

***Pickle Puss* by Patricia Reilly Giff**

Just then Mrs. Baker came over. She smiled at them.

All her freckles crinkled up.

“I’m going to find a book,” Emily told her. “A good one.”

“Right,” said Mrs. Baker. “I’ll print your name on the chart. Then every time you read a book, you’ll get a sticker. You can put it next to your name.”

Emily went to the shelves. She pulled out a book. *Five Children and It*.

It was too fat.

“I read that book,” said a boy.

Emily looked at him. He had a nice face.

He was the fifth-grade monitor in school.

“My name is Freddie S.,” he told her. “That’s a good book.”

Emily looked down at the book.

It had about a skillion pages.

It would take forever to read.

“Well...” she said.

“Go ahead. Try it,” said Freddie.

“I guess so,” Emily said.

She went to Mrs. Baker’s desk.

Too bad she didn’t have a skinnier book.

She looked back.

Freddie was talking with his friend, Edward.

Emily stuck the fat book on the book cart.

She grabbed another one.

It was much skinnier.

She gave it to Mrs. Baker.

Mrs. Baker checked it out. “You like snakes?” she asked.

“Yuck,” said Emily. Then she looked at the book.

There was a snake on the cover.

It was the kind with the fat neck. Its tooth was sticking out.

“I mean, I love them,” Emily said.

She grabbed the book.

She went out the door with Stacy.