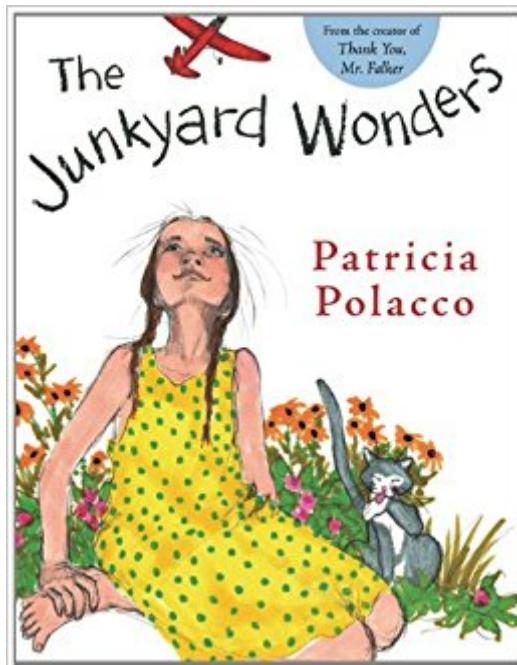


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# Junkyard Wonders



## **Synopsis**

When young Trisha finds out her class at the new school is known as "The Junkyard," she is devastated. She moved from her old town so she wouldn't be in a special class anymore! But then she meets her teacher, the quirky and invincible Mrs. Peterson, and her classmates, an oddly brilliant group of students each with his or her own unique talent. And it is here in The Junkyard that Trisha learns the true meaning of genius, and that this group of misfits are, in fact, wonders, all of them. Based on a real-life event in Patricia Polacco's childhood, this ode to teachers will inspire all readers to find their inner genius.Â

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 660L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books (July 8, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399250786

ISBN-13: 978-0399250781

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (78 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,065 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #205 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

This book describes multiple students with disabilities that are under the 13 IDEA categories. Polacco wrote this story about her own experience as a student with a learning disability, dyslexia. The story begins when Trisha (Patricia Polacco) wants to live with her Dad and Gramma so that she can go to a new school. At her old school all of the kids knew she had just learned to read and that she was always in special classes. On her first day at her new school she finds out that she is once again in a special class, one that they call "The Junkyard." Class members included a student with Tourette's syndrome, a boy, Jody, with a disease that made him grow too fast, a boy with a visual

impairment, and a girl who had never spoken. The class split into tribes and Trisha's tribe became best friends. After the students proudly made badges that said "The Junkyard Wonders" they got bullied on the playground. Mrs. Peterson, their teacher, responded by taking them to the junkyard to find items they could make into something wonderful. Trisha's tribe found an old model airplane and for months they worked to get it running. After the death of Jody, the class was even more motivated to make their airplane fly, and they did, right to the moon, they were sure! This book showed an inappropriate level of inclusion in society. Many, if not all, of the students described in this book would be placed in general education classes today. A classroom would also never be called "The Junkyard" today. This book shows students being excluded from society by both peers and adults and being openly made fun of. Even though this book shows an inappropriate level of inclusion by today's standards I would still use it in my classroom for exactly that reason.

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