



The Last Day of School

By Louise Borden

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The school year is coming to an end, and everyone at Albert E. Chapman Elementary School is counting down, including Mrs. Mallory's third grade class. In the last weeks of school there is much to be done, from putting away supplies to cleaning out desks to finding a summer home for the class pet, Rhoda. Now -- *finally* -- the last day is here! Matthew Perez, one of Mrs. Mallory's students, has a perfect good-bye gift for his teacher, and he can't wait to give it to her. But when is the right time? Not in the morning when other kids are giving their gifts. Not during the Last Day fun of kickball and ice-cream treats. Will Matt get his chance before the school day is over?

The last Day of School will resonate with all children who know the excitement, energy, and bittersweet emotions that the final days of a school year bring.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4—From giant lollipops given to the kids with perfect attendance, last day treats and poems, and shirts that say Summer! to a vacation-home raffle for Rhoda the hamster, the students of Chapman Elementary—wiggly kindergartners to cool fifth graders—say good-bye to another school year. Third-grader Matthew Perez holds a special gift for his teacher until the final seconds of an unforgettable day. His wish to wait until the final bell creates a last flutter of missing-a-good-friend panic as he comes close to losing his chance to give the gift before his bus leaves. Varied sizes of colorful oil illustrations accompany the tale of Matt's patient delivery of the perfect gift. True to a child's remembrance of final school days, each page recalls memorable moments for students and teachers.—*Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX*
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 1-3. School's out for the summer, or almost. This paean to the last day of elementary school explores these bittersweet hours, from the clearing out of desks to making Last Day hats to wear in "a spur-of-the-moment parade." Though the lengthy text is broken up into short lines, it's not a poem. The sentimental narrative meanders, flashing back in time to develop the relationship between teacher Mrs. Mallory and third-grade student Matthew Perez, her special timekeeper who always resets the classroom's faulty clock and eventually becomes the focus of the story. Will Matt find Mrs. Mallory and deliver his special gift to her before it's time to get on the bus? Gustavson's colorful oil paintings (somewhat reminiscent of Georg Hallensleben's work) are appealing, though a few too many of them feature Matt furtively clutching his secret present. Readers will guess his surprise, but that won't ruin the suspense or tarnish the emotional ending when Matt finally unveils a working clock to his favorite teacher. *Karin Snelson*
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About the Author

Louise Borden graduated from Denison University with a degree in history. She taught first graders and preschoolers and later was a part-owner of a bookstore in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to writing children's books, she also speaks regularly to young students about the writing process. Her books include *Good Luck, Mrs. K!*, which won the Christopher Medal, and *The A+ Custodian*. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and you can visit her at LouiseBorden.com.

Adam Gustavson is a graduate of Rowan University and the Master of Fine Arts Illustration program at the School of Visual Arts in New York. In addition to illustrating picture books, he currently teaches at Passaic County Community College and Seton Hall University. He lives and paints in West Orange, New Jersey, with his wife, their children, several guitars, and a ferret named Gracie.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maryellen Tilley:

Here thing why this specific The Last Day of School are different and reputable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it really depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. The Last Day of School giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any guide out

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