



## Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11

*N. Griffin , Kate Hindley (Illustrations)*

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**Who stole the hamster from Room 11? A once-happy class is set on edge in this humorous, highly relatable mystery perfect for middle-grade readers.**

The day the hamster disappears from Smashie McPerter's class begins like any other. Well, except for the fact that the teacher is out sick and Smashie's class is stuck with Mr. Carper, the worst substitute in the world. And except for the mysterious business with the glue. And except for the fact that Smashie is wrestling with a terrible problem, which only partly stems from her extreme aversion to hamster feet. As the peaceable and productive days of Room 11 turn into paranoia-fueled chaos, as natural suspects produce natural alibis and motives remain unmotivated, Smashie and her best friend, Dontel, are forced to the limits of their parlor-room detecting to set things right.

## **Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11 Details**

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Author : N. Griffin , Kate Hindley (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11 for online ebook

**Mairéad (is roaming the Undying Lands) says**

**{February 2nd, 2015} MINI-REVIEW**

*I received this ARC from a Goodreads Giveaway.*

3.5 stars.

Truly a delightful read and introduction to the mystery genre for age 7-10+. Really kept me guessing until a certain point, before the end. Smashie and Dontel were truly superstars in this. Their friendship and interactions really help balance each other out. Smashie is rash, impulsive and bold while Dontel remains level-headed, collected and thoughtful. Both of them have been best friends since ever, even their grandmothers are best friends before them--must be fate lol. It's been a while since I've enjoyed a kids mystery novel or read one it seems. And the illustrations are superb!

While there are some editing mistakes and some spaces that I didn't understand why was there (I assumed illustrations were supposed to be there?) this really went over well for me.

I'm looking forward to more Smashie and Dontel if there are anymore of these books, especially since I'm highly curious about this 'suits' they speak of--I mean, come on, designing your own investigation suit? How cool is that?!

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**Max says**

This was a pretty fun mystery, and surprisingly for something written for young children, it actually had some nice twists and turns to it. There's more than just a stolen hamster going on, and not all of the crimes Smashie needs to solve are apparent from the beginning. The conclusion is definitely satisfying, though, and while it was a pretty quick read for me, I definitely enjoyed it. There's some good humor and great quirky characters. I really enjoyed hating the self-centered and vain substitute teacher, and I was as glad as the kids were when the real teacher returns partway through the book. Plus, the principal and her constant cries of how ill she is thanks to the third graders' behavior is pretty funny. Smashie herself is a great heroine. She's clever but also really impulsive and forgetful and gets carried away. Fortunately, her best friend Dontel is a bit calmer and helps keep her grounded, at least most of the time. Their friendship is pretty cute, and I liked the way that their grandmothers are also good friends. The best part about Smashie, aside from her hilarious name, is all the Suits she makes, from a Math Suit to help her in a math contest to the Investigation Suit she sports in much of the book. My one disappointment with the otherwise great illustrations is that they don't show enough of her different Suits. All in all, I think young kids would love this and find it a good introduction to mysteries. I'm looking forward to the release of the second book in a few weeks because I know it's going to be just as much fun as this one.

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### **Anne Martin says**

it starts funny, in a third grade class, weird events happen. The hamster the class bought as their mascot just disappears, the substitute teachers hates it, the kids of third grade hate the substitute, and big mysteries loom ahead.

It will be a cute story, with Smashie who wants to understand and solve it. After a few false starts, she is sure yo have the answers. And she can prove it and get friendly again with her fiends who did not know what to think of her.

The hamster will be found, just fine, and returns to his usual box. We will learn bout the problems of the substitute teacher and sadly, they don't make much sense. But the book is fun.

Written for 10 to 12 years old, I would say, I was surprised the story happened in a 3d grade classroom. The kids seem a bit too young to search and guess what happened. They act very mature for 8 years old!

did not exactly understand the brooch story, Worn for math classes by Miss Drumond, was it valuable? If so, was not she afraid to lose it? How come she was not that bothered when she could not find it? If not, what did the thief intend to do with it? How did he think it would not be recognized?

Even as an adult, you will enjoy the book, though it will make some questions pop in you mind. I wish the story would have been better finished, to give it a 4 or 5 stars. It would not take much, just make Mr. Carter more believable and the brooch story the same.

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### **Anthonia says**

This story i enjoyed reading. the characters were well developed in this book. Loved how the kids solved the mystery and worked together to solve it. A truly wonderful book for kids to read as well as adults.

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### **Sunday Cummins says**

I recommend reading this aloud in a late 2nd or 3rd grade classroom. The characters are quirky and refreshing and your students would be intrigued by the mystery. Several of the chapters leave the reader "hanging" which always makes students groan and beg you to keep reading. I appreciated the rich language Griffin incorporates - words like fervently, snarling, strenuous, exonerate and more plus all sorts of idioms. You wouldn't have to stop and teach these words - it's about exposure more than anything else and the students would get the gist of the meanings of these words. This is the kind of book you could just pick up and read aloud when there are spare moments, but you could also use it as an anchor text with mini-lessons on using context clues and so forth. These short, short discussions might help students think more carefully about what is going on in their own independent reading. Also, you could pose higher level thinking questions for small group discussion like, "Why is trust between students important in a classroom?" Lots of potential for tight, focused instruction. (Candlewick has a pretty good teachers' guide for this as well that you can download at their site.)

