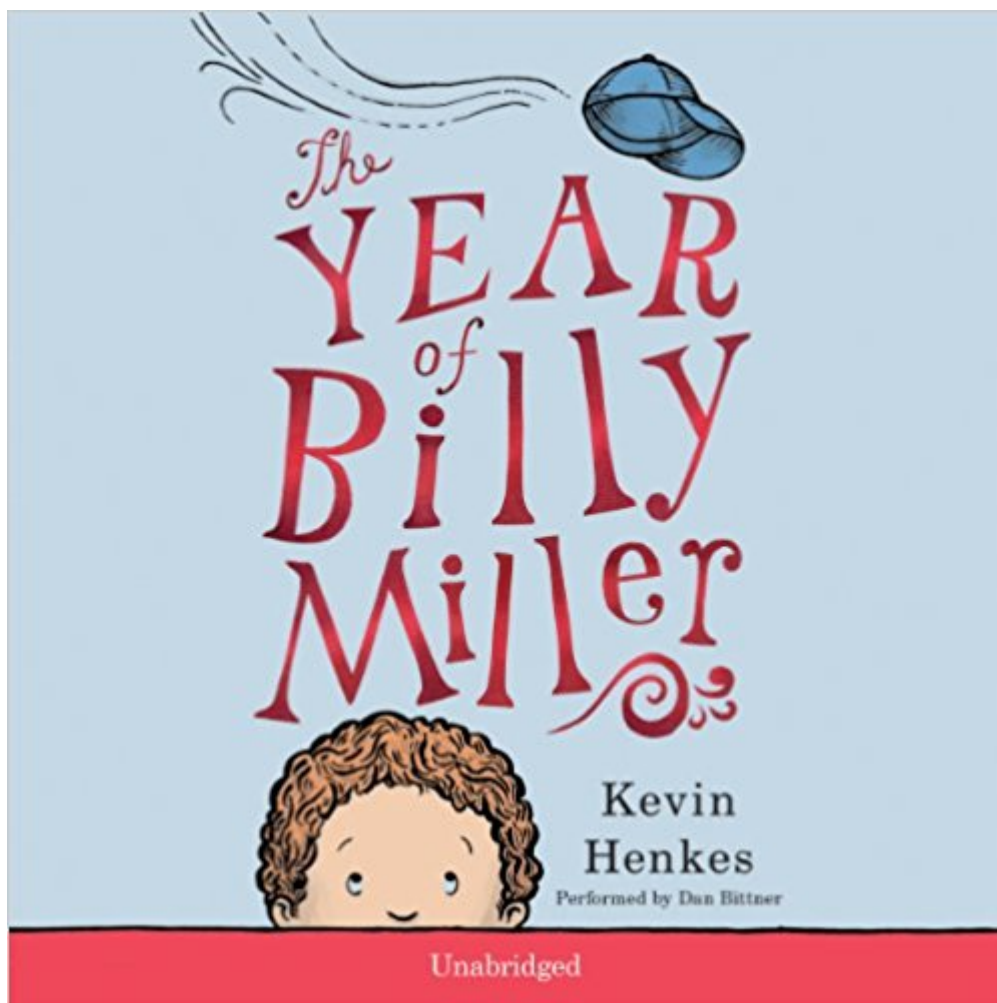


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# The Year Of Billy Miller



## Synopsis

[Juvenile Fiction Ages (10-12) ][Read by Dan Bittner]When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, appreciate his little sister, and be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad. Newbery Honor author Kevin Henkes delivers a short, satisfying, laugh-out-loud-funny school and family story that features a diorama homework assignment, a school poetry slam, cancelled sleepovers, and epic sibling temper tantrums.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers and Blackstone Audio; Unabridged edition (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1483005909

ISBN-13: 978-1483005904

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 5.8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 130 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,190,811 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( H \) > Henkes, Kevin](#) #3230 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &](#)

[Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#) #4103 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing](#)

[Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-3-The beginning of a new school year brings anxious moments for Billy Miller, a typical second grader at Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School in a small Wisconsin town. His new teacher, Ms. Silver, uses chopsticks to hold her hair in place and know-it-all Emma Sparks is unfortunately one of his desk mates. Just as a school year is divided into quarters, the book is divided into four parts-"Teacher," "Father," "Sister," and "Mother"-each offering a new perspective on Billy's personality and development through his interactions with these well-developed characters. He begins the school year with a lump on his head from a family-vacation incident and navigates glitter

