

## ***Sideways Stories from Wayside School and Wayside School is Falling Down - Louis Sachar***

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The thirty classrooms in Wayside School were all supposed to be on ground level. But the builder got it wrong. Instead, the school is thirty storeys high with one classroom on each floor. It's a unique school with kooky students and oddball teachers.

Although their behaviour is often bizarre, the kids are likeable and believable. They accept each other's oddities and carry on annoying the teacher and doing as little work as possible. Slap-stick humour and clever chat keep the action rolling along.

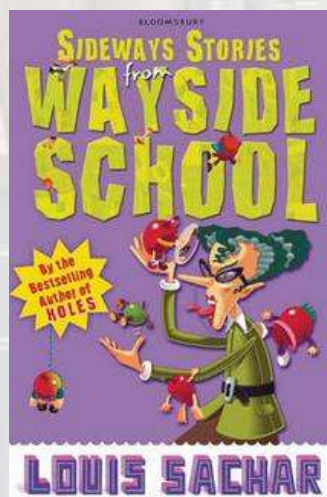
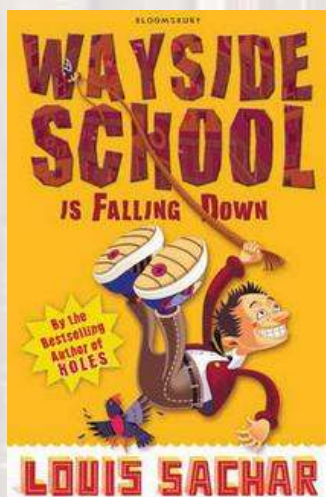
Mean Mrs Gorf taught the kids in the top floor classroom, until she disappeared – mysteriously. Mrs Jewls now has the challenge of teaching Room 30. The thirty short chapters in each book centre on the students. They're a creative bunch.

Todd gets into trouble every day. Paul can't resist Leslie's pigtailed and they save his life. Dana learns maths by counting her mosquito bites. Sammy turns out to be a dead rat. Terrence is a good athlete but a bad sport.

Mac interrupts Mrs Jewls with rambling stories that eventually make a point. For show and tell, Sharie brings a hobo she found on the way to school. Calvin's parents offer him a tattoo for his birthday. Miss Mush in the cafeteria dishes up meals that only the foolish dare eat.

There's a weird logic to the stories, even the one that has to be read backwards – it makes sense that way! A welcome reprint of the quirky Wayside School series of five books.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.**



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