



***Fred Gets Dressed* by Peter Brown**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021

ISBN: 9780316200646

\*Age Range: 4 & Up (Suggested by publisher)

Grade Range: PreS-Gr 1 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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**From a *New York Times* bestselling author and Caldecott-honor winning artist comes an exuberant illustrated story about playing dress up, having fun, and feeling free.**

The boy loves to be naked. He romps around his house naked and wild and free. Until he romps into his parents' closet and is inspired to get dressed. First he tries on his dad's clothes, but they don't fit well. Then he tries on his mom's clothes, and wow! The boy looks great. He looks through his mom's jewelry and makeup and tries that on, too. When he's discovered by his mother and father, the whole family (including the dog!) get in on the fun, and they all get dressed together. This charming and humorous story was inspired by bestselling and award-winning author Peter Brown's own childhood, and highlights nontraditional gender roles and self-expression.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Positive, powerful, and affirming." – *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "A wonderful celebration of self that joins titles like Christine Baldacchino's *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* (2014) and Rowboat Watkins' *Pete with No Pants* (2017)." – *Booklist*, starred review

★ "Themes of acceptance, family love, and gender nonconformity resonate without overwhelming the simple story. VERDICT A fun, funny, and insightful look at accepting kids just as they are." – *School Library Journal*, starred review

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## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2021 *Booklist* Editors' Choice

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [The story behind Fred Gets Dressed](#)
- [Book Chat with the Illustrator](#)
- [Peter Brown discusses FRED GETS DRESSED with editor Alvina Ling](#)
- [Moms Don't Have Time To Read Books podcast](#)

### Email to the author from a Youth Services Specialist:

I work at the Boulder Public Library in Colorado.

I just helped a young boy, whom I assumed was a girl because he was wearing a pink dress, pink sandals and had long blonde hair.

He told me he was a boy, but really felt more comfortable in dresses. Lucky enough, I had just read your book at my storytime that morning and had the book in my bag. I apologized to him for using the wrong pronoun and told him I wanted to show him a book.

I wish you could have seen the look on his face when I got to the page when Fred is fully dressed in his Mom's dress smiling. His whole face brightened up. The book opened up an entire conversation. He told me he gets made fun of for wearing dresses, but he doesn't care. I told him that he was very smart. He wants to be an inventor when he grows up. Before he left, he told me, "Thank you for reading that book to me" and my heart just sang.

Thank you for creating a mirror for those that don't see themselves in many children's book.

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[Kansas library board decides to keep 'Fred Gets Dressed' despite mother's complaint:](#) "This is a censorship issue; it is about the right of every patron who comes through the door to have the freedom to decide for themselves what they will read. Please do not censor and remove this book from our collection."

## AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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Yes, this is a book about a boy who dresses up like his mom, but it isn't only for boys and moms; it's for everyone. Through her words and actions, my mother let me know that she would always love and accept me, no matter what. With *Fred Gets Dressed*, I simply wanted to tell a sweet, fun story that depicts the kind of unconditional love everyone deserves. My dream is that, in some small way, this story might help readers love and support the people in their lives, too. But that's a lot to ask of a book.

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If *Fred Gets Dressed* can get readers to smile and think and feel a connection with the characters, I'll consider it to be wildly successful.

Thanks for reading. I hope you enjoy *Fred Gets Dressed*.

### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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