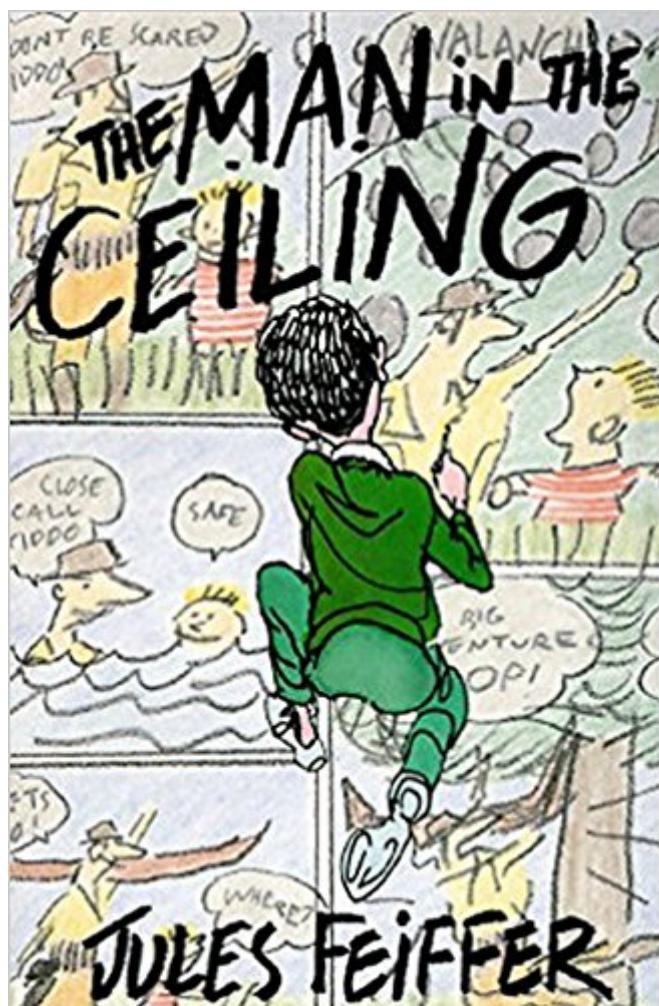


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# The Man In The Ceiling (Michael Di Capua Books)



## Synopsis

Now planned as a Broadway musical from the Tony Award-winning producer of *Hamilton* and *Rent*! From the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, playwright, screenwriter, and illustrator of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Jules Feiffer, comes a witty story about following your dreams. Jimmy is bad at sports and not much better at school, but he sure can draw terrific cartoons. And his dream, like that of his Uncle Lester who writes flop Broadway musicals, is to be recognized for what he loves doing most. "Wickedly funny" *ALA Booklist* (starred review) "A witty story that combines a comfortably oldfangled tone with up-to-the-minute characterizations and a playful use of graphics." *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: Michael Di Capua Books

Paperback: 185 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st Harper Trophy Ed edition (June 8, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062059076

ISBN-13: 978-0062059079

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #306,731 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Humorous #894 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #993 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Ages 8 & up. The first children's book both written and illustrated by cartoonist Feiffer is a funny, poignant and profoundly insightful look at the inner life of an artist, who also happens to be a young boy. Jimmy Jibbett loves drawing cartoons and hopes to be great some day--but first he must cope with a lack of privacy, a father who wishes he liked sports instead of drawing, a popular older boy

who pressures him to sell out and his own urge to give up when he's failing. Just when Jimmy's starting to think that he's "doomed to be as much a flop as a cartoonist as he was as a boy," he finds a way to look at failure in a new light. In a starred review, Booklist called it "wickedly funny... reminiscent of Roald Dahl's edgy lampoons." In another starred review, Publishers Weekly declared it "one of the best books of the year."

Feiffer's debut as a children's book author concerns a boy who expresses himself by making comic books; in a starred review, PW said, "[This] witty story... combines a comfortably oldfangled tone with up-to-the-minute characterizations and a playful use of graphics." Ages 8-12.-- witty story... combines a comfortably oldfangled tone with up-to-the-minute characterizations and a playful use of graphics." Ages 8-12. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

One to the best books I have ever read in this mysterious genreÃ¢Â¢Â¢ not just for children, for whom much might go unnoticed. Not exactly for adults, who might see it as a children's book, and draw back from it. Perfect for anyone who has felt like a stranger in their own family and has had to work to find what he/she needed to go forward with passion and confidence, to follow their inclinations and develop their talentsÃ¢Â¢Â¢ even when these were quite unrecognized in their family of origin. A great character, a great story with a spectacular ending.

Off the back of finishing Roald Dahls books, my 8 year old daughter and I picked out The Man in the Ceiling, based on the good reviews it received. Unfortunately, we were disappointed with the book. Although well written, I wouldn't call the story strong and my daughter wanted to quit reading before we reached the end (which is a first for her). Obviously, each reader may see something different in the story, it just wasn't for us.

I bought this book in 2000 thinking it was a Roald Dahl style book. I was hooked! I bought 8 copies and gave the book out to friends as must read to their kids. I recently bought a copy for each of my adult children as a memory. Hands down my favorite read aloud to my kids.

Super Job!

I am a writer and artist who found this little gem a rewarding affirmation. When the disappointments come from critique and rejection, I think of Jimmy and how he grew. I loved how Feiffer showed the

variety of personalities that affect an artist (the good and the bad). I loved how we saw other artists and how they struggle with their work and demands for their time, and how the struggling never goes away. I loved how Feiffer, a seasoned pro, drew as the boy, complete with misspellings and a simple worldview. Which is a little like a virtuoso playing off-key, but he pulled it off. (I totally bought there was a Jimmy out there with an innate gift for composition; I'm glad he didn't choose to pretend Jimmy hadn't learned it yet.) It's supposed to be a kid's book, but honestly it's a lesson for anyone who creates. I have put Jimmy's final creation on my wall as an inspiration. Thank you, Mr. Feiffer, for this heartfelt lesson on creative growth, from someone who has been at it for a long time and has, more times than I care to admit, almost given up.

I originally read "The Man in the Ceiling" in the fourth grade and I really didn't understand it, but then in the sixth grade I read it again, and now, as the title of the review mentions, it's my favorite book ever. I am now sixteen years old and I'm still reading it over and over again. The story deals with a young boy who struggles with inadequacy and failure. His main aspiration is to become a cartoonist, but he receives little support from anyone. His father, a bitter overworked man, wishes Jimmy (the boy) would play sports rather than make comics, and because of this, finds it hard to express love toward his son. His sisters nag him and torment him daily and his mother has little to do with what goes with him. Jimmy's uncle, a failure himself, tells Jimmy to keep at it, and he'll eventually make it, but by the end of the story, the uncle himself is the one who is broken (the not the very end, but it's too good to give away.) Not so fast, this story isn't as depressing as I've made it out to be. It's actually very witty and funny and has a dark sense of humor. Comics Jimmy draws are included throughout the story and it is interesting to see how Jimmy interprets events and his surroundings into his art. Very funny, but very sad, and with a wonderful ending. What every book should be, regardless of the reading level.

The Man in the Ceiling, by Jules Feiffer  
Review by Jack Humsey  
This story is about a boy named Jimmy, who thinks he is a failure. Jimmy is eleven years old, and is very quiet and artistic. He mostly draws comics like the ones in comic books. He finds the true meaning of effort and confidence through his ambition to become a famous cartoonist. Jimmy's family is very odd in many ways. His dad is all about business and his mom, like Jimmy, is an artist. But they both don't understand why Jimmy's hobby and ambition is drawing cartoons. His biggest fans are his younger and older sisters. But his older sister pushes him around and is angry all the time. I think the strengths of the book are the transitions. They are very dramatic. The characters go from loneliness

to happiness. I think transitions are important in books because they help the reader get the feeling of the settings and people. It was hard for me to choose something to criticize. But if I had to choose, I would change the father's personality. At the beginning of the book he wasn't interested in his son's work at all, but after the success of the weird uncle's play, the father realized that his son is very unique. That didn't entirely make sense to me. This book would help some readers build their own confidence. It would be good for people who are artistic and imaginative, people who prefer to work alone. People who are lonely would relate to this book.

This has been one of my all-time favorite books since first reading it in a children's lit class in college. Any artist--anyone who makes things--should read this book about the ups and downs of making art and growing up while doing it.

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