

LEVELED BOOK • J

I'm the Small One



**Multi
level
J•M•P**

Written by George Anthony Kulz
Illustrated by Begoña Corbalán

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Focus Question

What does the main character learn about herself in this story?

Words to Know	
audience	limbs
character	perks
disappeared	rehearsals

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Level J Leveled Book
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Correlation	
LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



I'm small for my age.
At school, the bigger kids
sometimes bump into me
or step on my toes.

At the playground, little kids always
want to play with me.
Some even try to boss me around.



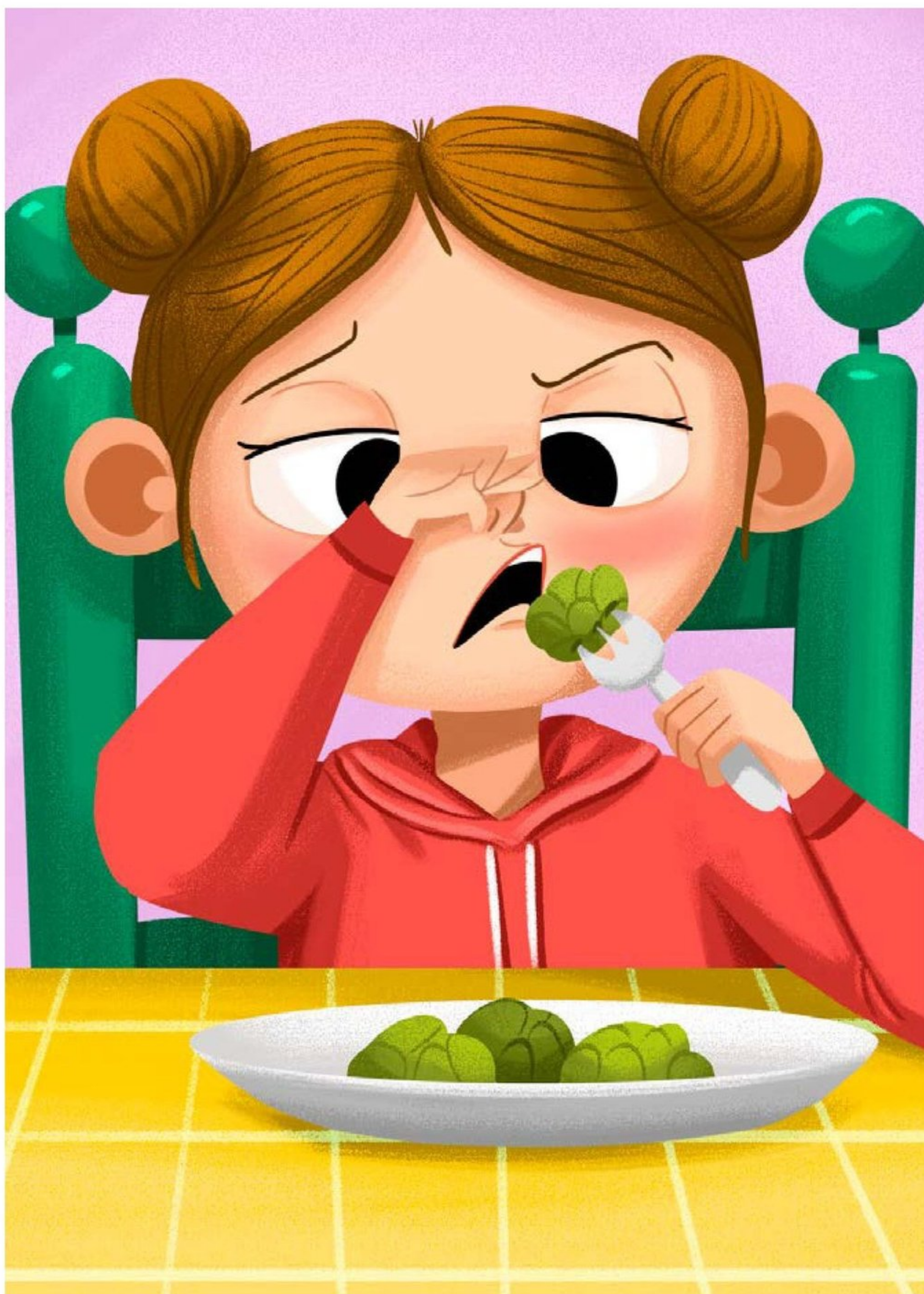


My best friend, Casey, is one of
the tallest kids in second grade.
Her legs are so long!
When she walks,
I have to jog
to keep up with her.



I used to try to make myself taller.
I hung from trees to stretch out
my limbs.

I ate all my vegetables,
but I never seemed to grow.





“Being small has its **perks**,”
Mom said.
I doubted it.

One day, Mrs. Alvarez told
the class that we'd be putting
on a spring play.

I was thrilled.

The next day she told me I was
the perfect size to play the elf.





“I don’t want to be in the play anymore,” I told Mom.

“You didn’t get the part you wanted, but you love acting,” Mom said.

“I’ll bet you’ll be the best elf in the play,” she added.

That won’t be hard to do,
I thought.

I am the only elf in the play.

In the play's last scene,
the main **character** finds a box
under a giant mushroom.
When she opens it, a dog
jumps out.
Mrs. Alvarez's dog, Prince, played
the dog role.
She brought him
to all the **rehearsals**.
He liked all the kids, but he seemed
to like me best.





The night of the show, Prince jumped out as planned. He jumped into the giant mushroom, though, which fell over. Then he leaped off the stage and **disappeared** underneath it.

Mrs. Alvarez called him, but he whimpered and wouldn't come out. "How are we going to get him out of there?" Mrs. Alvarez asked.



“I’m small enough to get him,”
I said.

I crawled under the stage
through the dust and the cobwebs
until I reached him.

Prince licked my face.





When we came out, the **audience** clapped and cheered.

In fact, we got more applause than the stars at the end of the show.

My parents were proud, and so was I.

After that, I stopped worrying so much about my size.

In fact, I decided that Mom was right: being small has its perks.

Glossary

audience
(*n.*)

a group of people gathered to see and hear a performance or presentation (p. 15)

character
(*n.*)

someone who appears in a book, play, movie, or other story (p. 11)

disappeared
(*v.*)

stopped existing or being in sight (p. 12)

limbs (*n.*)

arms, legs, or wings (p. 6)

perks (*n.*)

special benefits that come from a job or particular situation (p. 8)

rehearsals
(*n.*)

repeated acts of practicing for a play, concert, or other performance (p. 11)

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A Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book

Word Count: 377

Connections

Writing and Art

Draw a picture of yourself.

Label the picture with at least five things you like about yourself.

Math

Measure the height of some classmates.

Record their heights and put them in order from shortest to tallest.



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