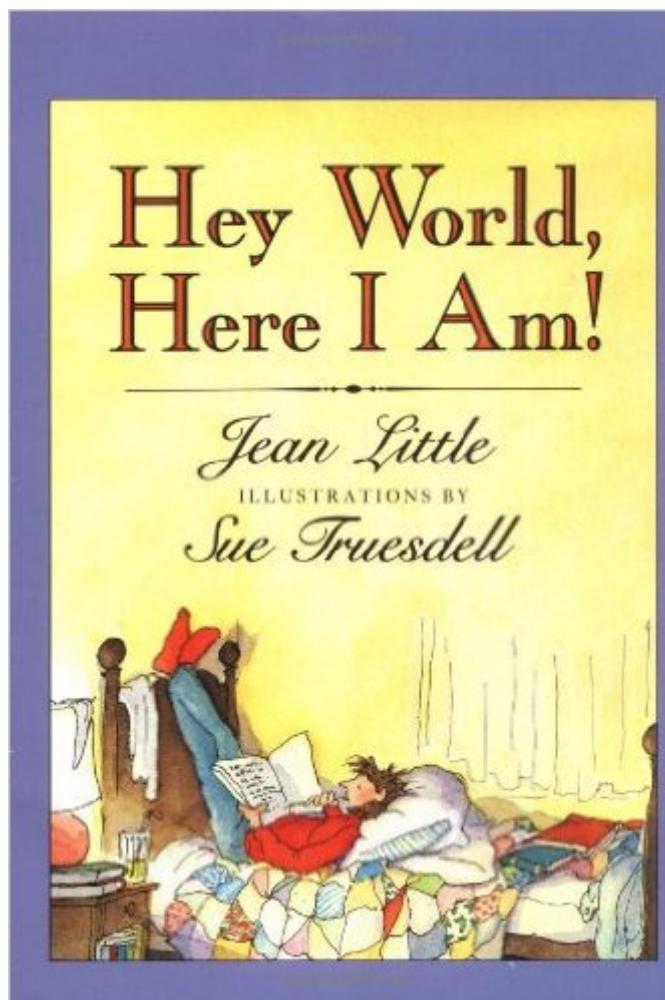


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# Hey World, Here I Am! (Harper Trophy Book)



## Synopsis

Kate Bloomfield is back! And she's got a lot to say -- about school and friends and parents, about cartwheels (she can't do them), about parsnips (she won't eat them), about being alone and being herself, about life and love...even about Dave Nelson, who doesn't know she's alive. Outspoken, funny, sometimes confused but always observant, Kate is writing it all down -- "Hey World, Here I Am!" Notable Children's Books of 1989 (ALA) Best Books of 1989 (SLJ) Notable 1989 Children's Trade Books in Social Studies (NCSS/CBC) Children's Books of 1989 (Library of Congress) 1989 Children's Books (NY Public Library)

## Book Information

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

Series: Harper Trophy Book

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (April 25, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006440384X

ISBN-13: 978-0064403849

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #53,797 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing > Composition & Creative Writing #389 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #573 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I had been meaning to read this book for quite awhile, but never quite got around to it until today. This book is a quick read. (I think it only took me about 45 minutes to read from cover to cover. However, I didn't take time to ponder most of the illustrations.) Kate is a great character. Strangely enough, the title poem "Hey World, here I am" is probably the one I liked the least in the whole book. I haven't read any of the other books that include Kate, but this book does stand alone. With this book, the reader gets an insight into Kate that is refreshing. Rather than using long journal

entries, Kate relates little things in her world through poems and through short stories. Some of these things are quite moving, such as the time that Kate's mother yells at her to clean her room. Later, Kate's mother comes back to apologize, saying she had a bad day at work, etc, and that she didn't mean to snap like that. Kate's observation on the situation is that she could deal with being snapped at, but having to deal with her mother's sadness was something much harder. Other observations are more joyful, such as the hope for spring (in February in Canada!) or being happy to have a best friend like her friend Emily. I think this is a wonderful book. Don't let its shortness put you off. Not every book is meant to be 300 pages.

I was about eight years old when my mom first brought this book home for me. I was so thrilled because I shared the name of the character in the book, Kate. I absolutely devoured the book, enjoying it more for the humor Jean Little displays impeccably in her writing, and the utter appropriateness of Sue Truedell's wonderful illustrations. Later, when I was a teenager, I went back and read the poems again because they seemed to describe the utter tumult and solitude that I felt during such a trying time. Poems like "Today," "Alone," and "Yesterday" capture perfectly feelings and emotions that nobody ever thinks to capture, yet Ms. Little does it in such a fabulous way that one instantly understands just what kind of mood she is describing. Now that I am a young woman, near to having a family of my own, I treasure my battered old copy of this book, nearly worn to pieces from repeated readings. Even today I can still find wisdom in every poem and piece of prose. The writer, Jean Little, is blind; I can only say it has sharpened her other senses and her intuition of basic human emotion powerfully. Bravo!

Read this when I was a kid and thought I'd never find it again. It's a strange combination of fiction, poetry, and essays, from the perspective of a middle schooler. A bit old-fashioned in some ways, but many of the ideas it expresses transcend time.

Kate Bloomfield, a Canadian teenage girl, records her thoughts and feelings through a series of poems and vignettes. The very first page quickly sets the tone of Kate's story - she announces her arrival to the World, but when she gets no response, her Self celebrates with somersaults. The World had its chance, but now it's Kate's turn! Simple stories, like not being able to eat parsnips or being proud to be Canadian, are mixed with longer portraits of Kate, her friends and family. Kate struggles with becoming a teenager and learning more about her parents and neighbors. The reader gets an intimate portrait of Kate and may discover a kindred spirit. Kate has already appeared

in two book, Kate and Look Through My Window, but Hey World, Here I Am! certainly stands on its own. Little's writing style capture the teenage voice perfectly, without any of the angst or drama found in so many other books with a teen protagonist. Kate is caught between a world where she is old enough to have experience and reflect on her opinions, but still new to the world of adults. Truesdell's illustrations, wobbly black and white drawings, are both silly and sentimental. The drawings interact with the poems, somersaulting around the words. Not only will younger readers find a companion in Kate, they will be introduced to poetry and the short story format.

"Hey World, Here I Am!" is truly one of the best books I have ever read. It contains so much energy, fun, and life. A book that all people must read (no matter who you are!). The illustrations are great as well. Hey people out there, READ THIS!!!!!! I am 9 by the way.

I discovered this little book while gathering material for my Grades 5/6 poetry unit. Jean Little captures large truths in small poems. Many students, girls particularly, found themselves in several of the selections. One small poem about War has become my introduction for my Remembrance Day unit this year.

This is a great book but if you're going to buy it off of [invest in the library binding version](#). I ordered the paperback from [and I must say I'm more than disappointed with the quality of it](#). It feels flimsy, the pages are extremely thin, and the name on the spine wasn't printed right. Besides misprinting this book is something I would definitely recommend!

My daughter read this book several times in a row, so I had to read it, too. It's a mixture of poems and stories that create the character Kate Bloomfield, a very real and compelling girl. She comments on her life, about things like her best friend's baby sister, being Jewish, and turning cartwheels. It sounds corny, but the book is as touching as it is very funny.

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