***Short***

By Holly Goldberg Sloan

### **Annotation:**

Julia might be short, but she refuses to let her height be her shortcoming. Encouraged by her mother to audition for the musical The Wizard of Oz, Julia quickly falls in love with the world of theater and all its characters. Over the course of the summer, Julia discovers talents she didn’t know she had, forms unlikely friendships, and finds a second home in the theater. It’s true what they say-- good things come in small packages.

**Book Talk:**

* Middle school can be an awkward time, so it’s surprising when Julia discovers herself on stage under the spotlight. While performing in the musical *The Wizard of Oz*, Julia, who once vowed to never use the word *short* again, learns that her height doesn’t have to change for her to grow.
* Read aloud page 58: Starting with “Shawn Barr get up on a ladder to watch us in a better way…” and ending with “I guess Shawn Barr forgets that he’s on a ladder…”

### **Author on the Internet:**

* Website: http://hollygoldbergsloan.com/
* Twitter: @hgoldbergsloan
* Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Author-Holly-Goldberg-Sloan

### Items to use in a library d**isplay:**

* Drama masks
* Props from The Wizard of Oz (munchkin shoes, ruby red slippers, yellow brick road, lollipops, etc.)
* Scissors & fabric
* Scrapbook

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics:**

* http://assets.readbrightly.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Short-Book-Club-Companion.pdf

**First Line of the Book:**

* **“**I spend a lot of time looking up.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s) :**

* *The Road to Oz: Twists, Turns, Bumps, and Triumphs in the Life of L. Frank Baum* by Kathleen Krull

**What to Read Next:**

* *Tracing Stars* by Erin Moulton
* *George* by Alex Gino
* *How to Stage a Catastrophe* by Rebecca Donnelly
* *Jack & Louisa* by Andrew Keenan-Bolger
* *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier

Other Books by this Author:

* *Counting by 7’s*
* *I’ll Be There*
* *Appleblossom the Possum*

**Additional Resources:**

* Music: *The Wizard of Oz* soundtrack
* Poetry: https://www.poetrysoup.com/famous/poems/theatre
* Art/craft activity: Make a scrapbook by recreating key moments in Julia’s life.

 Make a puppet theater and perfrom *The Wizard of Oz*.

* Reader’s Theater script:
* Interview with the author: http://www.middlegradeninja.com/2018/03/7-questions-for-author-holly-goldberg.html
* Book Study: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum
* Lesson ideas: *Wizard of Oz* collage- https://wehavekids.com/education/the-wizard-of-oz-lesson-plans

 Drama lesson-

 http://www.kamplays.com/uploads/1/1/0/4/11040740/a\_characters\_shoes.pdf

**Name that Book:**

* “I tell my mom I have a sore throat, and I go to bed early. I don’t even eat dinner, which is bad because nutrition is important for growth and I’m probably hurting my chances of getting taller any time soon.” p. 98HB
* “‘The world is filled with bias, and it’s consumed with judgment and opinions that are hardened and even institutionalized. That’s why we do theater.’” p. 180HB
* “If art isn’t just taking construction paper and making a picture using four shapes and three colors-- if it’s trying to make people see the world and their life in a different way--then maybe that’s what I want to do when I’m an adult.” p. 188HB
* “Luckily my mom comes back with a glass of ginger ale, and I can forget about the trapped insects and concentrate on having a drink. Ginger ale sometimes makes my nose itch. It might be the bubbles.” p. 247HB
* “The flats onstage can be moved easily. Some of them have wheels on the bottom and others rise up into the area high above the stage because they have ropes attached. I’d like to have a house like this.” p. 55HB