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# Author: A True Story



## Synopsis

So begins the story of Helen Lester, author of Tacky the Penguin and many other popular books for children. By sharing her struggles as a child and later as a successful author, she demonstrates that hurdles are part of the process. She even gives writing tips, such as keeping a "fizzle box." Helen Lester uses her unique ability to laugh at her mistakes to create both a guide for young writers and an amusing personal story of the disappointments and triumphs of a writer's life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 26, 2002)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,635 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books](#) > [Biographies > Literary](#) #84 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers](#) #408 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Lester's lighthearted look at how she came to write children's books will give aspiring authors of any age a lift and encouragement to persevere. Ages 4-8. (Aug.) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 4. A picture-book autobiography that looks at the genesis of a writer from childhood to first publication, with all of the setbacks along the way. Jaunty cartoons add just the right tone to this inspirational success story. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

First, I want to clarify that Helen Lester's story is fantastic, and a great teaching tool for struggling

young writers. this Kindle version, however, is awful, and completely unusable in one's classroom or library. The pages of the print book are poorly scanned, and instead of digitally adjusting the graininess, the story's text has simply been slapped on top. This results in low resolution illustrations and blurry text, and the crisp "retyped" text hanging over or under the outline of the poorly scanned page. Kids (and even a couple of adults) struggle to read the crisp type on top, THEN read the same text on the blurred background of the crappy scan, and then the out-of-order text on the bottom! Prior to this, I've purchased Kindle formats of children's books and really enjoyed them, but I just can't recommend this one, it's far too ugly. Lesson learned: I should have downloaded the sample first!

Kids enjoy reading about the life of an author.

good

Although this story is one of my favorites for launching a Writer's Workshop in my first grade classroom, the presentation of this particular version was difficult. The text was duplicated on each page making it confusing to use as a Smartboard lesson. The story itself is fantastic as it chronicles Helen Lester's struggles with writing as a child, through her many rejections leading to her ultimate success as a published author. I would definitely recommend the book but the format leaves a lot to be desired.

This is Helen Lester's true story of how she became a writer--from struggling in grade school to becoming a published author (many times). It's inspiring because it shows that writing is not simple--even for those gifted with the pen, but that it takes time and effort and a lot of rewrites. I would recommend it to anyone trying to show a child that writing does not always come easily, but that even the toughest writing struggles can be overcome with perseverance. It also explains the illustrator's job and how good illustrations help sell stories. Helen Lester's fiction books are hysterical and this companion "biography" is a must if you are a fan of her works.

This is the true story of how an author came to be just that, an author. In simplistic terms that were easy for my 2nd graders, the author recounts her challenges with writing. She also talks about struggling when her books were not published. This gave my children hope that they could one day become authors and also talked to them about perseverance I really enjoyed this!

Cleverly written to encourage children to write their own stories.

A great book that shows that authors do not automatically have successes immediately, and that they started out as ordinary kids with ideas and challenges, just like any students of today. Helen Lester writes with humor and real understanding of a writer's frustrations, the hard work that it takes, and the joy of doing what she loves. It is a very encouraging book for kids, and a fun read for anyone.

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