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Keena Ford And The Second-Grade Mix-Up
Keena Ford doesn't mean to be a troublemaker, but sometimes things get out of hand. Lucky for her, it's the beginning of the second grade and Keena's got a clean slate. So when her new second-grade teacher, Ms. Campbell, mistakenly thinks it's her birthday and brings in a huge chocolate cake, Keena realizes that she's gotten herself into a sticky situation. She knows she has to tell the truth, but it's not easy to turn down her very own birthday cake and a chance to wear a sparkly crown. How will Keena get out of this mess?
I picked up this book from the library, and my eight year old son loved it. It didn’t matter that it was about a girl and that the girl was a second-grader (he was in the third grade at the time). He told me the story was funny, interesting, and we talked about some of Keena’s problems and what she learned from each situation. I’d read the book already and thought it was excellent. The book isn’t preachy, but it follows the trials of a smart and adventurous 7 year old who manages to get herself into some sticky situations at school and home. She doesn’t mean to lie or disobey the adults in her life, but it happens, and this book shows how children often end up breaking rules—even if it’s by accident. And it shows how to handle these situations with honesty and love. And a lot of humor. The best part? My six year old started to read the book on his own, and he NEVER picks up a book unless I put it in his hand. The writing wasn’t too hard for him, although I did have to help him out with some of the longer words. I’ve since bought this book for my niece, also named Kiana, and I’m sure she’ll love it as well as my boys did.

Keena Ford lives with her middle-school-age brother and mother in Washington, DC. Her father lives in Maryland, and she sees him on weekends. Eric is her best friend, but disaster strikes when he is assigned to the other second grade class. Both children try to convince the other that their classroom is more delightful. Not only does jealousy creep into their relationship, Keena creeps into serious trouble by ending up under the teacher’s desk in Eric’s classroom. Keena’s proclivity for unintended consequences is given a thorough workout in this wonderful early chapter book. She is a delightful new character. Her thinking processes are revealed to be entirely understandable to young readers, but the repercussions are quite funny. One can only hope that this book is only the beginning of a long and happy relationship with Keena.

Keena was a good book but she did have a little bit of behavior trouble. One of my sisters could identify with that and would really enjoy the book but the other couldn’t. All in all, a black girl lead is a win in my book.

I am an elementary school teacher and my students love this book! It’s a wonderful read...it keeps them interested and motivated. Keena is a wonderful character and the plot is terrific! I definitely suggest it for your kids!

I have a 6 year old grand daughter who isn’t always the perfect child in the classroom or dance class or well you get the point Lol. This book is wonderful in showing a child that has time out class
in school but is a loving little girl. My grand is really enjoying this book and we already have the other book to read next. Also she doesn’t like Afro puffs and this character wears it well. So it also is helping with my grand’s self esteem. I do hope she forgets the part where Keena pinches the nurse at the doctors office lol ....

My 7 yr old wasn’t too excited when I showed her this book as this was her first chapter book! After I started reading and had her begin to read to me, she was totally into it! She and I had an awesome time reading it! She even chose to read on her own instead of watching tv. So proud of her. She’s now reading another Keena Ford book! I think this will be the beginning of a new love affair with reading!

This book is great! This well intentioned little girl gets her self into lots of trouble by accident. You can easily how she gets herself into these scrapes. This book is funny and my students will LOVE it! A great way to start off 2nd grade!

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