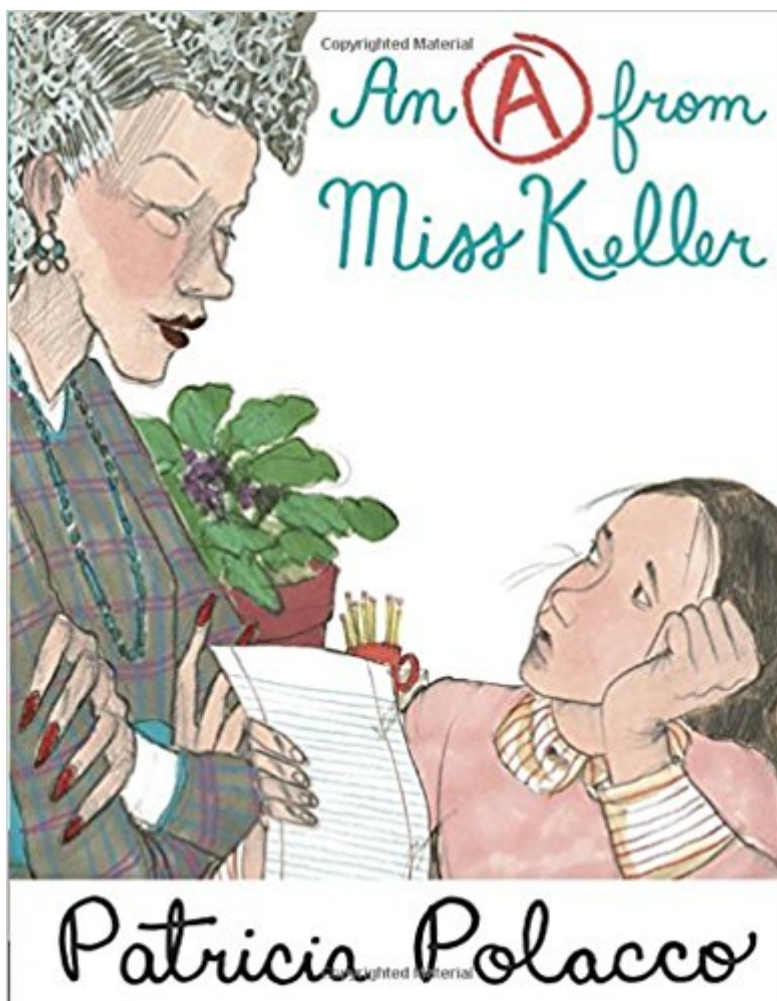


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# An A From Miss Keller



## Synopsis

How did Patricia Polacco become a writer? A perfect companion to the classic *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, *The Art of Miss Chew*, and *Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece*, this book celebrates a teacher who inspired a young Patricia Polacco to become the writer and storyteller she is today. Trisha is nervous about being chosen for Miss Keller's writing class. "Killer Keller" demands that her students dazzle her with their writing, and rumor has it that she has never given an A. The rumors turn out to be all too true—there's just no pleasing Miss Keller. Then an unexpected loss leaves Trisha heartbroken. Thoughts of teachers and grades forgotten, she pours out her soul in a personal narrative. And when Miss Keller reads it, she tells Trisha, "You've given your words wings."

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0700 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399166912

ISBN-13: 978-0399166914

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,909 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #204 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #235 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1 Trisha is nervous about taking Miss Keller's advanced writing class. True to the rumors, this teacher is tough, taking pains to critique Trisha's lack of emotional connection in her writing. Trisha visits with her neighbor Pop for encouragement, and he shares stories about his beloved wife and sons, who also took Killer Keller's writing class. After learning of Pop's death by

sudden heart attack, Trisha writes down her feelings without worrying about her grade, and Miss Keller tells Trisha she has "given [her] words wings," finally earning an "A." The text maintains a conversational tone throughout ("Guess what?" and "She actually hugged me!") to tell this personal story of loss and growth. Polacco's colorful illustrations are engaging, with pencil lines used in the characters' facial expressions to evoke a range of emotion, from Miss Keller's birdlike scrutiny to Trisha's anxiety and heartbreaking grief. The middle school setting may make this text-heavy picture book better suited for independent reading or for sharing with older children. Add Miss Keller to Polacco's collection of inspirational teachers, including Mr. Falker, Mr. Lincoln, and Miss Chew.

**VERDICT** A recommended general purchase, especially where longer picture books are needed.

—Hannah Farmer, Seguin Public Library, TX

“Polacco introduces readers to another inspirational teacher from her past in this inspiring tale. . . . This story from the author's life, colorfully illustrated with pencils and markers in her signature style, is affecting, engaging, and informative.”

—Booklist

“Polacco's colorful illustrations are engaging, with pencil lines used in the characters' facial expressions to evoke a range of emotion. . . . Add Miss Keller to Polacco's collection of inspirational teachers, including Mr. Falker, Mr. Lincoln, and Miss Chew.”

—School Library Journal

“Inspired by Polacco's experience growing up and the teacher who encouraged her to write, students can relate to Tricia's experience and struggle in trying to please a teacher who seems impossible to please.”

—School Library Connection

We learned how Patricia learned to read in the book, Thank You Mr. Faulkner. In this book, we get to see how she became an author!!

Another wonderful story with a wonderful message. The artwork just adds to the book.

Bought this as a gift to our school library in honor of our Librarian. She loves this book and reads it to the students. Patricia Polacco is a favorite of our students here at Wolflin Elementary in Amarillo, Texas.

I am a second grade teacher and I bought this as a mentor text for personal narratives. I will recommend it to any teacher or family. Another awesome Patricia polacco book. She never

disappoints.

Grab a tissue and enjoy another wonderful autobiographical book from Patricia Polacco. My elementary children enjoy her books just as much as I do.

Best book ever!

Love it

wonderful story and addition to Thank You, Mr. Falker to share with my students with severe learning disabilities.

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