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## Graphite, The Lonely Pencil

by Carissa May, Author

Hi, I'm Graphite! I might be a number 2 pencil, but I promise I act number 1! I've been sitting in this dark, empty desk for a few months now. It can get pretty lonely. But guess what? In just a few more weeks, a whole new group of kids will pour into this dark classroom. Except, it won't be dark then. The windows will be open, the sun will be shining, and there will be all these cool, colorful posters hanging up on the walls. And do you want to know the best part? One of those kids will be mine! I can't wait to meet my new friend. Of course, I'll be super busy. I just might go on some epic adventures or solve some really hard math problems. And if mistakes are made, that's okay. I have

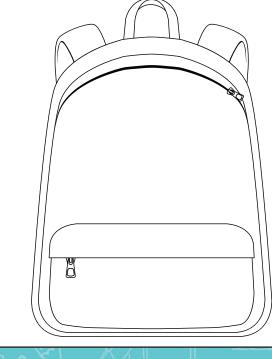
just the right tool to fix it. Do you know what that handy-dandy tool might be? My eraser! You might think it hurts me when you use it, but I promise it's just a little tickle. And then I get to try again! I also love to help create beautiful doodles. Maybe I'll get to draw a picture of where my new friend went on vacation. I'm pretty good at making the waves in the ocean, the new ice cream flavor they tried,



or the flowers in the playground. The

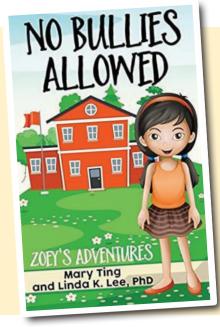
possibilities are endless! But want to know what my favorite thing about the start of a new school year is? Making new friends! If someone forgets their pencil, I can help! I don't mind being passed along. That just means I get to go on double the adventures! So, while I might be lonely now, I am so excited to meet my new friend on the

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first day of school.



## AUGUST BOOK REVIEW No Bullies Allowed by Mary Ting and Linda K. Lee, PhD

Zoey has a problem. One of her best friends at school, Abby, is being bullied by another student and Zoey doesn't know what to do to help. She's afraid of what the bully will do to her if she tells someone what's going on. After watching another friend stand up to the bully, Zoey isn't afraid anymore and ends up talking to a teacher about what's happening. Zoey realizes that she isn't tattling on the bully, she is standing up for Abby and herself.

This short chapter book is perfect for kids. It's a reminder that not everyone is nice and what to do if you come across someone being mean to either you or someone you know. My favorite quote from No Bullies Allowed is "just because someone is mean to me doesn't mean that I have to be mean back." If you are being bullied or see someone being bullied, please follow Zoey's teacher's advice: 1) Tell the bully to stop. 2) Walk away from the bully. 3) Tell an adult that you trust.

Book review by Ashlyn Madani



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