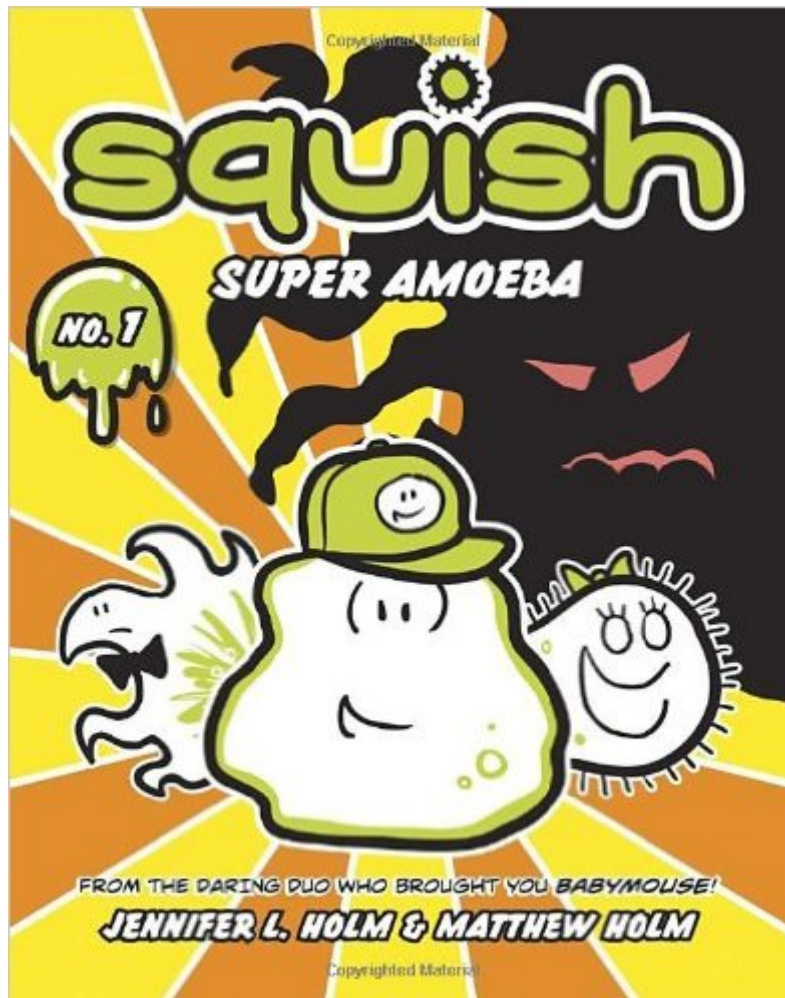


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# Squish #1: Super Amoeba



## Synopsis

Introducing SQUISHâ”a new graphic novel series about a comic book-loving, twinkie-eating grade school AMOEBA trying to find his place in the world (or at least trying to make it through a school day). Inspired by his favorite comic book hero, SUPER AMOEBA!, Squish has to navigate school (bullies! detention! Principal Planaria!), family (dad: Hates to wear a tie. Secretly listens to heavy metal in the car), and friends (Peggy-rainbows! happy all the time! and Pod . . . who's . . . well, you just have to meet him). Can Squish save the worldâ”and his friendsâ”from the forces of evil lurking in the hallways? Find out in Squish: Super Amoebaâ”saving the world, one cell at a time!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 230L (What's this?)

Series: Squish (Book 1)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (May 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375843892

ISBN-13: 978-0375843891

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ” See all reviewsÂ” (69 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,319 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 inÂ” Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Superheroes #53 inÂ” Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #1290 inÂ” Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

It's hard to find appropriate graphic novels for younger readers so at some point we've sampled all the series. Squish was a solid hit. Since both girls hate Babymouse #1: Queen of the World! I wasn't sure they'd enjoy Squish. Both of them have read it more than once and asked for the sequel. There is a small amount of science, enough to be accurate but not enough to feel like a lesson. It's got a good feel for the gross factor as well, enough for the occasional eww but enough to really bother anyone. The characters are simple to understand and follow. Squish is a good choice for kids 7 and

up, with only a few words needing a parental assist for the 7 year old.

