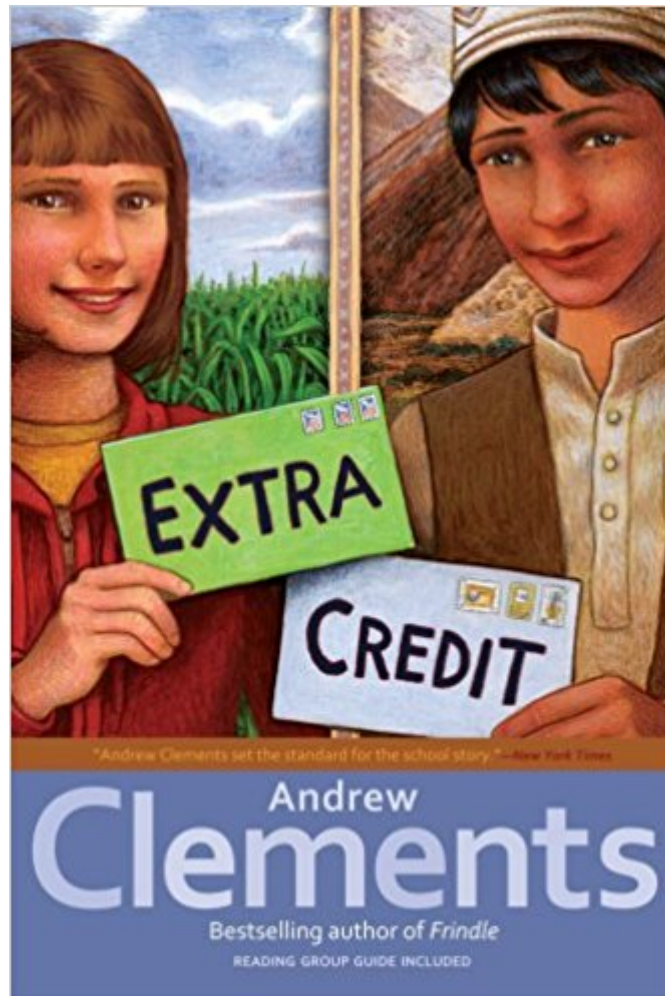




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# Extra Credit



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## Synopsis

It isn't that Abby Carson can't do her schoolwork. She just doesn't like doing it. And consequently, Abby will have to repeat sixth grade unless she meets some specific conditions, including taking on an extra credit project: find a pen pal in a distant country. But when Abby's first letter arrives at a small school in Afghanistan, complications arise. The elders agree that any letters going back to America must be written well, but the only qualified English-speaking student is a boy. And in this village, it's not proper for a boy to correspond with a girl. So, Sadeed's sister will dictate and sign the letters for him. But what about the villagers who believe that girls should not be anywhere near a school? And what about those who believe that any contact with Americans is...unhealthy? As letters flow back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of central Asia, across cultural and religious divides, through the minefields of different lifestyles and traditions a small group of children begin to speak and listen to each other. And in just a few short weeks, they make important discoveries about their communities, about their world, and most of all, about themselves.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0830 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416949313

ISBN-13: 978-1416949312

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,350 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #117 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #270 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 A forced pen-pal exchange turns into an opportunity for real

communication between Illinois sixth-grader Abby Carson and Sadeed Bayat, the best English-language student in his Afghan village. When Abby's first letter arrives in Bahar-Lan, 11-year-old Sadeed is asked by the elders to compose his sister Amira's reply; it isn't proper for a boy and girl to correspond with one another. But soon Sadeed can't resist telling Abby that it is he who has been writing to her. The third-person narrative alternates points of view, allowing for inclusion of intriguing details of both lives. Never a scholar, Abby prefers the woods behind her family's farm and the climbing wall in her school; in the afternoons, Sadeed works in his father's grain shop. In spite of their differences, Abby and Sadeed connect through their imaginations, and their earlier readings of *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. They learn, as Abby reports, that "people are simple, but the stuff going on around them can get complicated." Full-page pencil illustrations throughout add to the book's appeal. Clements offers readers an engaging and realistic school story and provides an evenhanded comparison between a Midwestern girl's lifestyle and a culture currently in the news.

—Kathleen Isaacs, Children's Literature Specialist, Pasadena, MD

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Andrew Clements is the author of the enormously popular *Frindle*. More than 10 million copies of his books have been sold, and he has been nominated for a multitude of state awards, including two Christopher Awards and an Edgar Award. His popular works include *About Average*, *Troublemaker*, *Extra Credit*, *Lost and Found*, *No Talking*, *Room One*, *Lunch Money*, and more. He is also the author of the *Benjamin Pratt & the Keepers of the School* series. He lives with his wife in Maine and has four grown children. Visit him at [AndrewClements.com](http://AndrewClements.com).

Mark Elliott has a BFA in illustration from the School of Visual Arts. He has illustrated a number of book covers, and his work has been exhibited at the Society of Illustrators and the Art Directors Guild. Mark lives on a sheep farm in the Hudson Valley region of New York.

"Extra Credit" is an amazing story of friendship, cultural curiosity and tolerance, beautifully and sensibly written. It's a captivating story with a positive and deep message that is specially relevant for today's world where kids are bombarded with action packed - but empty and nasty - easy plots. We have read several of this author's books and *Extra Credit* - and *Frindle* - have been our favorites. I encourage everyone to read it!

At first the book was a little boring but then the story picked up and got interesting. I would defiantly

recommend this book to anyone that likes books that are different from other book's. I'm conclusion this book exceeded my expectations and I think it will do the same for you.

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Andrew Clements is my go-to author for struggling 5/6th grade students. (My only exception is Things Not Seen; big concepts there). He chooses conflicts that students can recognize, and the vocabulary is well within their range.

I am 9 years old and I read most of Andrew Clements' books. My favorite part was the end, the thing I liked less is how the people at Afghanistan treated women, and I know that it can be true. This book is really interesting to read, just like any other book by Clements.

My daughter read this book for summer reading before entering the fifth grade. She and I both loved it. It provided an excellent way for kids her age to see how others live around the world. The book broke down a lot of preconceived notions that she had about people in other cultures. She is a bit sensitive and cried while reading certain sections, but loved the book and said that she learned a lot.

Wonderful and realistic read!

I had to read this for battle book it is AWESOME!!!! love the way it's from completely different people and parts of the world

I couldn't put this book down and all I thought was how my students would find it interesting and captivating. I'm going to read this to them before they start writing to their pen pals.

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