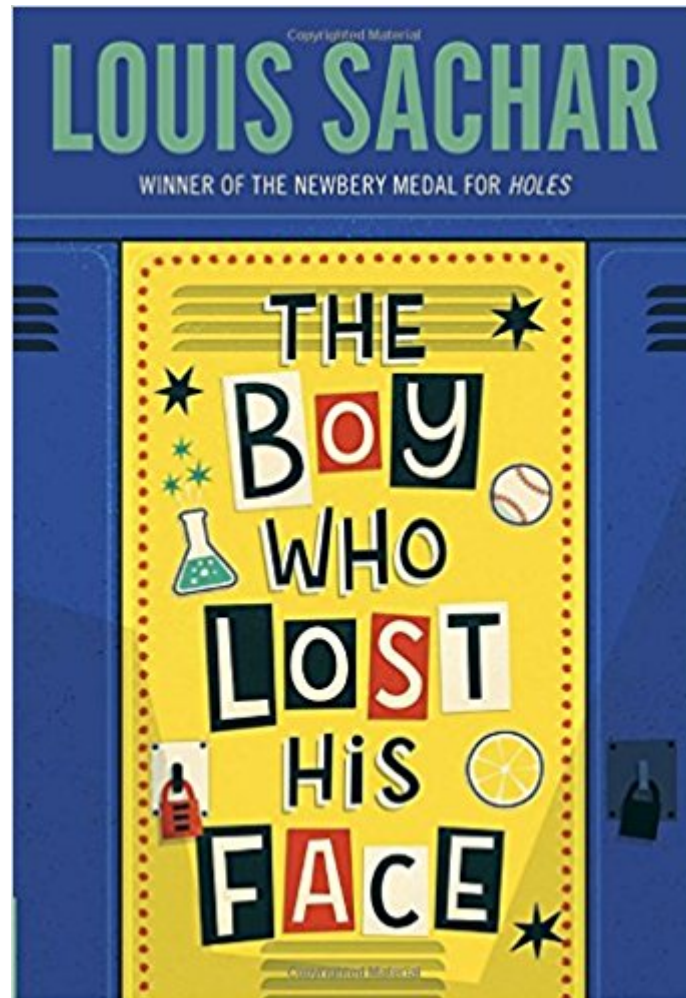




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# The Boy Who Lost His Face



## Synopsis

The classic novel from Newbery Medalist and National Book Award winner Louis Sachar (Holes), with a brand-new cover! Â David is only trying to be cool when he helps some of the popular kids steal Old Lady Bayfieldâ™s cane. But when the plan backfires, heâ™s the one the âœold witchâ• curses. Now David canâ™t seem to do anything right. The cool kids taunt him and his only friends are freaks. He even walks into Spanish class with his fly unzipped! And when he finally gets up the nerve to ask out a cute girl, his pants fall down in midsentence. Is it the Bayfield curse at work? Or is David simply turning into a total loser?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (April 15, 1997)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 89 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #239,445 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #99 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure #321 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Ever since his best friend Scott dropped him to join a popular group, David feels certain he's been cursed. He follows along when the group harasses kind, old Mrs. Bayfield, but afterward he is overcome with guilt. And that's when the curse strikes: David insults his mother, cracks a window and embarrasses himself in class. It's bad enough that Scott's group excludes and taunts David, but the worst moment is when Tori, a girl he likes, sees his pants fall down. Two new friends help David

to stand up to Scott's devious friends, rid himself of the curse and find the courage to ask Tori out. The story culminates with a hilarious rumble and a poignant realization. Sachar captures awkward junior high school experiences with humor and sensitivity. Readers will empathize with David's troubles and cheer his triumphs in this delightful, funny book. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-7-- The jacket art of a young man's horrified surprise as his pants fall down while he's talking to a girl in the school corridor captures much about the book, particularly its wit and humor (he's lost his pants, not his face) and its exploration of exaggerated situations that reveal the very real and excruciating angst of middle schoolers. David Ballinger fears being uncool, not fitting in, and wants so much to be popular that he helps some classmates attack an elderly woman and steal her cane. When odd things begin to happen to him, he believes the woman to be a witch who has cursed him, and his genuine remorse causes him to punish himself. By not being assertive, by not standing up for what he believes, he loses face. He grows in the course of the novel, and is able to get his "face" back, albeit somewhat bruised. Ample dialogue (including name calling, street language, and obscenities) and brief chapters will make this a book for which young patrons will reach. Unfortunately, the story is weakened by the tagged-on final chapter, set 150 years in the future, in which David Ballinger is revered, and his birthday has been made a school holiday.

--Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I love Sachar's books!. I was hesitant to buy this one as I had read the reviews and heard the language was a little racy. I decided that my son was already hearing many of the words at school and it would be a good opportunity to gauge his exposure. Well, I was right! My son was not new to the words in the book and even had some extra words he could question me about!! The book was an excellent starting point for bad behavior and bad words common to 4th and 5th graders. I would not say don't read the book; but I would say let your kids only read it with you!. Great learning can occur as well as lessons of empathy, peer pressure and what real friendship means.

Oh, Louis Sachar, you are my soulmate. I've loved you since I was in 3rd grade and read *Someday Angeline*. I'm 32 now, and I still get a kick out of these jokes. The man is brilliant, people! He should get a Nobel peace prize and his own holiday. About this book in particular, I have two sons. The oldest is 6, and I'm feeling like the content is too mature to read it to him so far, but I'm looking

forward to the day he is ready. I loved the characters and just how the story was told. Many times, it's not what happened that was so funny, but the thoughts going through the main character's head about what happened that had me cracking up.

Sachar is a good author for young people. His writing is interesting and his stories are more than entertaining. The only issue we (parents) had with this story was that there was more inappropriate language in the story than we were really comfortable with. I guess it is really for a slightly older child. My son is 8 and we liked the story a lot - but some of the language was for older children or teenagers. We just finished reading this and now I need to find a new book! :)

This was an easy read. I read this as a banned book assignment. I am not sure why it is banned.

That was super funny lol's all around. I was confused with the grade they were in it is good :)

My 10 yr old grand daughter loves these books. Even the schools recommend them.

Fantastic story. Cursing several times.

I picked up a copy of "The Boy Who Lost His Face" because I quite enjoyed Sachar's other books (specifically, "Holes" was brilliant). This ended up being one of his finest works, insightful and funny. The book does use 'naughty' language at parts, but it is used to aid the story (for example, the main character and his father ponder over why certain acts are considered vulgar, and others aren't)... and it's nothing you won't see on prime-time television.

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