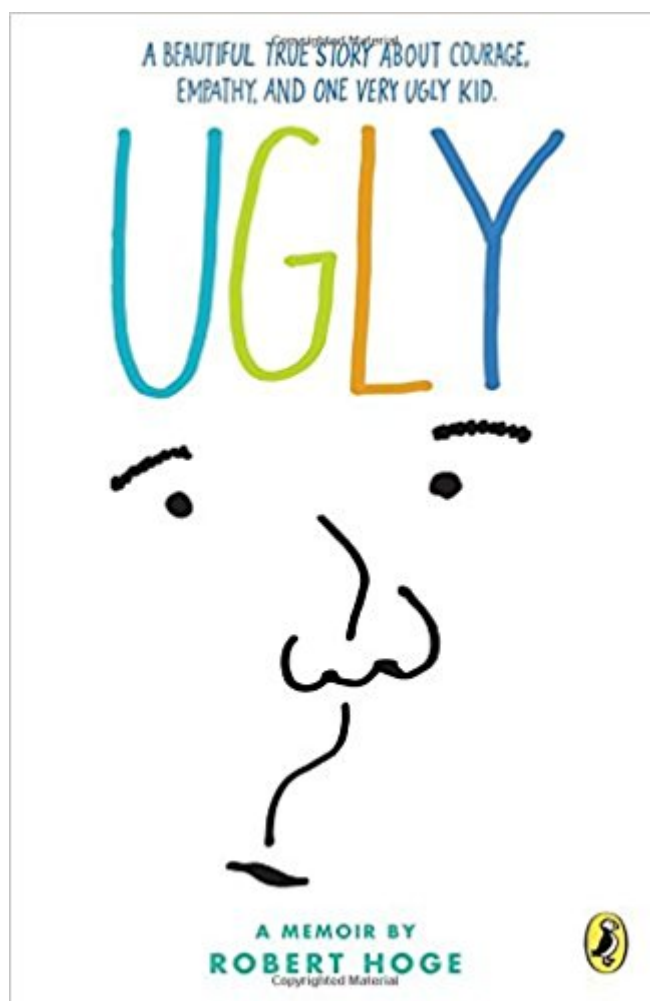


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# Ugly



## Synopsis

This true story of an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face is perfect for fans of *Wonder* – now with exclusive paperback content! When Robert Hoge was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived with a face that would never be the same. Strangers stared at him, kids called him names, and adults could be cruel in their own ways. Everybody seemed to agree that Robert was "ugly." But Robert refused to let his face dictate his entire life. Then, when Robert came face to face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart. This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us "ugly" also makes us who we are. Features an exclusive introduction, photographs, and Q&A from the author! "Eminently readable . . . a gripping readaloud, readalone, and discussion point all on its own."--BCCB, starred review "A jaw-dropping story of resilience, courage, and fierce hope."--New York Times bestselling author Joan Bauer

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0890 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

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Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #50 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #74 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3 – 7 • This memoir, set in Australia, is a heartbreaking account of being born and

living with severe physical deformities. As a child, Hoge was in general healthy, but his mother initially did not want to keep him because of his appearance—he was born with mangled legs and a large tumor in the middle of his face. Doctors predicted that surgery might kill him.

Nevertheless, they proceeded with several operations to "fix" Hoge in the hopes they would help improve his life. As the years passed, Hoge experienced many ups and downs; he was able to make some loyal friends but was also teased by other children. Readers follow as he tries playing sports, attends summer camp, unsuccessfully auditions for a junior choir, and performs in a talent show. In the midst of all these efforts at having a more traditional childhood, Hoge underwent multiple surgeries to "improve" his face, as he understandably wished to belong. And despite wanting to look more "normal," Hoge later made a conscious decision not to have any more operations. The text is enormously accessible; Hoge draws readers in with creative language and analogies to help clarify and set the tone of his complex story. For instance, the book begins with the direction "Imagine you're in art class," with Hoge going on to detail the process of sculpting a face as a way to describe his own appearance. Pencil illustrations sprinkled throughout help set the scene for readers. VERDICT This empowering story will reach even the hardest of hearts.

Recommended for its message of tolerance and acceptance. —Jess Gafkowitz, New York Public Library --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Reviews for UGLY: "Eminently readable . . . a gripping readaloud, readalone, and discussion point all on its own." —BCCB, starred review "Writing with humor, honesty, compassion, and grace | Hoge captures the nuances of his atypical experience | Hoge's parents' determination to provide him with as normal an upbringing as possible, combined with his own outgoing nature and desire to participate in all activities, makes his coming-of-age story unique and universal." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "In this honest, painful, and often funny memoir, readers will identify with Hoge's realization that everyone is different, and his are just different differences." —Booklist "The text is enormously accessible; Hoge draws readers in with creative language and analogies to help clarify and set the tone of his complex story | This empowering story will reach even the hardest of hearts. Recommended for its message of tolerance and acceptance." —School Library Journal "Robert Hoge writes his exceptional life story in straightforward, compelling prose that forced me to question how I often I judge what I see around me. Bravo, Mr. Hoge! Please write more books." —Holly Goldberg Sloan, bestselling author of Counting By 7s "Ugly

made me think, it made me feel both joy and sadness, but most of all, it made me laugh. This is an honest, intelligent, and descriptive story of what it's like to grow up with a disability, including the good, the bad, and the...ugly." — Shane Burcaw, author of *Laughing at My Nightmare* "A jaw-dropping story of resilience, courage, and fierce hope." — New York Times bestselling author Joan Bauer

Inspirational, poignant, funny, and clever...definitely a must read in today's world of cruel cyber bullies and selfie-obsessed narcissists. We need more people like Robert Hoge to remind us and our youth of what true beauty looks like.

I loved the candor and feeling in this book, and I shared it with my 11 year old grandson, who loved it as well.

A healthy dose of healthy self-respect from someone who beat all odds. I teach a university course about diversity, and I plan to use excerpt from this book and Hoge's TedTalk in the course.

This was a really enjoyable book an easy read. Not at all what I expected. I was prepared to be depressed and wasn't. Thank you for a wonderful reading experience.

This was a great read! Enjoyed learning Robert's story about growing up with his condition and how it formed his personality.

Terrific voice from Robert himself as he discovers his confidence. Loved the family support complete with honest maternal reaction. Great read.

Easy read, inspirational and helpful in telling people how to react and what is proper and not proper to say when you encounter whose looks are unusual, or different from what is considered normal.

I like this book overall. It is a non-fiction example of Wonder. Robert Hoge's story is compelling and motivating to help students see another person's perspective.

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