Jennifer L. Holm, Squish, Super Amoeba, vol. 1 (Random House, 2011) Full disclosure: this book was provided to me free of charge by Vine. Cute science-oriented cartoon about Squish and his pals (various types of microorganisms) and the highjinks they get up to--all of which are, of course, based on the traits of the particular microorganism involved, as much as possible. This is an intro volume, of course, where we get to know the characters, but there's also a plot (school bully Lywood wants to eat Squish's friend Peggy, who's oblivious enough to let it happen). A fun read for middle-graders, especially those who will enjoy the automatic gross-out factor that comes from anthropomorphic microorganisms. I'll definitely be picking up the next volume in the series. \*\*\*\*

I ordered 'Squish #1: Super Amoeba' with the intention of reading it to my children. I made it halfway through one night, but was not able to read the following night. My kids couldn't wait, so my son read the final portion to his little sister, though she could have read it as well (he's 11 and she'll be 7 soon). I finished the book a few nights later. The story was simple yet engaging. All of the characters have well defined personalities and that they stick to throughout the book. Squish also has some educational tidbits that I appreciated. The illustrations are adequate and fit the subject matter - the way the early Simpsons and South Park aren't perfect, but still work. Most of the imagery is in black and white, with two shades of lime green as accents. Sister and brother team Jennifer and Matthew Holm are responsible for this new series. They are best known for their popular Babymouse books, the first of which I picked up because of Squish. Their young age shows in the writing/illustration, but they are clever and don't talk down to the reader. The story also delivers the moral of courage without being preachy. The one possible negative is that once my kids read Squish, they haven't picked it up since. My son and daughter will often read the same book 2 or 3 times in one week. My suggestion is to see how interesting they find it at a book store (or library) before purchasing a copy. ~ Kort

My nine-year-old boy-girl twins are big fans of Baby Mouse, the first graphic series by Jennifer and Matthew Holm. While reading the latest Baby Mouse, they encountered a section setting up the premise for "Squish." When the Squish book arrived, they devoured it. Squish is an amoeba who teams up with friends to save his paramecium friend Peggy from being eaten by the school bully (a large amoeba who was trying to "engulf" her). There was much giggling and recounting of funny parts, and both twins liked it very much. (When two nine-year-olds are racing to see who gets to

read a book first, I'd say that's high praise indeed.) They were also interested in the experiment at the end, which shows how to grow mold on a piece of bread. Getting kids to read + painlessly teaching them stuff about science = made of win. I hope we'll see plenty more Squish books in the future.

I have to give the Holm's credit. I would never have thought of an amoeba as a book character. Squish behaves like a kid and deals with things that kids deal with (a greater interest in comics than studying, bullying, etc.). The book was amusing enough, and the illustrations appealing, there just wasn't a whole lot of plot or character development. Squish's friends, Pod and Peggy, don't add a whole lot to the story except cluelessness. Pod is obsessed with solving the problem of global warming and taking Squish's lunch money for himself. Peggy is bright and perky and dumb. In the end, Squish isn't the one to take care of the bullying problem, and nothing really changes. However, for kids who want a light, fun, short read, this ought to work well. The things that bother me will most likely not even be noticed by most child readers.

Squish is an amoeba working his way through elementary school. He deals with friends, bullies, siblings, teachers, and parents. It is mostly harmless and light and throws in a very small amount of science references. There is little chance of kids learning any science from this book other than what an amoeba is. Squish is in comic book style, so there it is filled with pictures and short on words. My under-10 son isn't into this style, and I certainly don't plan on pushing him into it. I'd rather have him reading a book with pictures than looking at pictures with a few words thrown in. Overall, he enjoyed the book (in two sittings), but he has no interest in getting another Squish book or reading this one a second time.

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