

# ***Fish in a Tree***

By Lynda Hunt

## **Annotation**

- Ally moves through multiple elementary schools without learning to read by using her strengths in math and art along with some behavior distractions. When a new teacher discovers Ally has dyslexia, he uses patience and sensitivity to build up Ally's confidence as well as her ability to read.

## **Book Talk**

- Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike. (from the author's website)

## **Book Trailers**

- <http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/books/fish-in-a-tree/>

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/>
- Twitter: @LynMullalyHunt
- Facebook: Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- Blog: <https://lyndamullalyhunt.wordpress.com/>
- Email: [Lyndamullalyhunt@yahoo.com](mailto:Lyndamullalyhunt@yahoo.com)
- Author visits: <http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/visits/>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Class President election signs
- biographies for famous people with dyslexia (see nonfiction below)

## **Food**

- cupcakes

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- What does Albert Einstein's quote mean to you? "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."
- Who are some of your greatest teachers? Why?
- Have you ever had to struggle to learn something?

## First Line of the Book:

- It's always there. Like the ground underneath my feet.

## Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- biographies of famous dyslexics: George Washington, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, DaVinci, JFK, Muhammad Ali, Picasso, Walt Disney, John Lennon

## What to Read Next

- *Wonder* by R.J. Polacio
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

## Other Books by this Author:

- *One for The Murphy's*

## Additional Resources

- Interview with the author:  
<http://lgbpodcast.blogspot.com/2015/02/lynda-mullaly-hunt-ep-121.html>
- Interview with the author:  
<http://carolinestarrowse.com/classroom-connections-fish-in-a-tree-by-lynda-mullaly-hunt/>
- Interview with the author:  
<http://www.kidlit411.com/2016/01/Kidlit411-Author-Spotlight-Lynda-Mullaly-Hunt.html>
- Book Study/Lesson Ideas:  
[http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/FishInATree\\_lessonplans\\_Final\\_LR.pdf](http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/FishInATree_lessonplans_Final_LR.pdf)
- Classroom activities for Fish in a Tree:  
<http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/books/one-for-the-murphys/classroom-activities>
- Ally's Sketchbook of Impossible Things:  
<http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/books/fish-in-a-tree/the-sketchbook-of-impossible-things/>
- Fish in a Tree badges:  
<http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/books/fish-in-a-tree/badges/>
- Story about the inspiration for Mr. Daniels:  
<http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/for-teachers/>