

Holmes, Sarah

OPERATION YES

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Grades 4 to 9

Living on an air force base with a star general for a dad is not easy for Bo, especially when he finds it hard to stay out of trouble at school. But when a new teacher, Miss Loupe, arrives and shakes things up with a whole curriculum based on improv and theater games, Bo realizes that he might be excited about school for once. His cousin Gari, on the other hand, who came to live with Bo's family when her mom got shipped out to Iraq, is not at all excited. As Gari schemes a way to get sent back to Seattle and Bo tries to earn his dad's respect by proving that his school behavioral issues are in the past, Bo and Gari's animosity for each other only seems to grow. However, when Miss Loupe's brother disappears abroad in a military incident and destroys her spirit and enthusiasm for teaching, Bo and Gari find a way to work together and engage students in bringing her spirit back. Told from both Bo and Gari's point of view, this story does an excellent job at portraying what it means to live on an air force base, have family in the military, step out of your comfort zone, learn to work together, and choose what is really important.

- Erin Sterling, Puget Sound Council for Reviewing Children's Books