

My Friend Daniel Doesn't Talk

By Sharon Longo

illustrations by Jane Bottomley



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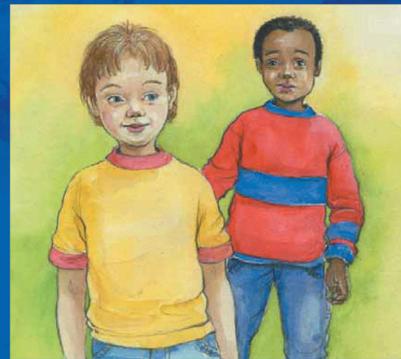
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'When outgoing Ryan meets Daniel, a boy who is too afraid to talk in school or other places outside of his home, he befriends the silent boy, defending him in school to the other children. Their friendship grows, and Daniel feels comfortable enough to talk to his new friend. Ryan's tendency to 'talk too much' enables him to help Daniel in the classroom, and he hopes for the day when his friend will be able to talk in school so that the other children may get to know the 'real' Daniel. In the meantime, he is willing to continue to be a friend to Daniel until that day.'

This beautifully illustrated story book is for children with severe shyness, social anxiety or selective mutism to see that they can make a friend like Ryan. It is also a helpful tool for friends of children like Daniel to understand why these children are unable to talk in certain settings. It has been created for teachers, parents, speech & language therapists, special needs coordinators and anyone who works with children who have social anxiety or selective mutism.

The theme of accepting others who are different whilst trying to empathise with them is a universal one, therefore this book can be enjoyed by all children from ages 4 to 8.

While the story should not be read to the class while the child is present or without his or her permission, it is an invaluable tool for anyone trying to understand selective mutism, and for teachers who want to explain it to their students.

Sharon Longo is a teacher and writer, married with three children, one with selective mutism. She has written and published numerous articles on selective mutism, as well as other topics and has won several awards for her work. For further advice and information on selective mutism, please see 'The Selective Mutism Resource Manual' by Maggie Johnson & Alison Wintgens.

"Daniel teaches us the essentials of what it's like to be a selectively mute child and what each selectively mute child needs to grow and thrive. Every child with selective mutism should have a friend like Daniel does!"

Marian Moldan, RCSW Clinical Social Worker specializing in the treatment of selective mutism and formerly selectively mute



