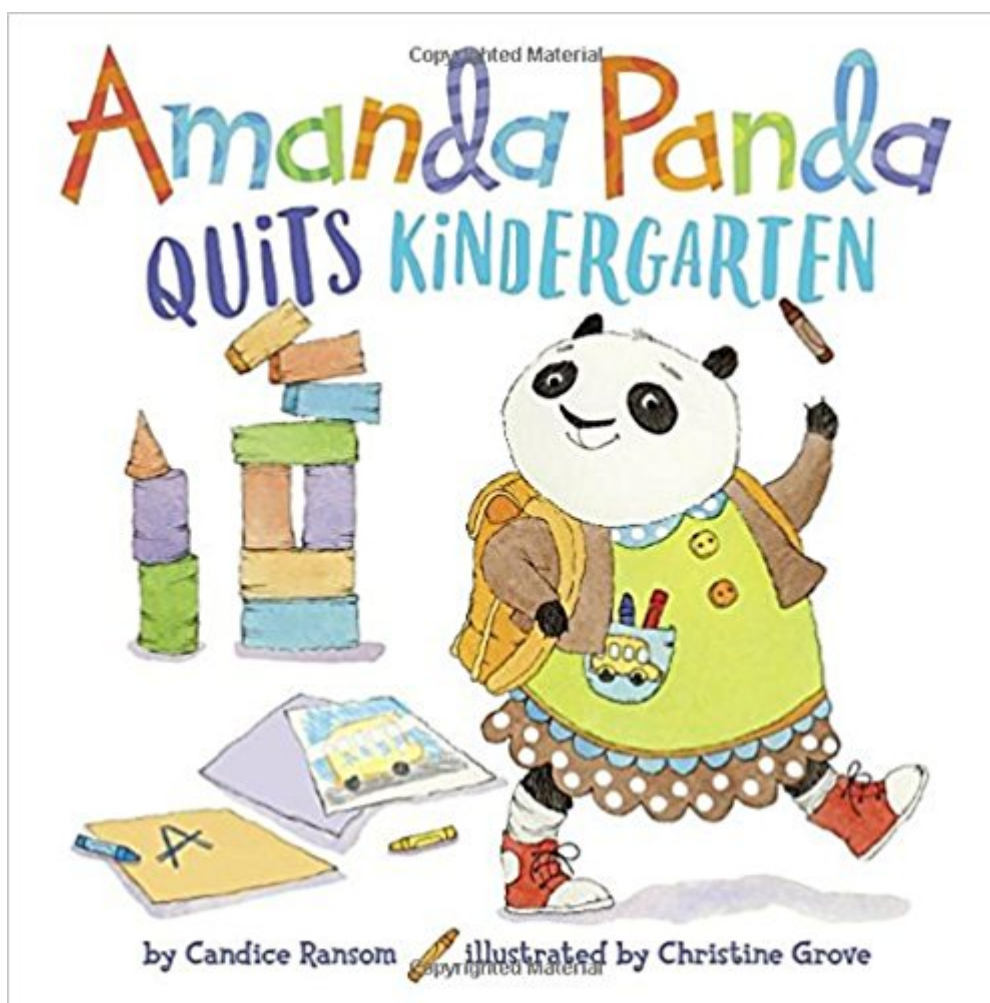


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Amanda Panda Quits Kindergarten



