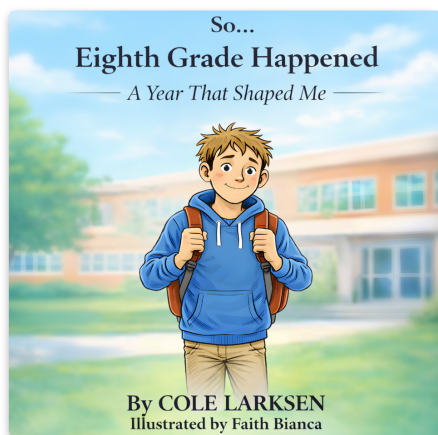




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So... Eighth Grade Happened

Author: Cole K. Larksen

Genre: Middle Grade Contemporary
Fiction

Audience: Ages 10-14, Parents, Educators

Publisher: Paper Trails Publishing

Format: Paperback, eBook, Audiobook

Publication Date: June 9, 2026

ISBN

Paperback: 979-8-9953653-5-8

eBook: 979-8-9953653-6-5

Audiobook: 979-8-9953653-7-2

Page Count

Paperback: 40

eBook: 34

Audiobook Length: ~25 Minutes

Inside This Reflective Story

So... Eighth Grade Happened: A Year That Shaped Me is a heartfelt, honest look at the middle school experience—told through the eyes of a student navigating one of life's most formative years. Blending relatable moments with quiet reflection, this story captures the **challenges**, **friendships**, and **personal growth** that often go unspoken. Perfect for readers ages 10-14, as well as parents and educators seeking deeper understanding, this book creates space for connection, conversation, and self-discovery. With themes of **resilience**, **identity**, and **emotional growth**, it's a story that meets readers where they are—and stays with them long after the final page.

The Voice Behind the Story

Cole Larksen writes about the quiet, often unspoken moments of growing up—the ones that shape us in ways we don't always understand at the time. *So... Eighth Grade Happened* was written in 2025, as he finished eighth grade, capturing his real-time reflections on identity, pressure, and trying to fit in.

He doesn't write to have all the answers. He writes so readers don't feel like they're the only ones figuring things out.

Why This Book Matters

- **A Real Student Perspective** - written during eighth grade, the story captures thoughts and emotions in real time
- **Encourages Honest Reflection** - Helps students process identity, pressure, and belonging
- **Supports Meaningful Conversations** - Bridges understanding between students, parents, and educators
- **Validates the Middle School Experience** - Reminds readers that growth and uncertainty are part of becoming

What Readers Are Saying

"This book gives parents and educators a rare glimpse into the thoughts and feelings of middle school students."

— **Lela, Parent, High School Mentor & Former Educator**

"Hearing the reflections out loud made everything feel even more real. This is a must-read for anyone navigating the middle school years."

— **Carson, High School Freshman**

Press Contact _____

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💰 *For ordering and retail details, please see the Sales Sheet.*

📍 For interviews, ARC requests, or media features, please reach out via email or website contact form.

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