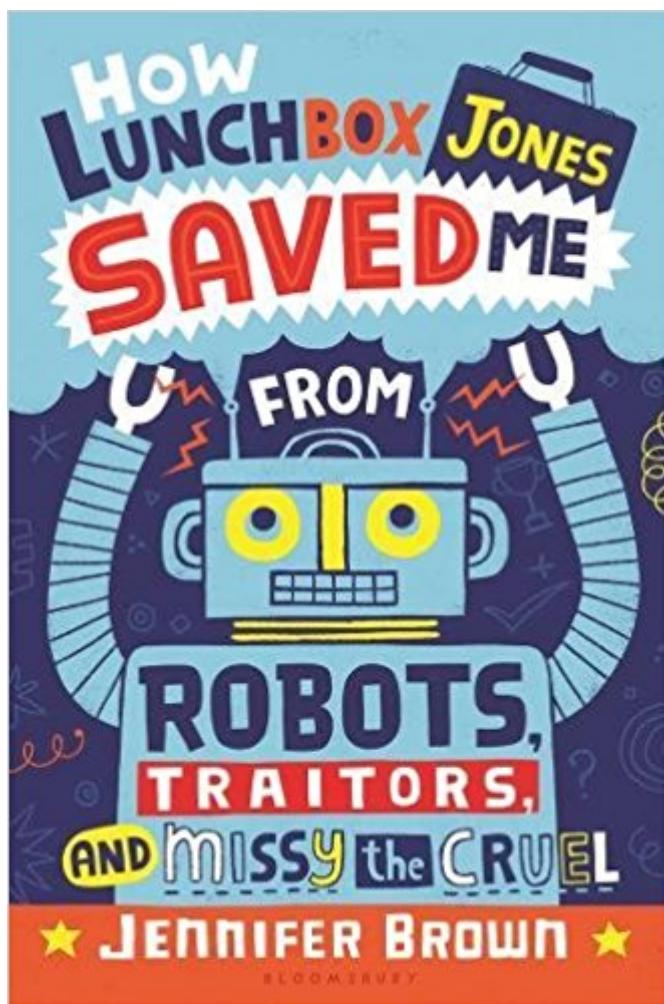


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# How Lunchbox Jones Saved Me From Robots, Traitors, And Missy The Cruel



## **Synopsis**

Luke Abbott's school is the losing-est school in the history of losing. And that's just fine for him. He'd rather be at home playing video games and avoiding his older brother Rob and the Greatest Betrayal of All Time. But now he's being forced to join the robotics team, where he'll meet a colorful cast of characters, including: Mikayla, the girl who does everything with her toes; Jacob and Jacob, who aren't twins but might as well be; the sunflower seed-obsessed Stuart; and Missy the Cruel, Luke's innocent-looking bully since they were six-years-old. But it's an unlikely connection with a mysterious boy known only as "Lunchbox Jones" that will change Luke's life. Turns out, Luke and Lunchbox Jones have a lot more in common than just robots . . . .

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 5 "Seventh-grade video-game wiz, Luke Abbott, attends Forest Shade Middle School, the losing-est school in the history of middle schools. Its raccoon-costumed mascot is the coach's 72-year-old mom; Chuck, the classroom guinea pig, was on the football roster for two seasons before anyone noticed; and the only trophy in the office was for "World's Best Secretary." When Life Skills teacher, Mr. Terry, starts a robotics team, Luke is unhappily corralled into joining the Rallying Robo-Raccoons. The team is a collection of misfits: "Toezilla" who's claim to fame is that she can eat, write, and paint with her toes; the Jacobs, two nonidentical identical boys who do everything

exactly the same; and Stuart, a nonstop sunflower seed cruncher and spitter. Worst of all is Missy the Cruel who has bullied and tortured Luke since he was six. Things get worse when Lunchbox Jones, the scariest kid at Forest Shade, shows up lugging his mysterious and ominous lunch box. Luke's misery continues at home. He feels betrayed by his former best friend and brother who abandons him to join the Marines. Missy joins the rival school, but makes sure to hack into the robotic program before she goes, destroying the team's self-confidence. Only Luke and Lunchbox remain to create the school's first robot and compete in the upcoming tournament. This extremely warmhearted and hilarious coming-of-age story abounds with memorable and lovingly imperfect characters. The real trophies in this tale are the caring friendships that develop among Luke and his teammates, and the knowledge that growing up and changing will never destroy the bonds of close brotherly love. VERDICT A heartwarming journey of self-discovery and the importance of friendship. "Diane McCabe, John Muir Elementary, Santa Monica, CA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"There's nothing robotic about Lunchbox Jones. It's a keenly-observed slice of middle-school life, told with plenty of humor and heart." - New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman "With humor and heart, Brown tells a story of unlikely friendship. Readers who enjoyed Lisa Yee's *Warp Speed* or Jeffrey Brown's *Star Wars: Jedi Academy* series will find a similar brand of humor here." - Booklist Online "A winning blend of humorous and poignant moments." - Publishers Weekly "Though they may not shine in the robotics department, Luke and his team succeed in other ways in this likable comedy." - Kirkus Reviews "The friendship between Arty and Cash is both preposterous and completely believable. Ultimately *Life on Mars* isn't about making connections to other planets so much as making them across the street." - Kurtis Scaletta, author of *MUDVILLE* and *JINXED!*, on *LIFE ON MARS* "Will please middle graders seeking a funny story about a kid who loves outer space." - School Library Journal on *LIFE ON MARS*

