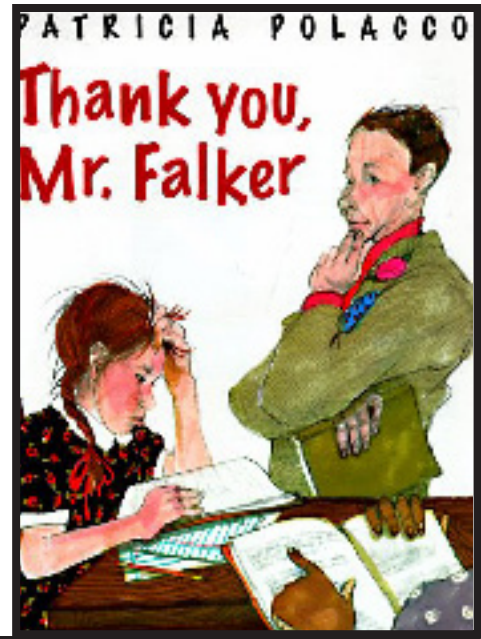


BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"THANK YOU, MR. FALKER"

By Patricia Polacco

Watch online video of actor
Jane Kaczmarek reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>



BOOK SUMMARY

Little Trisha is overjoyed at the thought of starting school and learning how to read. But right from the start, when she tries to read, all the letters and numbers just get jumbled up. Her classmates make matters worse by calling her "dummy" and "toad." Then in fifth grade, a new teacher comes. He sees right through the sad little girl to the artist she really is. And when he discovers Trisha's secret -- that she still can't read -- he sets out to help her prove to herself that she can. And will! The autobiographical "Thank you, Mr. Falker" is a story close to the author's heart. It is her personal song of thanks and praise to teachers like Mr. Falker, who quietly but surely change the lives of the children they teach.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Discuss and then write about someone who has made a difference in your life.
- Discuss and then write about something that you have ever been teased about.
- Discuss and then write about the talent that saved Trisha in the book.
- Discuss and then write about a talent that has saved you.
- Write a thank you letter to a person that has made a difference in your life.

MORE ACTIVITIES

- Compare the art in several books by Patr cia Polacco.

What are the similarities in the art work?

What are the differences in the art work?

- Make a display of photographs or illustrations that show your talents.
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INTERNET ACTIVITIES

Patr cia Polacco, who wrote *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, has often spoken about her difficulty in learning to read.

Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyslexia> to read and learn about dyslexia. What is this type of reading difficulty? Have you or anyone you know had difficulty learning to read? Have a discussion with an adult about what you learned.

Go to http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/learning_problem/dyslexia.html. This website has lots of information about dyslexia and learning to read. What did you learn from what you read? Have a discussion with someone about what you learned.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PATRICIA POLACCO, a consummate weaver and illustrator of warm and poignant tales, frequently dips into her own family's story bag for her stories. Ms. Polacco received both a bachelor's and master's degree in fine art at Monash University in Melbourne. She also received a Ph.D. at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology where she studied Russian and Greek iconographic history.

A mother of two children, Traci and Steven, Ms. Polacco lives in Michigan, not far from her grandparents' farm.

Other books by Patricia Polacco:

"Rechenko's Eggs"
"Casey At The Bat "
"The Keeping Quilt"
"Thunder Cake"
"Just Plain Fancy"
"Chicken Sunday"
"Mrs. Katz and Tush"
"The Bee Tree"
"Pink and Say"
"I Can Hear the Sun: A Modern Myth"
"The Butterfly"
"Betty's Doll"
"Mr. Lincoln's Way"
"When Lightning Comes in A Jar"

INTERESTING INFO

Thank you, Mr. Falker is autobiographical. It is a story close to Patricia Polacco's heart that reflects her experiences as a child and her gratitude to teachers like Mr. Falker who can change the lives of children they teach.

ABOUT THE READER

JANE KACZMAREK
As the harried but lovable mother of TV's Malcolm in the Middle, Jane Kaczmarek has been nominated for the Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG awards and has won a Television Critics Award, American Comedy Award and a Satellite Award. Other distinguished television work



includes *Felicity*, *Equal Justice*, *Paper Chase: The Second Year*, *Party of Five*, *Frasier*, *The Practice*, *Hill Street Blues* and *Raising the Bar*. Her film credits include *Pleasantville*, *Vice Versa*, *DOA*, *Falling in Love* and *Uncommon Valor*. On Broadway, Kaczmarek appeared in *Lost in Yonkers*, received an Ovation award for her work in the Los Angeles production of *Kindertransport* and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for her work in *Raised in Captivity*. She also appeared in the premiere of *Dinner with Friends*.

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