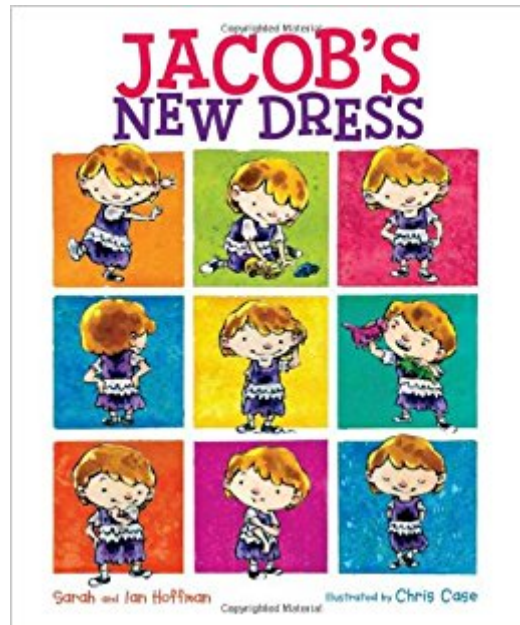




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# Jacob's New Dress



## Synopsis

Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? This heartwarming story speaks to the unique challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD400L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 66 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,992 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #227 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#) #1189 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2  
Jacob likes to play dress up with his friend Emily, but he prefers to pretend that he is a princess rather than a knight, firefighter, or policeman. The boys in his class tease him and wonder why he wears dresses. His teacher explains that "Jacob wears what he's comfortable in. Just like you do. Not very long ago little girls couldn't wear pants. Can you imagine that?" Jacob returns home from school to tell his mother that one of his classmates says that boys can't wear dresses. His parents support him as he makes his own dress with his mother's help, and she shares with him that "there are all sorts of ways to be a boy." An author's note explains how parents, educators, and counselors can make a difference in the lives of gender-nonconforming children. The warm cartoon illustrations convey the mood well and offer readers visual clues to the cruelty, teasing, and struggle with self-acceptance that can occur when children are different from their

peers. Purchase this one to encourage discussions of gender, identity, and self-confidence. —Melissa Smith, Royal Oak Public Library, MI

Jacob wants to wear a dress to school, so he fashions one from a towel — a “dress-thing.” His mother tells him to add some shorts and a shirt, and off he goes to school, where he is teased by a fellow student, Christopher, who pulls the towel off and waves it “like a captured flag.” That evening, a tearful Jacob asks his mother to help him make a real dress, and after some thought, she agrees. Jacob’s father adds, “Well, it’s not what I would wear, but you look great.” At school, there’s more teasing, but Jacob finally tells Christopher, “I made this dress, I’m proud of it, and I’m going to wear it!” And so he does. In an afterword, the coauthors explain that Jacob is a “gender nonconforming” boy and that gender expression is inborn — not something we choose. The authors’ gentle but necessarily didactic story succeeds in dramatizing this concept. Case’s softly colored cartoonlike illustrations nicely expand the spirit of this important book, which — one hopes — will provide reassurance to children like Jacob and inspire thoughtful discussion. Grades K-3. —Michael Cart

My sister recently got this for my soon to be seven year old’s birthday present. My kiddo loves pink and My Little Pony and Monster High and sparkly barrettes. When he read this to me, he got to page 2, where Jacob puts on a crown and says he’ll be the princess, and my little boy’s mouth fell open. “He’s just like me!” I nearly cried. Thank you to the author, for writing my boy into a book.

My son, who was never teased for wearing skirts or dresses by any of his amazingly cool friends, wasn’t aware that what he was choosing to wear was “abnormal” until reading this book. The bullying described terrified him and he’s never worn a dress or skirt since. It may be helpful for some, but parents, please read it ahead of time and see if it feels right knowing your kid as well as you do. It was not right for mine and I’m afraid a little damaging. I think it introduced bullying (which comes all too soon anyway!) too early for him and made him feel like he was doing something weird when before he was perfectly happy.

This one is OK....not as good as “Roland Humphrey is wearing what?”, but still a nice addition for gender neutral reading (for kids).

Jacob's New Dress explores the mindset of a child who doesn't fit society's definition for their gender type. It's told from the point of view of Jacob which makes it easier for the reader to think in the terms of the child---who isn't necessarily old enough or mature enough in their thinking to consider what wearing a particular type of clothing might "say" about them. Jacob is presented as a boy who simply likes to pretend to be a princess or a witch or even a bird. He's got a healthy imagination as well as a zest for life which he wants to express through his clothes. Seeing his mother embrace his different view on life, encourage him to be himself, and help him create something he's proud to wear was very uplifting for me. I think all parents, educators, and those who work with children should read this book and other books like it which explore gender nonconformity in order to better understand how to work with children who present exactly as they are rather than how society says they should be.

This book made me happy because it made my son happy. He saw a little boy who just wanted a dress to play in and have fun in - just like him - without his parents making a big deal about it. I'm so thankful to see such a positive, warm story that my little dude could see himself in so clearly. Because cool as Disney princes are? The princesses definitely get the best clothes. Boys and girls should be encouraged to play in whatever (safe) ways are fun for them without anyone else making it into more than it is - being comfortable with what you enjoy.

Jacob is a little boy who loves to play dress up. He wants to be a superhero, a bird, and a princess. But some of the kids at school aren't very kind whenever Jacob wears a dress. I love everything about this book. I love that even though it's a book "with a message" it doesn't allow the message to overtake good storytelling. It's not just a book you'd see on a school counsellor's shelf. It's a book you could read in a classroom or at home and children would enjoy it because it's a good book. Even if no one in the class is experiencing "gender nonconformity," as the authors describe, everyone knows what it's like to meet resistance for being different in some way. It's like the Stephanie's Ponytail for boys who want to wear dresses. I also like that the book doesn't end with everyone embracing Jacob and his dress choices, because that's not realistic. In the book, as in life, there are kids who tease him for wearing "girl clothes" or tell him their parents think he's weird, but there are also kids and teachers who support him no matter what. And I think that's lovely. It's not hard for me to imagine children just like Jacob. Whether a child grows up to identify as gay, straight, trans, or whatever, the pressure to conform to rigid gender norms as young children can be staggering. And as a friend of mine (as well as fellow blogger and fellow parent) pointed out, "You

may find support in encouraging your daughter not to wear princess dresses all the time, but good luck finding support if you want to let her brother wear them instead."So bravo to the authors for creating an example of exactly that support!

It's one thing to accept people for who they are and to let consenting adults do as they please. It's another thing to write propaganda for little children to promote and push trans behavior.

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