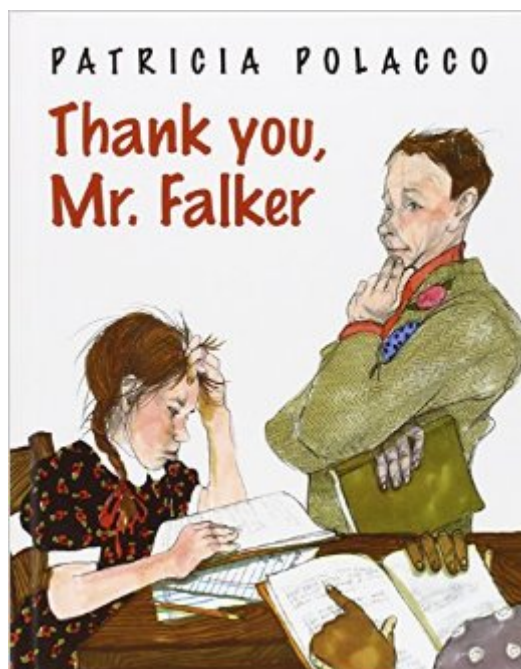


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# Thank You, Mr. Falker



## Synopsis

The real-life, classic story of a dyslexic girl and the teacher who would not let her fail. A perfect gift for teachers and for reading students of any age. Patricia Polacco is now one of America's most loved children's book creators, but once upon a time, she was a little girl named Trisha starting school. Trisha could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher to recognize little Trisha's dyslexia: Mr. Falker, who encouraged her to overcome her reading disability. Patricia Polacco will never forget him, and neither will we. This inspiring story is available in a deluxe slipcased edition, complete with a personal letter to readers from Patricia Polacco herself. Thank You, Mr. Falker will make a beautiful gift for the special child who needs encouragement or any special teacher who has made a difference in the child's life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; Gift edition (April 12, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399257624

ISBN-13: 978-0399257629

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (245 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,046 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect](#) #55 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

Even though Thank You, Mr. Falker is a children's book, it is one of the most incredible and profound books I have ever read. It is a "must-read" for every child and teacher, whether new or experienced. The text and the picture blend so perfectly together, just like all picture books should.

The pictures portray the feelings of a little girl who is obviously alone and so in need of love and recognition. I introduced *Thank You, Mr. Falker* to my principal, assistant principal, and instructional facilitator (IF) the Monday morning after I had read it. They all loved it as much as I did. (Our assistant principal even left a note on the front of the book, stating her review: "WOW". Our IF was about to instruct the teachers in our school on differentiating instruction; she thought this book would demonstrate that topic very well. I asked her if I could read the book to them at each of their grade-level meetings. Many tears were shed as we shared this special story. This story may help teachers to realize how important they can be in the life of every student who walks through the doors of their classroom. We may never know what impact our interactions with a child will have on a "Patricia Polacco" in-the-making. I am glad *Thank You, Mr. Falker* has been nominated for South Carolina Children's Book of the Year for 2000-2001. I predict the children of SC will love it as much as our teachers did.

Patricia Polacco bases this story on her own experiences as a child. She uses the story in this beautiful book to thank her fifth grade teacher, Mr. Falker. In the book, Tricia, who has a yearning to learn to read because of her family's love of learning, discovers that letters in books seem to be all just wiggling shapes. As Tricia moves through school, students call her dumb. She sadly begins to accept their teasing and begins to believe she truly is dumb; until, Fifth Grade when she is blessed with an outstanding teacher, Mr. Falker. Every classroom should not only have this book, it should be read aloud. Without saying the word "dyslexia" or preaching, Polacco has produced a wonderfully compassionate story.

As I slowly read through the pages of this wonderful book, I was touched. I found myself making connections to the young girl and her struggles. I understand what it means to be a struggling reader. I remembered a special teacher who made a difference in my life and helped me to read. As a teacher, I read the book to my class. At the end, my second and third graders had a lot to say! They connected with the character and her struggles too. We shared our own struggles with life. Their struggles ranged from reading and learning to play a new sport to relationships and friendships. The students had made connections. As a teacher, I want all my students to make real connections to books, find passion in reading, and treat others kindly. This book really helped my students to see the importance of all these things in a very real way!

One of the most touching children's books I've read in recent memory, this autobiographical story by

the great Patricia Polacco tells how "Tricia" overcame her reading problems with the help of a compassionate teacher. Polacco's story evokes the attendant feelings of inferiority and isolations, as well as her grateful joy upon finally reading an entire paragraph. The story opens with a family ritual later expanded into a full story in Polacco's "The Bee Tree": Her grandfather drizzles some honey on a book cover and tells her "knowledge is like the bee that made that sweet honey, you have to chase it through the pages of a book." Polacco draws in her trademark big loopy style; her palette and composition superbly capture emotion, particularly in the close-ups. She can convey a range of feelings simply by how she places color on a person's face. She's one of the most original and recognizable illustrators around. One of the most heartfelt and moving books you'll find in children's literature.

"The honey is sweet, and so is knowledge, but knowledge is like the bee who made the honey, it has to be chased through the pages of a book." Young Tricia, a fictionalized version of author/illustrator Patricia Polacco, struggles with reading, while enduring the teasing of her classmates from kindergarten through 5th grade, hoping to realize her grandfather's proverb in her own life. This emotionally gripping story about a child who deals with what is now called dyslexia is the true story of many children throughout the years. My wife, like Patricia Polacco, attended school in an era when this learning disability didn't have a name. She was like Tricia when the caring Mr. Falker said, "But, little one, don't you understand, you don't see letters or numbers the way other people do. And you've gotten through school all this time, and fooled many, many good teachers!" My wife finally made sense of all those "wiggling shapes" on the page in the 6th grade, and she hasn't stopped reading since. This is just to say this is a TRUE STORY for many children. And it's told (and illustrated) in a manner that will enable other children understand and empathize with the struggles, the feelings of loneliness and rejection, and the ultimate joy of victory (not to mention the warmth and security of loving grandparents)! I have read "Thank You, Mr. Falker" to many first and second grade classes in our elementary school library, and in every case you could hear a pin drop by the time we got to the third page! This book should be required reading for every teacher, and should be a staple in every elementary school library. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

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Daniel Feels Left Out; Daniel Visits the Library (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood) Thank You Day (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood) Do Re Mi: If You Can Read Music, Thank Guido D'Arezzo Richard Scarry's Please and Thank You Book (Pictureback(R)) Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving Thank You for Being a Friend: A Golden Girls Trivia Book Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations The Thank You Economy Thank You for Arguing: What Aristotle, Lincoln, And Homer Simpson Can Teach Us About the Art of Persuasion Lettering: Beginners Guide to Lettering and Calligraphy Fonts for DIY Crafts and Art (Typography, Hand Writing, Paper Crafts, Thank You Notes, DIY wedding, Drawing, Hand Lettering Book 1) Thank You: (a book for teachers) Curious George Says Thank You Thank You, God, For Daddy Thank You, God, For Loving Me (Max Lucado's Little Hermie)

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