homework fiascos, canceled sleepover plans, and sibling annoyances as readers see the year unfold through funny and often poignant situations. Billy himself might have been daunted by a book with more than 200 pages, but eager young readers will find this a great first chapter book to share or read solo.-Cheryl Ashton, Amherst Public Library, OH  
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Billy Miller is starting second grade, and though his teacher, Mrs. Silver, tells the class it is the Year of the Rabbit, Billy's father tells him it will be the Year of Billy Miller. Billy isn't sure. He's even more worried when he gets off on the wrong foot his first day, but as the months go on, Billy begins to shine. There are some wonderful moments here: when Billy brings his teacher silver items—coins, a paper clip, a little rabbit—to show her he's a nice boy; when he agonizes over how to tell his father that Papa is a babyish name; and a triumphant ending when poetry and self-confidence intertwine. But the school year also seems rushed, and some intriguing characters, like the annoying Emma, are barely touched. Harkening back to writers of an earlier era, like Eleanor Estes, Henkes never compromises his language. Words like replicated, diligently, and frustrated appear—and that's on just one page. Since this is so age specific, older readers might pass it by. That would be too bad, because this is a story with a lot of heart and sweet insights into growing up. Illustrations unseen. High-Demand Backstory: There's no more versatile producer of children's books working today than Henkes. Libraries, with great justification, are always interested in what he's up to now. Grades 3-7. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Billy Miller struggles with finding his way through the sorts of problems one would expect for a second-grader. He starts school on a wrong note and seeks to remedy the problem with his teacher. His father's artistic block causes tension in the family until Billy finds a way to help. Billy wants to stay up all night and hopes his little sister can help him do it. But who is he supposed to write his special poem about when he loves both his mom and dad? It's a puzzle, but Billy addresses the problem with his typical aplomb. Strengths: Billy is an adorable character, very believable and endearing. Henkes demonstrates once again his superb understanding of childhood and the sorts of things that most kids worry about. The book would be a wonderful read-a-loud as it is full of character, heart, and beautiful writing. Weaknesses: The only problem I had with the book was the length. The book is rather long (229 pages) for the target audience which would have to be first

through third grades. I'm not sure older children would pick up the book.

Wonderful read-aloud for the classroom! Billy Miller is such a lovable character! We need more characters like him! The book is divided into four great sections, as though a collection of short stories (Billy with his new teacher, his dad, his younger sister, and his mom). Each story has a level of excitement and stress that keeps the reader laughing and attentive! The Year of Billy Miller is a heartwarming book that will leave the reader or listeners very satisfied with Billy's second grade school year! Writing, art, using one's imagination and creativity are featured in this book. A classroom teacher would find this a valuable kick-starter for a study of emotions, artwork, creative writing, speaking skills, and more! Nice story, Kevin Henkes! Thank you!

This book is perfect for readers looking for a good story about a second grade boy. Billy is worried that second grade will be too hard for him. His parents both reassure him as does his teacher, but Billy has to experience the challenges of second grade for himself before he sees that the adults were right, and he can be confident in his own ability. Dealing with his little sister, Sal, reciting poetry from memory at school, making a diorama for a school project - all these things help make Billy's second grade year memorable and a little bit more grown up and responsible. Henkes has managed to capture what it is like to be a second grade boy, and shares the experiences through Billy Miller. I loved reading this to myself, but can't wait to book talk it at school, and read it aloud to my girls at home.

This book is the day to day life of a typical 2nd grader. Nothing special happens to him. He goes out to eat. He bumps his head. He imagines a monster under the bed. Ordinary stuff. There's no through line or reason to turn the page. It's the first book I've read to my 7 year old boy where he doesn't care if I read another chapter or even finish the chapter. He's all "It's OK mom, I can just go to sleep now." It doesn't trump sleep, the lowest of bars. I don't get it.

This is one of the best books ever! My son and I read this book together when he was in 5th grade, and he did his back-to-school book report on The Year of Billy Miller. It was the very first book report on which he spent so much energy! He made his own book cover for the book, representing the things about the story that made an impact on him, and he wrote a synopsis for his back cover. Let me tell you, if MY 5th-grade-son got this involved in a project about a book he read during the summer? It's an extremely good book. Reading for fun means a comic book for him. He was

hesitant when I showed it to him, but after I volunteered to start reading first, and he had questions and comments and, yes, laughter - it was on and popping! I know I haven't told you anything about the book - you can read that in the information above! This is the most important part - my non-reader was enraptured!

My son and I enjoyed this as a read-aloud, but I may have expected too much due to its Newbery Honor. The four-part story-line was choppy: I wanted the parts to tie together better. Nonetheless, it was a sweet story that I can recommend, although not with "i love it" enthusiasm. Looking forward to what Kevin Henkes does next.

The Year of Billy Miller, a Newbery Honor book, is a book about a second grade boy who struggles with his self confidence. Throughout the story, we see his self confidence built. He has great parents who are encouraging and a sister that drives him crazy. In his class, he has a best friend named Ned, and a girl named Emma that gets under his skin. This story follows him throughout his second grade year. From a future teacher perspective, it would be a great book to use in a classroom to get activities from. There are no big events in this book but it would be a great book for children grades 1-3 to relate to.

I love this book! Billy Miller is starting second grade and he is scared about being smart enough to do his school work since he got the "lump on his head." This book is about family relationships, self-doubt and self-discovery. It's about learning to cope with difficult classmates and pushing yourself to stretch to be and do more than you thought you could. The story is written from the perspective of a second grader with an erratic little sister, a loving grounded mother, and an unusual artistic father. The heart of the story is the interactions between Billy and his family, friends, and teacher. This is a funny book with warm, loving characters, and of course the know-it-all character that every child always encounters at every grade in school. This book will both make you laugh and leave you with that warm fuzzy feeling that makes you remember the good times of growing up.

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