tries to understand why other boys his age collect baseball cards, and he gains gradual acceptance in their friendly football games. Their practical joke on Gary does help launch his career as a comedian, but it is his hard work and practice that lead to his overwhelming success at the show. Readers themselves may feel benumbed by the endless litany of bad jokes; even Sachar's talent for creating humorous situations (*There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*, 1987; *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, 1985--which gets a plug in this book) can't shine through the too-familiar riddles. Still, Gary is a likable, completely good-hearted boy who turns out to be refreshingly frank about his own shortcomings. (Fiction. 9-11) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dale Winsett:

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James Sweeney:

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James Floyd:

Many people spending their time period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, think reading a book will surely hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like Dogs Don't Tell Jokes which is having the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

Tammy Dorris:

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