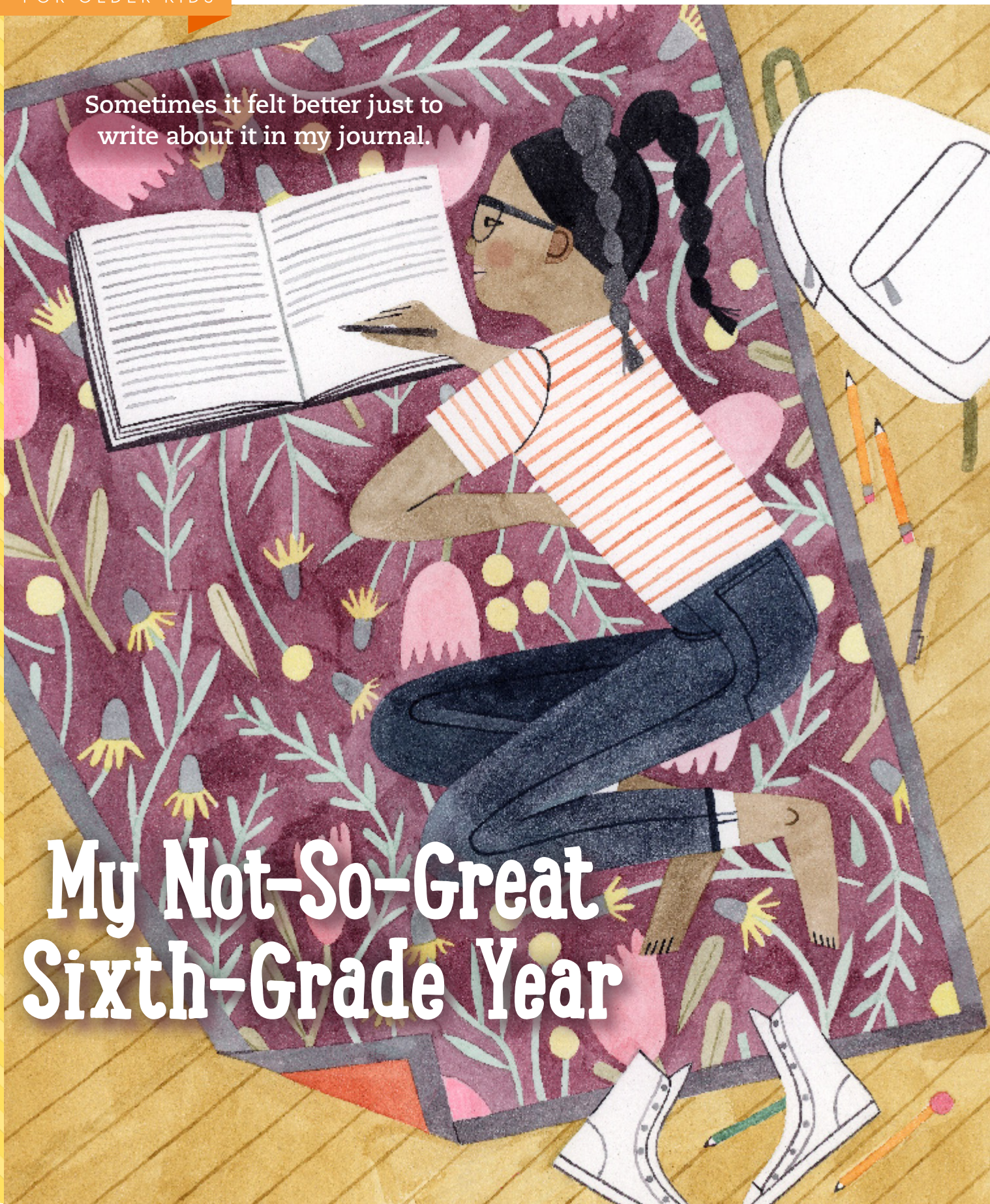


Sometimes it felt better just to write about it in my journal.

# My Not-So-Great Sixth-Grade Year



**By Jessica Larsen**  
(Based on a true story)

**S**eptember 9—Today wasn't the best. I didn't have anyone to sit by at lunch. I missed an easy question on the geography quiz. Also our team lost at kickball. Sometimes I wonder if I'll ever have any friends at this school.

I wish we hadn't moved here. I don't have anyone to talk to. That's why I'm starting a journal. People in books always seem to have journals. I've heard stories from pioneers' journals. I don't know if I'll ever do anything amazing, but it's nice to talk to someone. Hope I can keep this up! Gotta go. Mom's calling me for dinner.

P.S. I do feel a little better now.

I closed my journal and went to set the table.

The next day was just as bad. When I came home, I felt like I might explode. Instead I went to my room, opened my journal, and started writing. I dumped all those feelings out. I felt better this time too. After that, I wrote every few days. I wrote about everything. It was like I was writing my own book!

**October 21**—Guess what? I made a friend! Her name is Claire, and she's new too. We both like board games, and we don't like geography. I think I'm going to invite her over for family game night on Friday.

I love my journal. I like writing when I feel mad or worried because it makes me feel better. I also like writing about the good things that happen because then I can remember them.

Guess what else? I have a book report due next week. Wish me luck!

Little by little things started getting better. I still got picked last for kickball, but I had a few friends, and I joined the math team. I wrote about all of it. Soon I wasn't writing just to complain, I was writing to a good friend—me!

And before I knew it, sixth grade was over. When I came home from the class party, I had quite a few signatures in my yearbook—all from new friends I had made. I pulled out my journal, plopped down on my bed, and wrote my last entry as a sixth grader.

**June 15**—Today was the last day of sixth grade. Next year I'll be in seventh grade! I'm nervous about that, but I know I can write when I get scared or when I feel like everything is going wrong. I just went back and read my first entry again. It was so sad that I almost laughed! I'm glad I have it.

*It shows how much I've grown up this year! I'm glad I'm not so angry or sad anymore.*

When we moved here, I felt like I would never be happy again. But now when I read my journal, I can see how much Heavenly Father has blessed me. He helped me make new friends and learn hard things. I wonder what's going to happen next year! ◆

The author lives in Texas, USA.



## NOT SURE WHAT TO WRITE? TRY THIS!

- What made you smile today? Write about it!
- Write a letter to your future self.
- Write about your favorite place in the world.
- Write three blessings you are grateful for.
- Write 10 facts about you.

Look for a new prompt each month starting in January!

Was it scary when you started at our new school?

I don't think so. My teacher didn't act scared.

