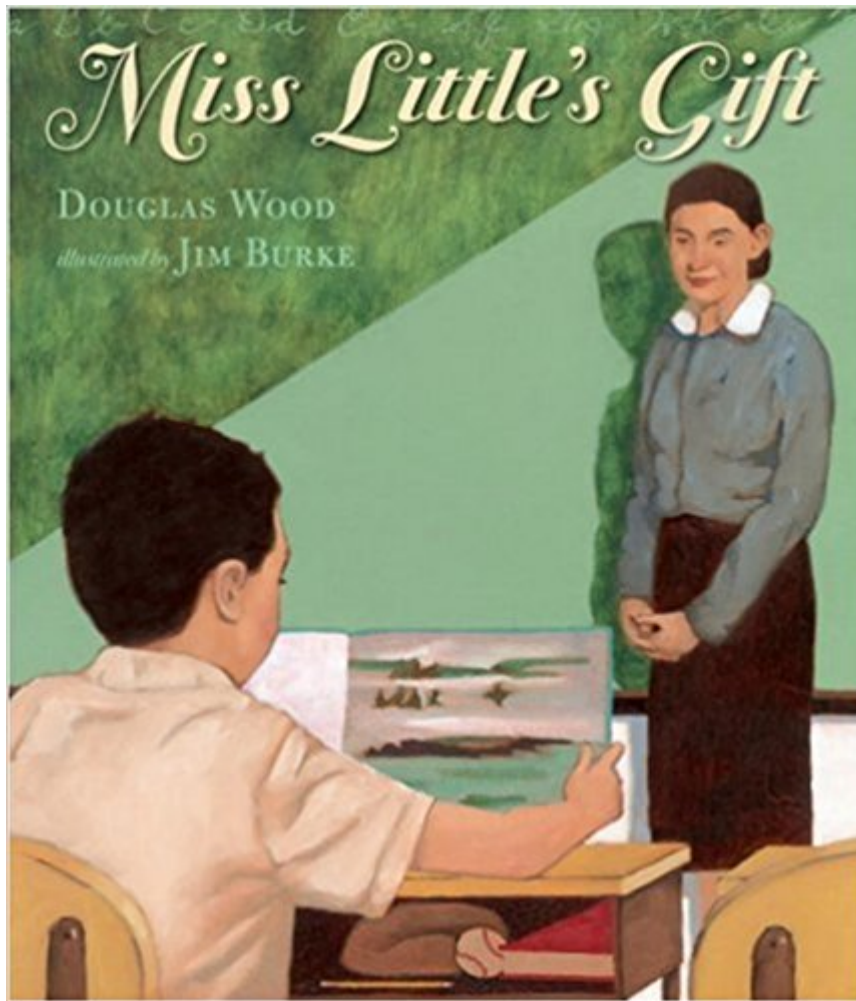




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Miss Little's Gift



Synopsis

In a compelling and beautifully illustrated story, award-winning author Douglas Wood tells of the teacher who led him to love reading, in spite of his ADHD. Douglas is the youngest, smallest, and newest student in his second-grade class, and he doesn't like reading. He doesn't like sitting still. And he doesn't like Miss Little, especially when she makes him stay after class day after day, forcing him to sound out lines and blobs and squiggles when he'd rather be throwing a football. Luckily Douglas likes the pictures in the book Miss Little has chosen for him, pictures that remind him of the lake his family visits every summer. Award-winning author Douglas Wood • the boy in the story • alludes to scenes from *The Little Island*, the first book that enticed him to read, in a tale that will resonate with many children with ADHD. It is also a heartwarming ode to a special teacher whose gentle persistence changed one little boy's life forever.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #604,370 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Learning Disorders](#) #581 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries](#) #584 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 1 • This autobiographical picture book chronicles the author's struggles in second grade. Smaller than everyone else, new in town, and speaking with an unfamiliar Southern accent, Wood also found reading to be a chore. Miss Little had him remain after school each day,

and while he was at first resentful of the attention, her patience and careful choice of reading material eventually won him over. The story works as a tribute to those unsung teacher heroes whose dedication to their craft and native intuition about children have changed lives, although that aspect of the book may be appreciated more by adults than by youngsters. However, the book also works as a tribute to Golden MacDonald's (Margaret Wise Brown's) *The Little Island* (Random, 1946). It is that gentle but quietly magical tale that Miss Little wisely used as a teaching tool, and that showed the boy that learning to read was worth his time because the book truly spoke to him. Burke's large, realistic oils, with their rich greens and blues, complement the story nicely. In an author's note, Wood discusses ADHD. While not quite as powerful as Patricia Polacco's *Thank You, Mr. Falker* (Philomel, 1998), this book is a worthwhile addition to most collections. — Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Douglas Wood is the author of *GRANDAD'S PRAYERS OF THE EARTH*, a recipient of the Christopher Award, and the best-selling *OLD TURTLE*. He is also an artist, musician, naturalist, and wilderness guide. He lives in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Jim Burke has illustrated many celebrated picture books and is the author-illustrator of *TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Douglas Wood has given us many gifts over the years. Non better than Old Turtle..a classic.I have used Miss Little's Gift in my read-aloud presentations for First through Fourth grades, and they all have the same reaction, they are amazed that the author had a reading problem in Second grade. Many can identify with some of the same problems with recognizing those lines, dots and squiggles that Douglas encountered. Thank you Douglas Wood..you have given us numerous gifts over the years,and Miss Little Gift is a very special book that honors all of those heroes who taught us how to read!

Teachers and struggling readers, especially, will like this book. Also, if you are lucky enough to hear Douglas Wood in person, go! He is an excellent story teller and you will want all of his books!

This book is a great book to read and it is so uplifting. It's always a great idea to share positive, motivating stories with your children.

Excellent book and very high quality!!

Douglas had moved from Kentucky to Iowa and was having trouble fitting in. The other kids poked fun at him claiming he "talked funny." He didn't like the other kids, they didn't like him. He didn't like reading because he couldn't and he didn't like Miss Little because he wouldn't. She made him stay after school so he would learn to read. The only thing he managed to learn out of those "line and blobs and squiggles that didn't mean anything" was that teachers sure knew how to torture kids. He DID NOT like that Miss Little . . . not even a tiny little bit. It was a discouraging thing to be stuck in after school every day. "I can't do this . . . ""Oh, yes, you are Douglas. You're going to become a good reader." The playground spoke to him. Baseball, football . . . "Douglas." No, he couldn't do it. Lines and blobs and squiggles he couldn't decipher were sheer torture. Miss Little gave him a book about an island that interested him and brought back fond memories of Granddad and Lake Kabetogama. Miss Little was soooooo persistent, but now something started to click. "A juh-gen-tell--gentle! A gentle wind." There was something about this book. The kitten was going the island and some people were going to have a picnic. What was going to happen? Help, Miss Little . . . he needed to find out what secret things that kitten was going to find and he needed to know the secret of reading!! I loved this heartwarming tribute to Miss Little several times and each time I felt the elation one might feel at the end of a movie when the underdog succeeds. Many children would never have made it if they didn't have a Miss Little in their lives. The greatest gift that Douglas probably ever had was the gift of his teacher's time, patience and love for a little boy with ADHD. She knew he had something special in him. In the back of the book the author talks about his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and his own personal battle with it. If you or anyone in your life has ADHD you are NOT going to like this book . . . you're going to LOVE it!

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