



Real Life is No Fairy Tale

Sujan Dass

Lord Daniels, Illustrator

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From the beginning of his day to the end, Tony faces problems: no breakfast left for him, a crowded car ride to school through a hurting neighborhood, adults who misunderstand him, a possible confrontation with a bully. Through it all, Tony keeps his cool, telling himself to “focus on the good, laugh away the bad, and never forget that it could always be worse.” His steady ways are appreciated by his friends, who come through when he most needs them.

This story teaches resilience and self-regulation, character traits that assist children in surviving and overcoming adversity. The story, rhythmic prose, urban setting, and detailed illustrations are aimed at disadvantaged children, in keeping with the publisher’s mission and the author’s educational experience with high-risk teens. The book includes a CD-ROM with lesson plans, activities, and an audio version of the story. For ages 7-10.

TERESA SCOLLON (May / June 2010)

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