



## What People Are Saying...

“Dee and Deb Off They Go: Kindergarten First Day Jitters by Donna McDine is an adorable story of twins Dee and Deb. Narrated from Dee's perspective, the story takes readers on her first day of kindergarten. Dee and Deb are always together and do everything together, but when they go to school they are in different classrooms. They don't know how to do without each other. When the teacher comes to class and asks them to choose their buddies, Dee chooses Casey as her buddy. But she still misses her twin sister. It's a simple story that is real and can be appreciated by all kids who are going to school, leaving behind their comfort zones.

The pictures are delightful and colorful, and breathe life and movement into the story, characters and scenes. They also capture the expressions of the two girls very nicely on their first day. It's a good bedtime storybook for children as it gives them an idea of what happens on the first day of school. It also works as a perfect book for read aloud sessions in classrooms and school libraries. It's always a difficult day for any child when they go to school for the first time. The author captures those moments and feelings beautifully through Dee's view point and helps the first time school goers shed their fears.

It's a good book for children, especially for all those who are starting school. Dee realizes that everyone in her class is just like her and the smart teacher also makes them

comfortable on the first day of school. A delightful story for children that will help them get rid of their anxiety about going to school for the first time.” ~ Mamta Madhavan for Readers' Favorite



“Author Donna McDine has a delightful way of supporting children through life's challenges and transitions. Her stories are realistic and feature likable characters that kids can easily relate to. With this book, she has lifted 'kindergarten anxiety' in a light and humorous way - leaving children with a smile on their face and an eagerness for new beginnings.” ~ Tina M. Games, certified creativity coach and author of *Journaling by the Moonlight: A Mother's Path to Self Discovery*”



“In Donna McDine’s PB, *Dee and Deb Off They Go—Kindergarten First Day Jitters*, fraternal twins Dee and Deb face separation in Kindergarten. This adorable book shows what happens on their first day. Like all kinders, they worry: who will they talk to and play with. Dee’s smart teacher has a super idea for first day fears—choose a buddy. Ms. McDine’s cute book will reassure nervous kinder kids and their parents. Jack Foster’s charming artwork adds to readers’ enjoyment.” ~ Penelope Anne Cole, award-winning author of *Magical Matthew*, *Magical Mea*, and *Ten Little Tricksters*.



“Dee and Deb Off They Go is an endearing story to which all children can relate, whether or not they are a twin, as they take the big step to full time student. Twin sisters, Dee and Deb, are about to be separated for the first time ever on their first day of Kindergarten. Ms. McDine’s voice paints a realistic picture of first day jitters and creates characters and a school experience easily relatable for kids. She does an excellent job of hitting the high points of what matters most to children this age—a friend to play and interact with in school and what happens entering a classroom not knowing anyone, and in this case without your best twin sister-friend, and having to choose a buddy from a sea of unfamiliar faces. Ms. McDine’s story reassures and helps kids be less concerned about what they will face as they begin their school journey. Dee and Deb is a delightful read that will leave children more excited than nervous for their first big day of Kindergarten.

Mr. Foster’s colorful and detailed illustrations almost leap off the page and really bring the story to life, drawing the reader fully into Dee and Deb’s adventure. The reader feels Dee and Deb’s anxiety and excitement with each flip of the page.

Well done, Donna McDine and Jack Foster. A must read for all children preparing for the beginning of their school career.” ~ Karin Larson, children’s author of *Bedtime Kisses* and *Little Bug*



“What a delightful book! The first sentence, Dee and Deb, twin sisters, were always together – Crib mates to playmates is great! The exploration of the awful "I'm alone in Kindergarten" feeling makes this a great book for pre-schoolers and about-to-be kindergarten kids.

Jack Foster's colorful illustrations are a perfect compliment to the text.” ~ Susan J. Berger, children’s author of *Earthquake*



Dee and Deb Off They Go Kindergarten First Day Jitters by Donna M. McDine tells the perfect story of twin sisters and the anxiety they experience going off to school for the first time.

Dee and Deb are not alone when it comes to feeling overwhelmed when separating from a sibling who is your best friend and playmate. This charming story will help young children understand that going off to school can be a fun experience. Dee comes to realize she can make friends and all is well even without her sister Deb.

This book is a must read in all kindergarten classrooms. The teacher can use the book to help defuse anxiety about being away from home and siblings for the first time.

Jack Foster’s lovely illustrations complement the story, helping to bring the characters to life for the reader. ~ Nicole Weaver, award-winning children’s author of *My Sister is My Best Friend*



A child’s first day at kindergarten, with new kids and a teacher, is difficult enough. If they’re also facing the day separated from their twin for the first time in their life, it’s frightening. Who will they talk to? Who will they play with?

Multi-Award-Winning author Donna M. McDine’s latest picture book, DEE AND DEB OFF THEY GO, KINDERGARTEN FIRST DAY JITTERS, is an adorable story about Dee and Deb, fraternal twins who learn the answers to the above questions. Told from Dee’s point of view, the reader follows her through the first day of kindergarten as she discovers a whole new world. And it’s not quite what she had expected.

