

Fish in a Tree**Lynda Mullaly Hunt****Reviewed by: Aahnix Bathurst, 23****Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity****www.bethestaryouare.org**

Ally Nickerson has dyslexia, which means that reading is so difficult, it often feels impossible for her. *Fish in a Tree* follows Ally's increasing confidence and friendships as her new teacher Mr. Daniels helps her and her other classmates, some of whom also learn and behave differently. Ally learns many lessons about friendship, self-confidence, and support in her year with Mr. Daniels.

Each child character in *Fish in a Tree* is incredibly well developed for a novel aimed at middle-grade readers. Allies, antagonists, alike are given a personality, backstory, and chances for growth. We learn with Ally about her classmates as they change from acquaintances to friends. Hunt uses Ally and her friend to explore racial differences, economic class differences, and learning/social differences, among others. She does this expertly while defining her characters by their vibrant personalities, not by defining them by their differences. Few authors can boast of this accomplishment.

Fish in a Tree is a must-read for anyone who reads at or above middle-grade level (usually around 11 years old). Lynda Mullaly Hunt has given the world a chance to see through the eyes of child with different learning needs, something rarely encountered. A wonderful gift for parents, teachers, children, and yourself.

Recommended Titles:

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Heroes of Olympus by Rick Riordan

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech