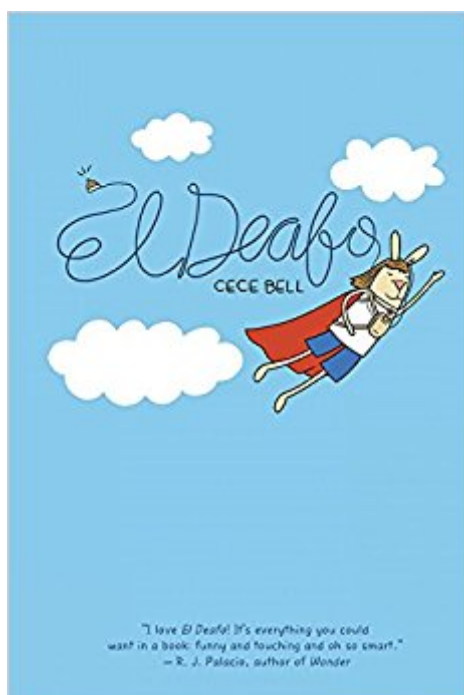


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# El Deafo (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



## Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.

## Book Information

Library Binding: 248 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 495 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,126,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies](#) #76 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities](#) #5940 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-6 • Cece loses her hearing from spinal meningitis, and takes readers through the arduous journey of learning to lip read and decipher the noise of her hearing aid, with the goal of finding a true friend. This warmly and humorously illustrated full-color graphic novel set in the suburban '70s has all the gripping characters and inflated melodrama of late childhood: a crush on a neighborhood boy, the bossy friend, the too-sensitive-to-her-Deafness friend, and the perfect friend,

scared away. The characters are all rabbits. The antics of her hearing aid connected to a FM unit (an amplifier the teacher wears) are spectacularly funny. When Cece's teacher leaves the FM unit on, Cece hears everything: bathroom visits, even teacher lounge improprieties. It is her superpower. She deems herself *El Deafo!* inspired in part by a bullied Deaf child featured in an *Afterschool Special*. Cece fearlessly fantasizes retaliations. Nevertheless, she rejects ASL because it makes visible what she is trying to hide. She ventures, "Who cares what everyone thinks!" But she does care. She loathes the designation "special," and wants to pass for hearing. Bell tells it all: the joy of removing her hearing aid in summer, the troubles watching the TV when the actor turns his back, and the agony of slumber party chats in the dark. Included is an honest and revealing afterword, which addresses the author's early decision not to learn ASL, her more mature appreciation for the language, and her adage that, "Our differences are our superpowers." — Sara Lissa Paulson, *The American Sign Language and English Lower School, New York City* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

'A serious subject treated with warmth and humour.' *Little London* magazine "Full of warmth, humor, and superpowered strength, *El Deafo* is an absolute treat." Raina Telgemeier, author of *Smile* "Read *El Deafo* for the giggles, for the challenges, for the universal life experiences, and for the opportunity to be changed, even just a little. And for those readers who, like Cece, discover ways to turn the things the world calls weakness into the qualities they own as strengths, make sure to have a couple of capes on hand." Matthew C. Winner, *The Busy Librarian* 'It's an honest and rather sweet tale of a girl coming to terms with her disability, and as such the kind of story that will strike a chord with any child who has felt ostracised or different. *El Deafo* is heartfelt, eye-opening, funny and beautifully drawn.' *The Financial Times* 'Inspiring and honest, this is a wonderful graphic novel.' *Book of the Week in We Love This Book and The Bookseller* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Cece is my daughter and I am so very proud of her for baring her soul to write *El Deafo*. She worked 5 years to write and illustrate her graphic novel and it carries so many, many messages to everyone who reads it. I had hoped Cece would write this book ever since she started having her *Sock Mobkey* books published. I believe she is benefiting from her book-related travels and experiences as much as her readers benefit from her book. Thanks for askin'. Sincerely, A Proud Mama

I was diagnosed with a hearing loss at age 16. As an adult with a now severe hearing loss, I wanted

to scream "YES!!!!" on just about every single page. I especially love that Cece is likable and not whiny about her situation. It shows how someone with hearing loss can feel stupid when it's not about stupidity at all. I want my family to read this. I want my friends to read this. I want the whole world to read this!!!! Cece's descriptions are dead on and this book is so important for those of us trying to live a normal life in a difficult situation. I'm forever grateful for *El Deafo*. And my friends, please keep the lights on and your face towards me. Thanks!

This was an incredibly sweet story that gets weakened by its own hook: A girl who loses her hearing at a young age comes to regard her hearing-aid as something that gives her super-powers and invents an imaginary superhero persona for herself. As a story of what it's like to grow up hearing-impaired, this book is fantastic. Heck, as a story of what it's like to grow up, \*period\*, this book is fantastic, and I admit I finished the book wishing I could tag along more into the protagonist's life. But what dragged on the book were her periods of fancy imagining herself to be the superhero "*El Deafo*" -- this was a very real element of the author's own childhood, so it couldn't have been left out, and it's even the foremost reason that I suspect people will buy the book (as was true for me). But I would have liked to see less superheroics and more personal growth. Overall, an excellent read.

I'm not Graeme but I am his daughter. I got this book the day after I turned 10 and I was so excited to read it I read it as soon as I got home. I read more than half of the book in one day and didn't want to go to dinner because I read from 3:00 until 6:00. The next day I took the book to school and read it at silent reading time and I was so sad when silent reading was over because the book is so amazing. I read it in any spare time I had. I love love love this book! I am not much of a reader and don't really like it but this book is fantastic and because of it I like to read. I hope you see this Cece. You are such a strong girl and I feel so sorry for the bad times you had. Love Ruby

" It was the best book i've ever read. I loved how the drawings look like real life but in bunny form. I loved how it was in full color but I would've liked it more if they had made a series of it that way I could read more books. " Words from my 9 year old daughter (4th grade). She's a fan of the *Baby Mouse* series. She's also commented that she really enjoys the comic book format of the pages, as well as mentioning that it made her "know how deaf people feel sometimes." My daughter actually read this book twice in a row because she enjoyed it so much. Which is not her norm.

Book #54 Read in 2017 El Deafo by Cece Bell This is a graphic novel that tells the story of Cece, a young girl who is deaf. She has to wear a contraption to school that includes a microphone for her teachers to use so she can hear their instruction. Cece feels very obtrusive wearing it and begins to imagine her alter ego--"El Deafo" who has superpowers and the confidence Cece does not have. This book spans several years of her schooling and shows the ups and downs of her interactions with her family, friends, teachers and strangers. I plan on using this book with the students in my Young Adult Literature class in the fall.

El Deafo is a Newbery Honor book, a childhood memoir presented as a graphic novel. It is the story of how Cece became deaf and how she grew into herself, her deafness, from hiding it to accepting it as part of her identity but not defining her identity- this is a big lesson for any body let alone a kid! Bell's memoir is a touching and humorous story told through text, clearly and from a child's perspective, and illustrated using anthropomorphic rabbits which universalizes the tale. The book is informational, as it explores the difference between hearing culture and deaf culture, how a person learns to read and the challenges of a deaf child trying to make her way in the hearing world. El Deafo is also a coming of age story, dealing with themes of friendship and first crushes. This is a thoughtful, fun, moving, and fast paced graphic novel that is an excellent read for the middle grades and beyond. Information Books

Life progresses as we continually search for books for our children and grandchildren -- and you find one such as El Deafo. Unique subject matter and just the title lends to this thoughtful book! I thank the author for the concept and words. As a grandmother, I felt like I had discovered a "teachable moment" that had yet to occur in our lives, but, here is one book to add to your family library. Light touch to a serious situation that shows children, through words, that we accept who we are and work around that fact. As my grands are in a 50/50 English/Spanish curriculum in New Mexico, another good reason to order the book. They liked it (age 10 and 13) and again, just a tiny approach to what is "real life" and an example of decision-making.

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