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Review of *Dear Substitute* by Liz Garton Scanlon and Audrey Vernick

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Dear Substitute

Scanlon, Liz Garton and Audrey Vernick

Pictures by Chris Raschka

New York: Disney/Hyperion, 2018

9781484750223

In *Dear Substitute*, a young girl processes the effects of an unexpected substitute teacher on the normalcy of her routine through a series of notes. An endearing and clever presentation of a sort of rite of passage for school-age children, the book encourages the reader that it is okay when things are different sometimes, and that it's okay to not understand why. While not an entirely original idea – the story of the unfamiliar new substitute is a fairly standard trope in children's media – this book still provides a meaningful and encouraging lesson to the reader. Brightly colored and relatable to school kids, it could be very useful to read in a classroom setting. The language is well-suited to younger readers beginning to read by themselves with some help, but the art work is somewhat strange, leaning toward more abstract images that may be hard to discern for these younger readers. **RECOMMENDED.**

Marc Agee, *Centennial Library*