The artwork by Award-Winning Illustrator Jack Foster is bright and colorful. His drawings of the two girls, with their big eyes and freckles on their cheeks, sometimes smiles on their faces, other times puzzled looks in their eyes, show the emotions the girls feel on being away from each other for the day. Foster’s excellent drawings bring the story to life making the reader love Dee and Deb, at least this reader did.

The author and artist have done a remarkable job, resulting in a story that young readers should find interesting and fun, especially children that have a twin. I recommend DEE AND DEB OFF THEY GO, KINDERGARTEN FIRST DAY JITTERS for everyone that loves a sweet story with characters you’d like to meet in real life and a true-to-life plot.

This picture book would make a nice addition to school libraries and classrooms, public libraries and, of course, your own private library.

Goodbye, Dee and Deb. Enjoy kindergarten. ~ Beverly Stowe McClure, award-winning children's author of stories for children and teens



Those first day jitters can really be overwhelming for those little ones when they start that big "K", kindergarten. Dee starts kindergarten without that secure feeling of having her twin sister near. It's hard to start school in a big, new, strange building with strange people all around you. You don't know anyone, you don't know what to do, you're lost. That's what Dee felt until she noticed that all the other kids were just like her. They didn't know anyone either. The building was strange to them also. They didn't know where anything is. It made it little easier knowing that everyone felt the same and she wasn't alone. Anything new or any changes in a little one's life can be traumatic. It doesn't have to be in a little one's life, it can be in a not so little one's life, too.

Change is hard, but Dee handled it quite well once she knew she wasn't alone. This is a darling children's book that has wonderful illustrations to go with the story. The story is just long enough that it doesn't get boring. The attention span of little one's is rather short. The coloring of the illustrations is bright and cheerful. A wonderful teaching and learning book for those young inquisitive minds. Grab a copy of this book before your child or grandchild enters kindergarten or even pre-school. It will help them adjust. ~ Gayle Pace – Amazon reviewer



Donna McDine has written a charming picture book about twin sisters who do everything together, crib mates to playmates! Until kindergarten begins that is. Each sister is assigned a different classroom. But how will they cope if they aren't together? The teacher told them to find a new buddy but neither girl knew how they could ever replace their twin.

This story was delightful and one that tackles a problem most twins go through at some stage of their life.

The illustrator, Jack Foster did a fantastic job of bringing the authors story to life with colorful and beautiful illustrations that any child or adult would enjoy. I would recommend this picture book not only to anyone who has twins but also to a child who has to change schools. They need to realize that making new friends is not as hard as they think and it will always be an important part of their lives. ~ Allyn Stotz, children's author of *Cookies for Punch*



Author Donna M. McDine brings readers a cute story about two sisters adjusting to the first day of school. *Dee and Deb Off They Go, Kindergarten First Day Jitters* is a story about two twin sisters placed in different classrooms (K1, K2) without one another. The story follows their day as they adjust to the first day of school in Kindergarten. Their first day of school the sisters meet friends in their classrooms and begin to feel more comfortable in their new environments. Along with the *First Day Jitters* by Danneburg, read in many schools, this can be a fun addition to read as well during the first couple of weeks of school to help early childhood students adjust to a new school or their first time at school. The story is short, simple and appropriate for young readers. The print is large, the illustrations are colorful and purposeful, and the story is uncomplicated. A fun little story for beginning readers! -Mirta Espinola, Amazon reviewer



An adorable story of twin sisters and their first day of kindergarten. They are in separate classrooms and are concerned who they will have to share their secrets and to play with. Dee meets a girl named Casey in her class, and after a fun day with her, shares with Deb about her day and learns about Deb's day as well.

There are no more than one or two sentences on each page, which makes for easy reading. The illustrations are bright and beautiful. I hope the author will share more of Dee and Deb's adventures with us in the future. ~ Teresa Kander, Amazon reviewer



Award-winning author Donna M. McDine has written an adorable picture book about the first day of kindergarten. She uses her first hand knowledge (having a twin sister of her own) to share what it might be like for separated twins on the first day of kindergarten.

Many kids have fears regarding the first day of school, but this first day of school is especially worrisome for twins Dee and Deb.

Dee and Dee head off for their first day of kindergarten together, but become separated when Dee goes to the K1 classroom and Deb goes to K2.

The rest of the book centers on Dee and her fears of being lost and alone without her twin sister for back up. But as usually is the case, Dee makes a friend, and the day flies by. Reunited at the end of the school day, Dee and Deb have so much more to talk about with their own accounts and experience of the day. And Dee can hardly wait for tomorrow.

The colorful and contagious illustrations are provided by Jack Foster.

He shows not just the similarities between the twins (their too-cute pigtailed and matching outfits), but also their differences (Dee and Deb must be fraternal twins.)

A truly entertaining book for any child embarking on the journey to kindergarten. ~ Suzanne Puvis, author of *Destined for Deception*