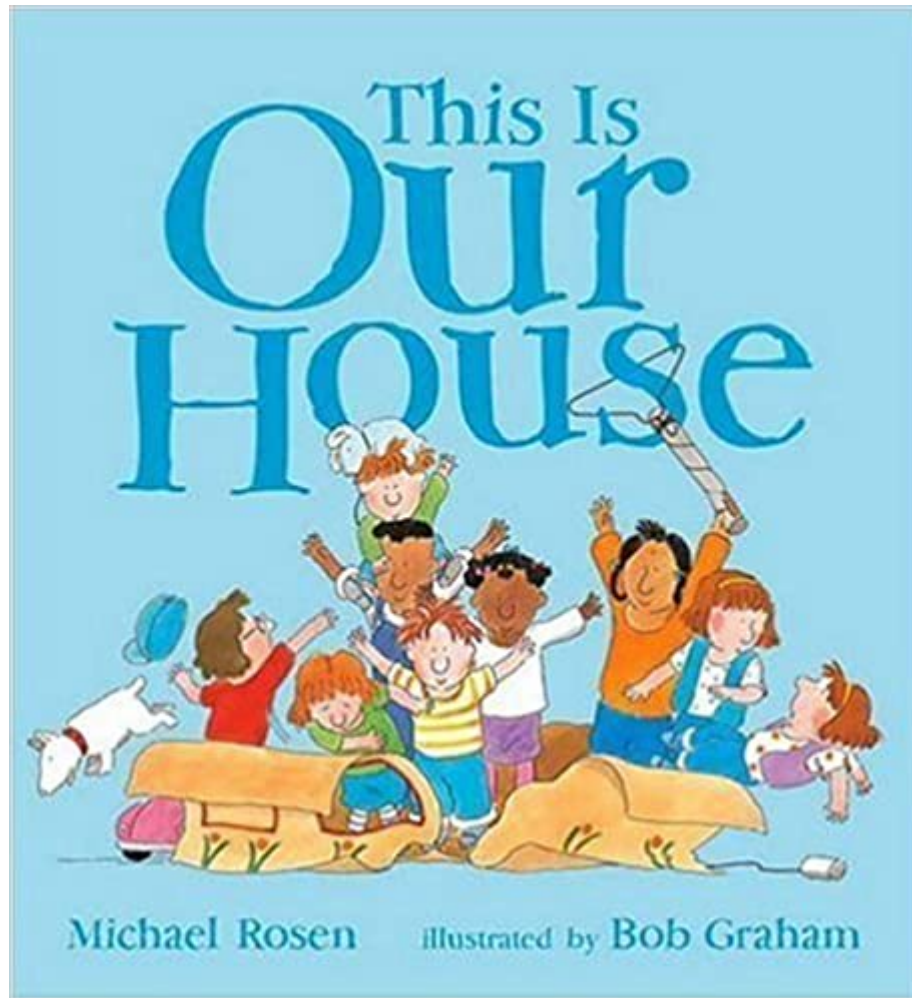




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# This Is Our House



## Synopsis

"Playground dynamics become testy as a willful child attempts to exclude everyone else in this simple, humorous lesson in human relations. . . . Deft and funny." —THE HORN BOOK George has a house made from a big cardboard box, and he says that no one else at the playground can come in. Not Lindy, because George's house "isn't for girls," nor Freddie, because it "isn't for small people." Sophie can't come in because, George says, "This house isn't for people with glasses." But when George leaves his house for a moment, everyone piles in, and on his return, George gets a taste of his own medicine. Aided by Bob Graham's striking illustrations of an urban playground, Michael Rosen tells the tale of a little boy who makes a big discovery — that letting everyone into his playhouse is a lot more fun than keeping them out.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (July 12, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763628166

