

The Gerbil Farmer's Daughter

by Holly Robinson | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY LISA KAY GREISSINGER

MEMOIR

Every family has its secrets. Holly Robinson's happens to be that her Navy officer dad raised gerbils in the garage as a money maker. "Some men have golf, others ... gerbils," Robinson writes in this laugh-out-loud look at a fairly odd family. (Gerbils weren't the half of it—Robinson says her parents got

peace and quiet at cocktail hour on the family boat by dropping their life-jacketed offspring overboard.) An affectionate tale of domestic life and the frustrations that come with belonging.



Huge

James W. Fuerst | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY JONATHAN DURBIN

NOVEL

Fuerst's debut is a hugely entertaining novel about aspiring private eye Eugene "Huge" Smalls, the smallest, smartest kid in his sixth-grade class. When his grandma retains his services to discover who painted a slur on her retirement home's sign, Huge plunges into a web

of junior-high deceit, quoting Thoreau and swearing a blue streak as he investigates the jocks, stoners and wastrels of his New Jersey town. Juxtaposing Huge's preteen angst with his passion for detective work, Fuerst has created a winning protagonist (who needs to have his mouth washed out with soap).

WHAT'S NEW FOR KIDS

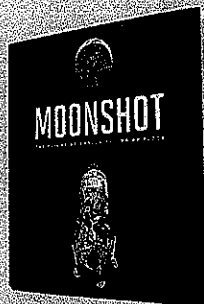
● A lovable bad boy, a dog who's just right, men on the moon—and more.



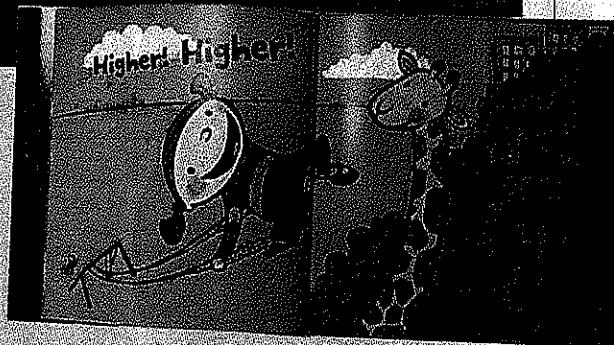
HORRID HENRY
by Francesca Simon

"Henry was horrid. ... Even his teddy bear, Mr. Kill, avoided him when possible." The first in a droll UK series for early readers. (Ages 7-10)

WHEN YOU REACH ME
by Rebecca Stead
Sixth grader Miranda's getting notes suggesting someone knows her future. Absorbing. (YA)



MOONSHOT
by Brian Floca
Clearly written and gorgeously illustrated, it's perfect for helping little ones understand what happened in space 40 years ago this month. (Ages 4-8)



HIGHER! HIGHER! by Leslie Patricelli
This nearly wordless picture book follows the ever-lengthening trajectory of a thrill-seeking girl on a playground swing. The delight is palpable. (Baby-Preschool)



FINDING SUSIE
by Sandra Day O'Connor
Proving she has many talents, the former Supreme Court Justice offers up a sweet autobiographical tale about a girl's search for the right pet. (The bobcat didn't work out so well.) (Ages 4-8)