That's a long title, and it tells you everything and nothing about the story. Everything, because literally, it is about Lunchbox Jones, a robot, and a girl not-so-fondly referred to as Missy the Cruel, and nothing, because this book is SO much more! Jennifer Brown serves up another fantastic book for middle schoolers. In her newest book, she nails the voice of the put-upon middle schooler who in this story is Luke Abbott. He attends a middle school that loses at EVERYTHING, he's not speaking to his big brother, he'd rather be playing his video games online with a friend and he is surrounded by the oddest cast of characters

you've read. Unfortunately, his skills at video gaming are somehow mistaken for being skilled at robotics, and he is roped into joining the robotics team who all feel like they are once again destined to fail. Strangely enough, it is the scary, hulking, silent kid referred to as Lunchbox Jones that propels Luke Abbott to not giving up in the face of another potential loss. In the process, Luke learns to forgive his brother, to see that there is more to people than meets the eye, and makes a new friend in the process. Funny, quirky, and with a cast of zany characters from cheek pinching grandmas, sports-obsessed grandfathers, a girl who does everything with her toes (ew) to an undersized bully, this book is funny, goofy and a great read for any middle schooler who likes the books of Gordon Korman and Jeff Kinney.

Requested by my 10 year old grandson. He really likes this author & gets all his books.

12 year old son gives it 3 stars because "I didn't really like it". It arrived quickly and as expected.

Got this speaker the other day in the mail bought it with a discounted price. It came packaged very well. On opening it was very easy to connect to my phone. Sound is great. Would recommend this to anyone.

How Lunchbox Jones Saved Me From Robots, Traitors, and Missy the Cruel is unlike anything I've read in a long time, and that's a good thing. Instead of going through the motions and typical caricatures of middle school, author Jennifer Brown delves deeper into the circumstances that make people who they are. This should come as no surprise to fans of Jennifer "she's the author of the popular YA novels *Hate List* and *Torn Away*. Jennifer clearly gets her audience. As with her other novels, in *Lunchbox Jones* Jennifer's voice becomes that of the characters she creates. There's an honesty and quirkiness here that's often missing in the escapist novels so popular in this age range.

This is a cute, overly exaggerated, silly story with a message about friendship and empathy. Luke is in a total loser of a middle school, evidenced by the fact that they have never won anything, and a guinea pig was on the school's football roster for two seasons before anyone noticed. Luke loves playing an alien based video game online with a boy he has not met, and is unhappy that his older brother has joined the marines. When his dad has Luke join the robotics team, it is not at all his idea

of fun. The team includes a girl who does things with her toes - like paint and eat; Missy the Cruel, a petite bully; and Lunchbox Jones, a hulking but quiet boy who always carries a lunchbox with him - everywhere. While preparing for the robotics contest, Luke manages to make friends with Lunchbox, work through some of his feelings about his brother joining the military and become more empathetic towards others. I think that kids will enjoy the book.

Narrated by Luke himself with a voice that could be the real kid Â¢Â“ Jennifer Brown knows just how kids think and talk and LukeÂ¢Â™s dilemmas Â¢Â“ a nasty girl at school; anger at his brother for signing up for the Marines and deserting him, having to go to robotics rather than go for the upper levels destroying aliens with his on line friend Â¢Â“ are all too real. Luke learns how it feels to be in othersÂ¢Â™ skins Â¢Â“ compassion Â¢Â“ while helping win his middle schoolÂ¢Â™s first trophy Â¢Â“ but for what? This is one terrific book for all ages Â¢Â“ hey! I escaped middle school a bunch of years ago Â¢Â“ and I wish I had been as cool and sharp as Luke Â¢Â“ see how you feel Â¢Â“ you wonÂ¢Â™t regret it!

This was a lot of fun to read, and even made me laugh out loud a couple of times. I think it's a great book for middle grade readers, and I think my sons (ages 12 and 9) would really like it. I think the main character would be very relatable for young boys, but girls should enjoy the story as well. I would recommend this one. I received this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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