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Educator Pens Heartwarming Humorous Book for Preteens

Award-winning area author Christy Wopat believes every kid deserves to see themselves in a story, and that's why she wrote her soon-to-be-released book "Overruled." As a longtime educator, she loves helping kids discover the joy of reading through the power of their own voices. These goals intersect beautifully with this novel, geared toward 4th-grade students and up.

As a longtime educator, it's not surprising that the primary setting for "Overruled" is a fifth-grade classroom. In the story, we meet Mac. Unfortunately, Mac has a reputation—and not the good kind. When his best friend gets hurt on the playground, everyone assumes he's to blame. Facing suspension, Mac gets one last shot to clear his name: a classroom mock trial, complete with witnesses, lawyers, and a surprise judge. As secrets come out and friendships are tested, Mac learns that breaking free of a label is harder than it looks—but maybe being seen for who you really are is worth the fight.

The book is already receiving warm praise from early readers and educators. "'Overruled' is a book you won't want to miss! This book is for anyone who has ever felt misunderstood, too loud, too wiggly, or like they just don't quite fit in at school. It shows that being yourself is not a bad thing—and that the right teacher (or friend!) can make a huge difference. I give it 5 out of 5 stars!" writes fourth-grade teacher Carolyn Wodele in her recent review.

Others call "Overruled" a "much-needed book," "perfect for middle grade readers, especially those who love action, humor, and irreverence," and "a stellar, entertaining story filled with authentic action and emotional learning moments."

Along with being an educator, Wopat is a veteran of the publishing world with her award-winning memoir, "Almost a Mother: Love, Loss, and Finding Your People When Your Baby Dies," published by Orange Hat Publishing in 2018, followed by two other books about infant loss and grief, written after her twins died shortly after birth. Additionally, she is a contributor of short stories to the much-loved "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books.

Wopat says that this most recent book is "a work of her teacher heart and adds that while her books have been geared toward different ages, each of her writing topics has been chosen because she cares deeply about people and the world around her."

"Overruled" will be officially released on November 11 and will be available wherever you prefer to purchase books. To learn more, please go to ChristyWopat.com. A full press kit is available at that site and by request. Her book launch party will take place at the Holmen Library on Saturday, November 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event is open to the public.

When she's not writing, Christy can be found cheering at her kids' activities, playing with her cats (Old Dan, Little Ann, and Kitty Kitty Meow Meow), or curled up with a good book. She lives with her husband and kids in Holmen, Wisconsin.

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