

# THE LANDRY NEWS

GAGS ON  
KED JELLO  
couldn't help  
lunchlady  
nurse  
was the  
rushed to

SPORTS  
Football Game  
Ends in Suspension  
for Three Boys  
At rece  
durin  
fight  
yelle

From the **EDITORS**  
A question of fairness  
There has been no  
so far this year in Mr. Larsons  
classroom. There has been learni  
but there has been no teaching. There  
is a teacher in the classroom but he  
not teach...



Illustrated by Brian Selznick

# Andrew Clements

Author of the million-copy best-seller **FRINDLE**

# **NEW KID GETS OLD TEACHER**

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“CARA LOUISE, I am *talking* to you!”

Cara Landry didn't answer her mom. She was busy.

She sat at the gray folding table in the kitchenette, a heap of torn paper scraps in front of her. Using a roll of clear tape, Cara was putting the pieces back together. Little by little, they fell into place on a fresh sheet of paper about eighteen inches wide. The top part was already taking shape—a row of neat block letters, carefully drawn to look like newspaper type.

“Cara, honey, you *promised* you wouldn't start that again. Didn't you learn one little thing from the last time?”

Cara's mom was talking about what had happened at the school Cara had attended for most of fourth grade, just after her dad had left. There had been some problems.

“Don't worry, Mom,” Cara said absentmindedly, absorbed in her task.

Cara Landry had only lived in Carlton for six months. From the day she moved to town, during April of fourth grade, everyone had completely ignored her. She had been easy for the other kids to ignore. Just another brainy, quiet girl, the kind who always turns in assignments on time, always aces tests. She dressed in a brown plaid skirt and a clean white blouse every day, dependable as the tile pattern on the classroom floor. Average height, skinny arms and legs, white socks, black shoes. Her light brown hair was always pulled back into a thin ponytail, and her pale blue eyes hardly ever connected with anyone else's. As far as the other kids were concerned, Cara was there, but just barely.

All that changed in one afternoon soon after Cara started fifth grade.

It was like any other Friday for Cara at Denton Elementary School. Math first thing in the morning, then science and gym, lunch and health, and finally, reading, language arts, and social studies in Mr. Larson's room.

Mr. Larson was the kind of teacher parents write letters to the principal about, letters like:

Dear Dr. Barnes:

We know our child is only in second grade this

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year, but please be *sure* that he [or she] is NOT put into Mr. Larson's class for fifth grade.

Our lawyer tells us that we have the right to make our educational choices known to the principal and that you are not allowed to tell anyone we have written you this letter.

So in closing, we again urge you to take steps to see that our son [or daughter] is *not* put into Mr. Larson's classroom.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. and Mrs. Everybody-who-lives-in-Carlton

Still, *someone* had to be in Mr. Larson's class; and if your mom was always too tired to join the PTA or a volunteer group, and if you mostly hung out at the library by yourself or sat around your apartment reading and doing homework, it was possible to live in Carlton for half a year and not know that Mr. Larson was a lousy teacher. And if your mom didn't know enough to write a letter to the principal, you were pretty much guaranteed to get Mr. Larson.

Mr. Larson said he believed in the open classroom. At parents' night every September, Mr. Larson explained that children learn best when they learn things on their own.

This was not a new idea. This idea about learning was being used successfully by practically every teacher in America.

# NEW STUDENT GETS OLD TEACHER

The bad news is that Cara Landry is the new kid at Denton Elementary School. The worse news is that her teacher, Mr. Larson, would rather read the paper and drink coffee than teach his students anything. So Cara decides to give Mr. Larson something else to read—her own newspaper, *The Landry News*.

Before she knows it, the whole fifth-grade class is in on the project. But then the principal finds a copy of *The Landry News*, with unexpected results. Tomorrow's headline: Will

Cara's Newspaper Cost Mr. Larson His Job? ■

## An ABA Pick of the Lists

★ "A thought-provoking novel... readers will cheer for [both Cara and Mr. Larson] as they move toward the satisfying conclusion."

—*School Library Journal*,  
starred review

"Another terrific school story by the inventor of *Frindle*." —*The Horn Book*

Don't miss any of Andrew Clements's popular school stories



Learn more about Andrew Clements's best-seller *Frindle* at [www.frindle.com](http://www.frindle.com)

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