ISBN-13: 978-0763628161

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #92,813 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #194 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #717 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Rosen and Graham (Rose Meets Mr. Wintergarten) use a light touch to deliver an important lesson. In the shadows of an apartment complex, redheaded George sits in his cardboard-box house and won't let any of his multicultural cadre of friends come near it. He bans them for different but always personal reasons?because they're girls, or too small, or wear glasses, etc. George's friends try to get him to open up his house by weaving him into their play: "We're coming in to fix the fridge," announce twins Charlene and Marlene, while Luther sends his toy airplane crashing into the house

and tells George that he must rescue it. But George will not budge until, finally, nature calls. Taking over the house, his friends turn the tables on George and force him to see the error of his ways. Rosen has an instinctive feel for the way children confront one another, ponder, negotiate and form alliances?every word of the trenchant text rings true. Graham's squiggly, cartoon-like illustrations convey George's physically aggressive stubbornness and the dismay of his friends, but leaven the scenes with imaginative details. On the other hand, Graham risks subverting Rosen's message on the last spread: when the entire gang finally convenes in the "house," the box proves a little too small after all?it falls apart. Ages 3-6. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreSchool-Grade 2?A cardboard box on an urban playground is the setting for this exploration of discrimination. George is in a cardboard "house" and declares that "This house is all for me!" As the other kids try to join him, he gives them his reasons why they cannot enter: no girls, no small people, etc. Race is not mentioned. The children try different approaches to soften George, but nothing works. Finally he has to use the bathroom, and when he returns the house is full. Charlene tells him, "This house isn't for people with red hair," and he shouts, cries, stamps, and punches. Then he realizes what the others have known all along: "This house is for everyone!" The playground setting helps keep the book from being weighed down by the important, but obvious, message. Graham uses watercolors and crayons to highlight the main action on each page, while gray-shaded drawings fill out the backgrounds. There are no lectures in the text; the kids work out the problem on their own using actions rather than speeches. The solution is not completely satisfying, as George learns his lesson only when he is given the same treatment he gave others. More important, though, is the children's unerring confidence that they do belong in the house, and their willing inclusion of George in the end. There are obvious opportunities for discussion and sharing here, but the book speaks for itself in a clear and engaging manner.?Steven Engelfried, West Linn Public Library, Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

We have a grandson in a house full of granddaughters. This book made it easier for both he and the girls to talk about how we treat each other when we push others away. I would recommend.

Parents and Educators of Young Children (PEYC) Book Club voted, This is Our House, their number 1 book choice for February of 2009. Most members of PEYC are early childhood educators,

or parents of toddler or preschool age children, who are committed to promoting early childhood literacy. Members come together, once a month, to select quality children's literature to read and discuss with their children. The following month, members come together again, to discuss their children's responses to each of the prior month's chosen books and to select new books for the following month. The subject matter in, *This is Our House*, invites parents and educators to discuss the important concepts of bullying, sharing, and fairness. Through the guided discussions children are able to analyze the inappropriate behavior of one child in the story and think critically about their own behavior. This book is a must read.

Thanks

great

Great kids diversity book..

i bought this book for my 6 year old. the story lacks depth and doesn't hold your interest. maybe it's a cultural difference as we are in australia and it is probably more relevant to american children's lives. still a reasonable story though.

*This Is Our House* by Michael Rosen George tries to keep girls, small people, twins, people with glasses, people who like tunnels, and everyone else on the playground out of the cardboard house they used to share, but when he leaves to go to the bathroom, he returns to discover that everyone else is now on the inside and he is left alone on the outside. "This house isn't for people with red hair" says Charlene to George. After a tantrum or two, George learns his lesson and declares that the house is indeed "for everyone." George's conversion and the easy acceptance of his friends teaches an important lesson about inclusion and not being selfish. The urban setting and children of many cultures are also nice touches that are not overdone. The text is well-written and the cartoon like illustrations are detailed and fun. This is certainly a good read and teaches kids important lessons about sharing and getting along. I have been looking for books that deal with these issues and this one does so without being didactic or heavy handed. If you like this book, you may also want to check out *Junk Pile!* by Lady Borton.

This is a very fine children's book. It has a "message" without being saccharine-preachy. It is so

evidently set in a multicultural, inner city area with the sort of kids my son mixes with at school everyday. Bob Graham is a terrific illustrator, and this one is not a let-down. The children who are originally excluded by the "bully" take action to reclaim their place, and then teach George his lesson, before showing him that their more inclusive way is better than his selfishness.

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