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Shirin Yim Bridges , Maria Monescillo (Illustrations)

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Mary Wrightly is the best-behaved little girl around. She always politely says please and thank you and even “I’m sorry” when something isn’t her fault. But when a shopper comes between Mary and the blue elephant toy she wants to buy for her beloved baby brother, will Mary just let the woman walk away with it? Speak up, Mary! Monescillo’s charming illustrations capture the spirit of this gentle look at how asserting oneself is not rude, and even occasionally out-and-out necessary.

Mary Wrightly, So Politely Details

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From Reader Review Mary Wrightly, So Politely for online ebook

Catherine says

This book was so cute. I adored little Mary. She was so polite, even when she was not at fault. Even when someone hit her with they're purse or stepped on her foot, Mary said "I'm sorry."

I liked when she spotted the stuffer elephant, for her brother and some other customer picked the toy up. At first, she was too quiet to be heard. But eventually she got her point across and the customer gave her the toy elephant.

This book shows that it's good to be polite, but if you want something, you need to speak up.

Pawsitive School Counselor says

Although the message is great- be polite, be honest, be kind, etc. I think the character in this book is just a bit over the top. For your kids that really need a good example of how to be kind and control their anger, it would be great.

Christopher says

Mary is a shy girl who never speaks up or stands up for herself. She is like for most of the story until the end when she finally speaks up for herself. I think this sia good message to send to kids but this book didn't handle the situation well in my opinion. The city bus that Mary and her mom take everywhere is a school bus with upholstered seats (which doesn't exist if I'm correct). There was persepective issues especially in the first spread that took me out of the story. A nice message that begs for a better book in my opinion.

Barbara says

Mary Wrightly is an exceptionally well-behaved and polite child. But when other, more aggressive or less courteous children and adults keep taking the stuffed animals she had in mind for her little brother, it's time to speak up. When she does so but politely, of course, she finds that others respond in kind. The only thing I disliked about the book was the last page with the brother's loud chortle, but then again, that's the perfect reaction to such a great stuffed elephant. I suppose I was looking for a different sort of closure for Mary herself. As I read, I felt sad about how often quiet, polite children are overlooked. Many of them, of course, are girls. The illustrations, created using pastels with a bit of digital retouching, allow readers to see Mary's increasing frustration as she sees everything she chooses for her brother slip through her hands.

Rachael says

I'd like to respond to many of the reviewers here saying that this book portrays a gender stereotype of a timid little girl. I think you missed the point of the book. The gender of the character is somewhat irrelevant. The

storyline is not endorsing or recommending that children (or little girls) SHOULD be overly polite or self-effacing. This is a story of a particular person who happens to be like that by nature (or by nurture, also irrelevant to the point of the book). The message the book is sending is that it is important to speak up for yourself. It's a lesson in being assertive, and is targeted especially to those children who may find it difficult to do so. It's a quiet and subtle but well-written book with an important message.

Susan says

Nice, empowering book for the small set who often get overlooked and ignored. Mary is a sweet girl who is on the quiet side, prone to overlooking other's lack of manners. What I liked is how astutely it points out everyday events for children - getting pushed to the side, bonked on the head with a giant purse, and told to wait even when they have something vitally important to them. When push comes to shove, Mary stands up for herself - and I really like that it is not treated like some big revelation or life changing moment - because it is a very true life portrayal of a quieter person standing up for themself - and sometimes that has to be done loudly. However, just because you are quiet does not mean you are timid, and just because you are polite, does not mean you will endlessly put up with nonsense. A good view of the kind of personality that exists and yet is overshadowed by the more expressive girls (who are delightful but often get top billing due to volume and lively antics).

The Library Lady says

I think most of the folks out there wailing about "gender stereotyping" have never had a child of their own who had a hard time being assertive. And that applies to boys as well as girls. Moral here isn't "be polite", it's "you can be polite and still speak up for yourself!", which is a lesson a lot of children AND grown-ups ought to listen to.

Adrielle says

I like the idea of writing about a quiet, polite child -- I don't like the idea of a mother taking her quiet, polite child to a crowded toy store and completely ignoring her, while the child gets stepped on, knocked in the head by purses and completely aced out three times in a row. I didn't really care for the story.

Christine says

Little Mary is often overlooked because she is so quiet and polite. However, on a trip to the store to find the perfect toy for her baby brother's birthday, Mary discovers that speaking up and speaking out can work to her favor. A touching story about the importance of being polite, but also about the need to speak out in certain situations (nicely of course) to get what you really want.

Valleri says

This cute book about learning when to use manners and when one needs to speak up is very endearing. I can relate to the quiet little girl who doesn't like to shout and in finding her voice, she also learned to advocate for herself and what she wants.

Jan says

I found the gender stereotyping in this to be very disturbing. After being treated rudely by numerous fellow customers in the toy store while shopping for a gift for her baby brother, Mary finally asserts herself. Mary even apologizes when a woman bonks her on the head with her purse. This gender stereotyping in the 21st century makes me very angry and sad.

The last page, on which baby brother is loudly proclaiming his delight with his gift acted more like the last straw for this reader.

Summer says

Okay, so I'll agree with most readers that it was very annoying to see Mary apologizing for things (like getting her foot stepped on) that weren't her fault in the slightest, but I do like the illustrations and the fact that when Mary is assertive she isn't overtly so. I think a lot of people forget sometimes that while it is good to assert yourself and have your voice heard, it's better if you do so in a polite and respectful way. After all, you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

Tara says

Saw this reviewed on SLJ and immediately asked our local library to purchase it, which they did because they are AWESOME!! It is THE perfect book for little girls who haven't "found their voice" and try so very hard to stand up for themselves when their vocal cords just won't agree...

There are so few books out there that tell shy girls it is OKAY to be shy but this one does it and I love it. Two shy girls live in my house and even though they are 13, they will have this book read to them tonight and they will love it too!!!

Matthew says

Not sure why people think this book promotes stereotypes. It's about ONE girl. Children know we're not all one way.

My 'slow to warm up' daughter loves it, and really enjoys it when she gets assertive near the end and does so for altruistic reasons.

Maybe moms can learn a lesson here about not blabbing so much. :)

Becky says

Mary Wrightly is very polite little girl. She says please and thank you, and never ever shouts - until the day she and her mom go shopping for a birthday present for her little brother. After missing out on the duck and the teddy bear because she's too timid to make herself heard, she finally puts her foot down to get her little brother the blue stuffed elephant she knows he'll love. With charming illustrations and a wonderful theme for timid children (as well as a small lesson on manners for more exuberant children), this book would make a great read-aloud.
