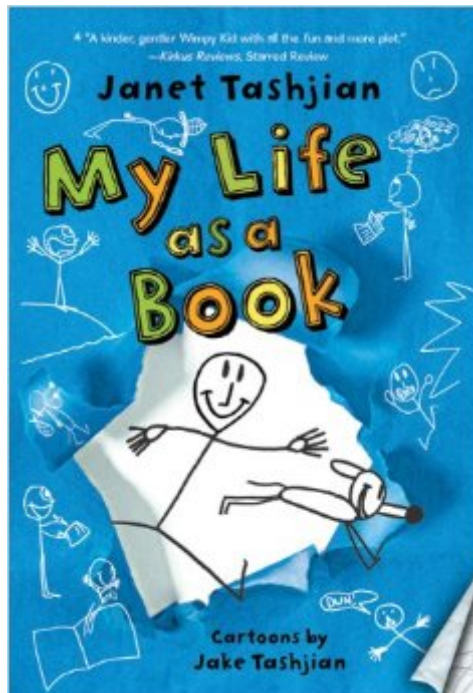


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# My Life As A Book (The My Life Series)



## Synopsis

Summer's finally here, and Derek Fallon is looking forward to pelting the UPS truck with water balloons, climbing onto the garage roof, and conducting silly investigations. But when his parents decide to send him to Learning Camp, Derek's dreams of fun come to an end. Ever since he's been labeled a "reluctant reader," his mom has pushed him to read "real" books-something other than his beloved Calvin & Hobbes. As Derek forges unexpected friendships and uncovers a family secret involving himself (in diapers! no less), he realizes that adventures and surprises are around the corner, complete with curve balls. My Life as a Book is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 880L (What's this?)

Series: The My Life series (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (September 13, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312672896

ISBN-13: 978-0312672898

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (77 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #52,022 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Education & Reference > Books & Libraries](#) #260 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &](#)

[Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#) #549 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

As Derek tries to get out of reading both in school and during the summer, it is reading that gets him into his greatest trouble. Discovering an old newspaper in the attic Derek questions his mother about it but she will not answer him. Deciding that she is hiding something Derek makes it his mission to find out who Susan James is. When he finds out his best friend Matt is going to Martha's Vineyard Derek tries to go along since that is where Susan James died. Derek figures that's a good place to start investigating the death. His plans are thwarted. He manages to drive his parents crazy

so he gets sent to Learning Camp for the summer. Turns out the teacher's pet, Carly, is also there. How much worse can his summer get! Well, he's about to find out. I loved *My Life as a Book* by Janet Tashjian. It is funny, sad, and not what I expected. As Derek struggles to do his reading, he draws pictures of the words he doesn't know. In the margins of the book Janet Tashjian's son, Jake, does the same. The pictures enhance the book. Fantastic! As Derek persists in following the mystery of the newspaper article his mother finally breaks down and tells him that Susan James was his babysitter when they were at Martha's Vineyard and died saving him from drowning. This still does not settle Derek. He wants to know more about her. Using the internet he discovers a website for her. People leave messages on it and he does too. Susan's mother responds to it. Derek knows not to let his parents know about the contact. Eventually though he needs to learn more about Susan. He convinces (nags) his parents into visiting his grandmother in Boston. They go and revisit the beach at Martha's Vineyard.

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