This might be a good chance to create a text set for the classroom library on "hamsters" and other possible classroom pets. If your students are not familiar with hamsters, you might include a little mini-lesson with visuals to help them understand why Smashie is initially hesitant to like Patches, the hamster.

I'm hoping Griffin writes a second book about Smashie McPerter.

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### **Morgan Phillips says**

My favorite character was the ustodian because of his sense of humor.

I was surprised about where the brooch ended up and who took the hamster, because i thought it would be the sub.

I loved the ending because everyone admitted what they haad done wrong.

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### **Melody says**

I loved Smashie. I was relieved to find she was a girl, when I first saw the title I was afraid it was going to be a boy detective duo. But no. Smashie's voice is delightful, and I love Griffin's playfulness. This is a splendid gateway mystery, with all sorts of twists and turns throughout. I liked the adults, too- especially the real teacher, and the principal with the histrionics. Everyone oughta have a principal given to histrionics. And Smashie's right. Hamsters DO have weird, creepy little feet. Highly recommended. 4.5 stars

Disclaimers: I got a free ARC for review, and the author is a friend of mine. I like to think this doesn't impinge upon my objectivity.

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### **Ami Schroder says**

This is a cute mystery story about a missing class pet, a hamster named Patches. The cover is attractive and there are some nice black and white illustrations scattered throughout the text. It does bug me that there are chapters but no table of contents. It seems sloppy to skip that. Another thing that bugs me is there is no explanation offered about the name of the main character. Smashie is an unusual name. The book offers nothing in the way of explaining that it's her given name or a nickname. I even checked to see if maybe this wasn't the first book in a series. It is a solo book as of right now.

A concern I have about this book is that it is written about third graders who act like fifth or sixth graders. I think the book would have more appeal if the main characters weren't supposed to be third graders. Students tend to read up, in other words, they tend to read books about kids slightly older then themselves. This book skews too young with the main characters of a 249 page book as third graders. Also, the things they do seem like things that older children would be doing such as making suits and going places by themselves. I also think the font size and length of the book lends itself more likely to older readers - 4th and 5th graders.

My other problem is this book has several references that seemed aimed at an adult reader. There are several one liners from students referring to amorous feelings from the substitute aimed toward the classroom teacher and then there's this one particular line on page 44, "I swear," he said, turning and heading into the teachers' lounge next door, "there are days when the only thing that gets me through is the thought of a glass of wine and two hours research with a copy of GQ." I am not a teetotaler but I think it's inappropriate to push wine as a coping mechanism in a children's book. Sorry, this kind of thing should be for adult humor books, not books aimed at third graders.

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### **Jennifer says**

Real kids, fast-paced fun, and a mystery that kept me guessing. I loved the vain substitute.

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### **Cadie Sommer says**

my students loved it. super cute

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### **Angela Irwin says**

I got this book for free from Goodreads Giveaways and what a treat it was!

With a friend like Smashie McPerter, you can be sure there will never be a dull moment! In Smashie McPerter and The Mystery of Room 11, excitable, eclectic Smashie and her level-headed pal Dontel embark on a schoolhouse investigation into the case of their missing class pet. With its charming mix of eccentric characters, this book sweeps you right into Smashie and Dontel's misadventures and triumphs. A great elementary classroom read that is sure to have students wanting to hear more tales of Smashie (and her suits).

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### **Fatma says**

It is called in the U.K. ( who stole the hamster ). Boys loved reading the mystery and trying to find out who stole it.

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### **Phoebe says**

Room 11 is having a bad day, with terrible sub Mr. Carper and then a missing hamster. Smashie McPerter and her best friend Dontel decide that they will solve the mystery. Mr. Carper is the best character in the book with his modeling aspirations and dislike of children. Smashie feels like an older, more neurotic Junie B. Jones, and Dontel along with several other children in class are the token multicultural characters. The author seems out of touch with the school environment and expected behavior standards and it is unusual to have girls and boys be best friends. The mystery is simplistic and would not hold the attention or respect of most 10-year-olds. Stick with Horrible Harry. 4th grade and up for reading level, younger for interest.

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### **Clarissa says**

This is a fun middle grade read. Smashie McPerter is a third grader. She loves to make herself special suits to wear. Suits for thinking, detecting, a math suit for the mathathon (numbers painted on an old opera cape and

equations taped to the toes of her rain boots), etc. Her class has voted to get a hamster as a pet, Smashie wanted them to get a lizard. Poor Smashie is repulsed by claw like hamster feet. She has said unflattering things about Patches the hamster, and now patches has vanished, someone in the class keeps gluing people to things: hats and rulers. Now the entire class is being punished for the gluing incident, and some of the other children suspect Smashie of stealing Patches. Smashie and her friend Dontel will have to investigate.

Smashie is an engaging character and the unpleasant substitute teacher is hilarious. He doesn't know the names of the children so he calls them: Girl with the Ears, Athletic-Looking-Boy, Girl with the Socks. All he can think about is how he looks, and his hope of being hired to model in the circular for the local supermarket.

A fun read with characters you care about, and a plot that moves along.

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### **Eastonreads says**

A great book. Really, your always thinking that the book is over, and then you look at the pages, and you see how many pages are left, then I say to myself, well, the book isn't over yet, so this case must not be solved yet. And the book also keeps you reading it. I very much recommend this book to read.

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