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Matthew Muddles Through (Matthew In The Middle) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

As the middle child in his family, Matthew Vos struggles in the middle of trouble on all sides. He shares a room with an annoying younger brother and dodges the harassment of an obnoxious older brother. A big-as-a-bear neighborhood dog targets him like a heat-seeking missile. His Cadet Club crams into the church's too-small basement, and his catechism class meets in his living room. He longs to attend the Cadet International Camporee, but will he even get the chance? How can he rescue his mom's book from the principal's "Black Hole"? And why does Mom feel so sick all the time? Join Matthew, with his active imagination and growing faith, as he muddles through all this and more. "The real texture of life is found in ordinary, everyday occurrences, but it takes a special gift to make these seem extraordinary. Matthew is a very young Christian whose faith stretches in believable ways as he tackles the challenges of growing up. I look forward to joining him for further stages of his journey." • JANIE B. CHEANEY, Senior Writer, WORLD magazine, and author of *Somebody on This Bus Is Going to Be Famous* "True-to-life characters portrayed with droll humor • a fun story with firm substance • plausibly seen from a kid's viewpoint. What a gem! Mathes is a master of making me want to read more." • Yvonne Anderson, author of *The Story in the Stars*, 2012 ACFW Carol Award Finalist

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Glenda Mathes is a scribe (writer), speaker, editor, and poet who blogs (ascribelog.com), while trying in all she does to ascribe glory to God. She and her husband have no greater joy than seeing their children and grandchildren walking in the Lord. She regularly contributes to Christian Renewal magazine and is the Contributing Editor for the Messenger, the newsletter published by Mid-America Reformed Seminary. Her published books include *A Month of Sundays: 31 Meditations on Resting in God*, *Discovering Delight: 31 Meditations on Loving God*, *God's Law, Little One Lost: Living with Early Infant Loss*, *Not My Own: Discovering God's Comfort in the Heidelberg Catechism* (the first volume of the Life in Christ catechism curriculum), and *Matthew Muddles Through* (Book 1 of the Matthew in the Middle juvenile fiction series).

I am reading "Matthew Muddles Through" to my 9 year old and 7 year old every evening before bed. They are just LOVING it. Every night I hear, "Please! Another chapter mom. Pretty, pretty please?" This is clean, wholesome, realistic reading. Matthew is just a regular kid with plenty of worries. He's got an older brother who picks on him and a younger brother who's just plain annoying. His dad's a preacher which earns him the dreaded title of 'Preacher's Kid' on the playground, and his mom always seems to be sick. On top of that, here's a giant neighborhood dog that seems out to get him. No life isn't easy for Matthew, but then he finds out that the coveted Cadet Camporee campout will occur this year...and he's old enough to go! But will his parents be able to find the money to send him to camp? Personal Thoughts: This author understands kids and the way they think and reason through issues. This book talks to kids at their level. It's a story about daily life with all its ups and downs, struggles and joys, lessons and growth--from a kid's perspective. It's funny, it's realistic, it's suspenseful. I have to say, I loved it and so did my kids. We had great discussions after reading a chapter or two in the evenings. Even doubts about faith are tackled in a loving and understanding way. It's refreshing to read a book like this. My kids and I can't wait for the next book in this series.

There are a lot of things to love about this book. Here are a few of them: One: It's written from a believable kid's viewpoint. The main character's actions, thoughts, attitudes, and responses are spot-on for someone his age. His relationships with the people in his world (family, teachers, friends, etc.) are realistic and three-dimensional. Two: Matthew faces the sort of challenges every kid faces. No over-the-top stuff, no responsibility to save the world, nothing supernatural, dark, horrible, or creepy. He's just a kid who has to deal with normal pressures, but it's all portrayed in such a way that the reader relates to him, cheers for him, and worries for him. Three: Though a natural spiritual thread keeps

things moving with a purpose, gentle humor prevents it from ever getting heavy. All this to say: though Matthew may be barely muddling, the author soars.

These are truly awesome books. Though in one way Matthew is just a seemingly ordinary boy, with an ordinary life - Glenda Matthes brings a charming story to life on these pages. It is so refreshing to read really good literature for this age group. The books keep you moving from one chapter to the next, and you truly feel disappointed when you reach the end. You can't help but fall in love with Matthew and cheer him on as he makes plans to attend the camporee. I recommend all three books - each one is even better than the one before it.

The real texture of life is found in ordinary, everyday occurrences, but it takes a special gift to make these seem extraordinary. Matthew is a very young Christian whose faith stretches in believable ways as he tackles the challenges of growing up. I look forward to joining him for further stages of his journey.

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