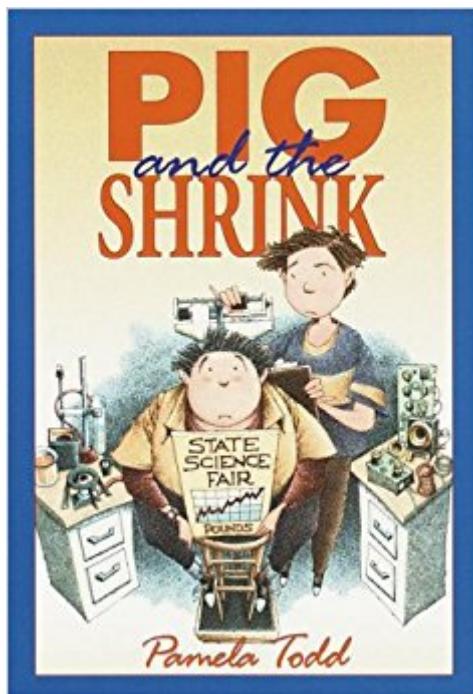


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# Pig And The Shrink



## **Synopsis**

Tucker Harrison has a big problem. The principal has nixed his handwriting analysis project for the science fair--can he help it if his teacher's handwriting shows a criminal mind? Now he quickly must come up with a project that's sure to dazzle the judges and get him into the State Math and Science Academy, something his father is counting on. Tucker is desperately searching for an idea when he runs smack into Pig. Angelo Pighetti is the fat kid in class, the one who always gets picked on. Suddenly Tucker has a brainstorm--why not make Pig his science fair project? If he can get Pig to lose weight he'll have a living, breathing, successful experiment. What could be more perfect? But Tucker soon learns that Pig has his own ideas of how to live his life. What is there to do when your subject won't cooperate?

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

It's tough when you think you have the perfect idea for your science project--and it backfires like a green-smoke-producing chemistry accident. Shrink--so named because his mother is a psychologist and his dad is a neurosurgeon--figures that performing a handwriting analysis on his middle-school science teacher as a classic example of a criminal mind would be perfectly well received. Alas, he ends up in the principal's office... without a project. When he meets the corpulent Pig, Angelo

Pighetti, he seizes the opportunity to conduct a human weight-loss experiment, but soon discovers that using a classmate as a guinea pig is more complicated than he anticipated. "You see these guys?" I asked, pointing at the evil foods. "You mean those little candy-bar men?" he asked. "Right. You know who they are?" Pig was quiet for a moment, studying them. His face was blank. "No," he said, slowly shaking his head. "But I think I like them." In this fast-paced, funny novel, Pamela Todd develops a real, complex friendship between Pig and Shrink--one that evolves despite the odd scientist-lab rat dynamic, and amidst a sea of schoolyard fat jokes. Shrink thinks that while he's proving his scientific prowess, he's also helping Pig become a better person. But the truth is, Shrink--born of ambitious, controlled parents--has a lot to learn from the bon vivant Angelo Pighetti and his "noisy, messy, out of control" life at his family's pizzeria. The author serves up generous helpings of Chinese zodiac lore, fortune-cookie wisdom ("Wise men are not always learned. Learned men are not always wise."), and laugh-out-loud witty banter in this wise, compassionate middle-grade novel that will stick to your ribs. (Ages 8 to 12) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Teenaged Tucker, also known as Shrink (because of his small stature), narrates this humorous first novel centering around his efforts to make Angelo Pighetti (aka Pig) the subject of his science fair project on "nutrition and obesity." The stakes are high: Tucker must win the fair in order to gain both admission into the State Math and Science Academy and approval from his high-achieving divorced parentsAhis mother, a sympathetic but distracted psychologist, and his absentee father, a demanding neurologist. Some readers may be skeptical when Tucker's keenly observant school principal doesn't question the flimsy parameters of his project and allows him to focus his analysis on only one subject. (The principal and Tucker's father both repeatedly admonish that "science is a tool for helping people.") However, the breezy narration and plausible ending more than offset this leap of logic. Among the cast are Pig's warm and exuberant family; Mr. Wong, the proprietor of Tucker and his mother's favorite restaurant, who dispenses sage advice with his hot and spicy chicken; and the eccentric Beth Ellen, a science fair rival, activist and vegetarian, who recognizes Angelo's true value all along. Readers struggling to accept others and themselves will be affirmed by this comedy of human foibles. Ages 10-up. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Love love love this book.

My review is about the book called Pig and the Shrink. The main character is Tucker Harrison. Tucker needed to win the science fair project to get into the Math and Science Academy School next year. His experiment was on a weight loss program. He used Pig, short for Pighetti a classmate who is the largest kid in school. During the experiment, Tucker and Pig become friends. The experiment didn't work out very well and Pig was gaining weight. Pig wanted to stop but Tucker was obsessed to win. So obsessed, he lost Pig's friendship. Tucker realized that Pig's friendship wasn't worth losing over a science fair project. He also realized that even though Pig was big, he shouldn't have judged him by his appearance. Pig was a great person inside and out. Tucker apologized to Pig at the science fair and decided to drop out. I recommend this book by Pamela Todd. It teaches a good lesson about friendship and not to judge people by their appearance. It was fast paced and funny.

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Read Pam Todd's book multiple times over the span of several years. It gets better everytime. If you want to take a good look into the complicated, wonderful - funny and sometimes harrowing - world of middle-schoolers, this book will give you a loving, tender and insightful glance. Initially, I'd wondered why Pam had such a long list of people to thank in her acknowledgements. Eventually, I realized how many nuances she covered, and she nailed every one of them. Thanks, Pam. I'm sure this will be a 'family classic' for a long, long time. :)

It's a book about accepting yourself as you are, about learning the value of friendship. I know it's a book for young adults, but as someone older than, oh well, let's say 30... I couldn't believe how often

I laughed and cried here. It has an oriental mystical flavor too. My favorite line was "It's a come as you are party."

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