

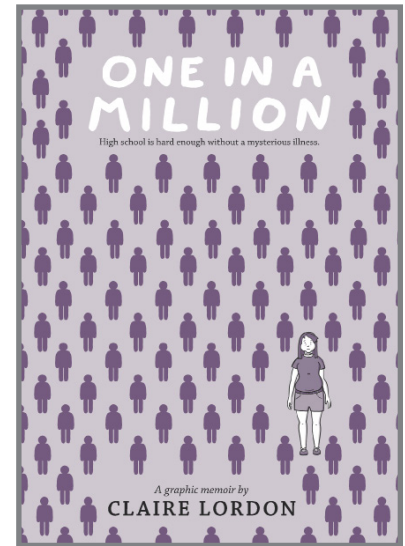
# One in a Million

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
**CLAIRE LORDON**

SCIS: 5463028

ISBN: 9781536213676

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Something is wrong with Claire, but she doesn't know what. Nobody does, not even her doctors. All she wants is to return to her happy and athletic teenage self. But her accumulating symptoms—chronic fatigue, pounding headaches, weight gain—hint that there's something not right inside Claire's body. Claire's high school experience becomes filled with MRIs, visits to the Mayo Clinic, and multiple surgeries to remove a brain tumor. But even in her most difficult moments battling chronic illness, Claire manages to find solace in her family, her closest friends and her art.

A deeply personal and visually arresting memoir that draws on the author's high school diaries and drawings, *One in a Million* is also a sophisticated portrayal of pain, depression and fear that any teen or adult can relate to. With a sensitive preface and an author's note connecting past to present, this true story of resilience strikes a moving balance between raw honesty in the face of medical and mental trauma and the everyday musings of a teenager.

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Claire Lordon is an author, illustrator and designer who creates children's books, comics, murals, maps and greeting cards. She is the author/illustrator of *Lorenzo*, *the Pizza-Loving Lobster*, the Taking a Walk series, and other picture books. *One in a Million* is her first graphic novel. Claire Lordon lives in Vancouver, Canada.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Discuss the role of the author and the publisher.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- From the cover, what information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

**WHILE READING**

- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell?
- In groups find examples of the language of opinion/feeling and factual reporting. What is the purpose of each type of language?

**Layout**

- Nonfiction can be presented in many different ways. How does the layout of this particular book affect the readability of this text? Consider the illustrations and headings.
- Design a page of nonfiction information. How will you keep your audience interested and engaged?

**Content**

- Think about the following sections in nonfiction books and see if you can locate any of these in *One in a Million* and explain their purpose. In what kind of other books might you find these sections?
  - Contents
  - Timeline
  - Index.
- What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?
- Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?
- Form small groups and pick your favourite topic from the book. Hold a discussion on the following:
  - What have you learnt?
  - What did you like most about how the authors presented the information?
  - How did the illustrations help your engagement with the topic?