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The Only One Club

Written by Jane Naliboff  Illustrated by Jeff Hopkins

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This heartwarming story explores the many ways in which children feel unique and special. Mrs. Matthews' first grade class begins making Christmas decorations, but because Jennifer is Jewish, Mrs. Matthews allows her to make Hanukkah decorations instead. Jennifer enjoys the attention and creates "The Only One Club," of which she is the sole member. When her classmates want to join, she is resistant until she realizes that each of her friends is also "the only one" at something. As she inducts them into her club she reveals the unique qualities that make each of her classmates extraordinary. Through this touching story, young children are encouraged to discover and treasure their own uniqueness and to actively look for special qualities in others beyond race or culture. A medley of pencil, watercolor, acrylic paint, and pastel illustrations bring this inspiring and humorous tale to life.

**Book Information**

Paperback: 32 pages  
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ISBN-10: 1936261308  
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Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #653,507 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#101 in Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish  
#3014 in Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings  
Age Range: 5 - 7 years  
Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

**Customer Reviews**

When six-year-old Jennifer Jacobs' first grade class begins working on Christmas decorations, she quickly informs her teacher that she doesn't celebrate Christmas, but rather Hanukkah, for she is Jewish. Soon, Jennifer realizes that she is the only Jewish child in her class, and decides to make The Only One Club, in which she is the only member. However, as word gets around about her club, Jennifer begins realizing that there are many other children in her class, and in the school, who are the only one of something, and quickly makes badges for everyone in her class, informing them
that they too can be a member of The Only One Club. While I am not Jewish myself, I find that there are so few books on the market for Jewish children around the holidays. So I was quite awed by the arrival of Jane Naliboff’s THE ONLY ONE CLUB. The prose is wonderful, and teaches children that everyone is unique, whether it’s the color of their hair, or eyes, or their religion, or beliefs, while the illustrations by Jeff Hopkins couldn’t be cuter. This is a lovely children’s book to pick up this holiday season, whether you’re Jewish or not. Erika Sorocco, Book Review Columnist for The Community Bugle Newspaper

I am a pediatrician and have copies of this book in my exam rooms. It is the book most commonly commented on by parents as being a wonderful children’s book.

There are many beloved holiday-themed books in print. Most are read around the time of the holiday they’re about. Jane Naliboff’s THE ONLY ONE CLUB is a rare gem: it’s a holiday book (Hanukkah, Christmas) that can be enjoyed and appreciated any time of the year. Young readers will learn, along with the book’s heroine, first-grader Jennifer Jacobs, that everyone is “the only one” of something, and that our differences can unite our spirits as much as our similarities. THE ONLY ONE CLUB is vibrantly illustrated by illustrator Jeff Hopkins. The expressive faces of Jennifer and her friends draw my six-year-old into the story every time she reads it, and make her feel a part of their class - a member of Jennifer’s THE ONLY ONE CLUB.

Look at all these five-star reviews! This is simply an amazing book that cuts to the core of being a Jewish child in American schools then broadens the empathy to show how we all feel like we’re the only one.

Great lessons on diversity and inclusiveness, and how we are all unique and should celebrate that, rather than discriminate based on differences. Love this book, great Hanuka gift. I gave copies to school teachers too.

This book takes a unique approach to differences. Instead of portraying a character who feels bad about being unusual, it starts with a character who is too full of pride about her exceptionality. Although Jennifer has a lesson to learn, still her pride inspires others to feel good about their own differences. I have included this book in my Gender Equality Bookstore, which features books for kids, all from small publishers, which help kids break out of gender stereotypes: [...]

...
Differences in race, religion, politics, ideas and lifestyles have given birth to such an enormous amount of negative media these days. In the newspapers we read and the news programs we watch, we are suffocated by it all. What an absolute pleasure to read such a positive expression of being different. Jane Naliboff creates a beautiful story wonderfully written which should be required reading for all!

Rebeccasreads highly recommends THE ONLY ONE CLUB about how a little Jewish girl, her teacher & a classroom of Christian children prepare for Christmas. Delightfully illustrated by Jeff Hopkins, THE ONLY ONE CLUB (for ages 4-8) is a thoughtful look at how alike we all really are, even when we are so different!

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