Synopsis

Kindergarten has never been funnier with the launch of this new, strong-willed character, in the style of Ladybug Girl, Lilly *and* the Purple Plastic Purse, and Bread and Jam for Frances. Amanda Panda has BIG ideas for her first day of school. But when things don't go according to plan, and when a pesky girl in a pink bow decides to be her best friend, she walks out on kindergarten and joins her brother in second grade. It takes an unlikely partner to fix Amanda's terrible day and to teach her about friendship, tolerance, and how to cope with life's ups and downs. Amanda Panda perfectly captures the spirit, motivations, and humor of a headstrong five-year-old girl and will be sure to soothe back-to-school jitters. "Empathy and kindness are just as important as ABCs and 123s, and Amanda gives readers a good lesson." *Kirkus* "Filled with droll humor that begs to be read aloud, this is an excellent back-to-school purchase and a great fit for storytime." *School Library Journal* "With strong dialogue and well-imagined details of wardrobe and play, Ransom writes an original story around the familiar situation: the beginning of a school. . . . This wryly amusing picture book offers a fresh take on an old theme." *Booklist* "The lesson makes an impact without preaching, and kids are likely to want to revisit this one, especially as the first day of school approaches." *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* "Bright, fresh illustrations fill the pages of this adorable book about disappointment, friendship, and kindness." *ReadBrightly.com*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Empathy and kindness are just as important as ABCs and 123s, and Amanda gives readers a good lesson." — Kirkus "Filled with droll humor that begs to be read aloud, this is an excellent back-to-school purchase and a great fit for storytime." — School Library Journal "With strong dialogue and well-imagined details of wardrobe and play, Ransom writes an original story around the familiar situation: the beginning of a school. . . . This wryly amusing picture book offers a fresh take on an old theme." — Booklist "The lesson makes an impact without preaching, and kids are likely to want to revisit this one, especially as the first day of school approaches." — Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Bright, fresh illustrations fill the pages of this adorable book about disappointment, friendship, and kindness." — ReadBrightly.com

CANDICE RANSOM only ever wanted to be a children's book writer. She is the author of over 125 books for kids and young adults, including *Amanda Panda Quits Kindergarten*, and teaches in the children's literature program at Hollins University. Candice lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with her husband and her cats, Faulkner and Edison. Visit her at www.candiceransom.com. CHRISTINE GROVE is the illustrator of *Amanda Panda Quits Kindergarten*, *Esme's Egg*, and *Maddie the Mitzvah Clown*. Christine especially enjoys creating children's book characters. (After a bit of sketching they take on a life of their own and are kind enough to let her get to know them.) She lives near Atlanta, surrounded by her treasured collection of Derwent 2H graphic pencils.

Amanda knows just how she wants her first day of Kindergarten to go. She will print her name large on the blackboard, she will build the tallest tower, and she will run faster than everyone else. But when she gets to Kindergarten, it doesn't go exactly as planned. Amanda's favorite color is brown, but another girl dressed all in pink won't leave Amanda alone. In fact, Bitsy is the one who gets to put her name in the middle of the blackboard. Amanda is scolded for building her tower too tall and she isn't the fastest either. So she decides to head to her brother's

2nd grade class and just skip Kindergarten entirely. Ransom has depicted a certain type of child, one that is vastly confident about school and then realizes that what they have dreamed up is not actually reality. It's a great variant on the typical Kindergarten picture book about the fear of starting school. It also shows that overconfidence can be just as difficult as being worried. Ransom tells an entire story in her picture book, allowing Amanda to feel big emotions and work through them in her own unique way. Grove's illustrations add a large amount of appeal to the book. Amanda remains appealing to the reader even though she is prickly, thanks in part to the way she is shown on the page. From her brown cardigan to her red high tops, she is a vibrant character on the page even as she makes plenty of mistakes. A nice twist to the typical starting school books, this picture book shows everyone has a lot to learn in Kindergarten. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Amanda Panda envisions kindergarten going a certain way, but learns to accept see the good in her reality of how it actually pans out. Being flexible in life is a subject I return to over and over with my children, so its extremely applicable to all children no matter the age. I found the illustrations delicate and lovely yet colorful and power-punched with so many great expressions!-Shanda (Panda)

I have fallen in love with Amanda Panda! This is the sweetest story with adorable characters. Amanda is independent and loves unexpected things! She would rather run and race than play princess, her favorite color is brown; my type of girl! This book conveys such a great message with well developed characters! I love the way the illustrator was able to convey the emotions of each character. All the characters (not just Amanda)! Do yourself a favor, go ahead and buy it! You can thank me later.

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