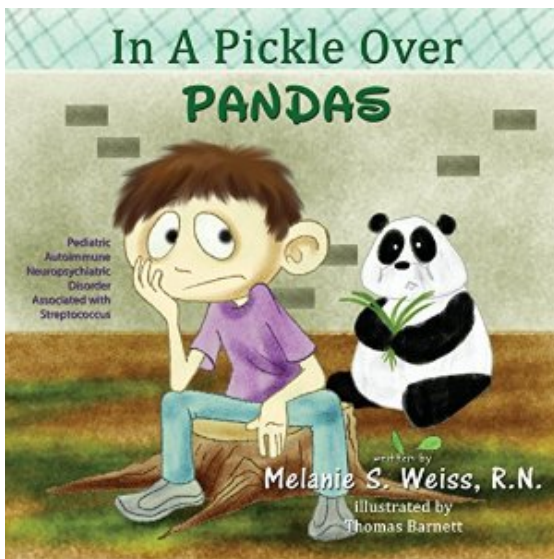




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** In A Pickle Over PANDAS  
**Author:** Melanie S. Weiss, R.N.  
**Genre:** Children - Educational



**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.  
**4**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books--those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.  
**4**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed

**5**

your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books--those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**Formatting:**

**5**

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**Marketability:**

**5**

Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**Overall  
Opinion:**

**5**

The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Ray Simmons for Readers' Favorite

In *A Pickle Over Pandas* is probably the most NECESSARY book I've reviewed this year and I've reviewed quite a few. I think it is a must-read for anyone with children. The PANDAS in this children's story is not describing our furry black and white friends from China, but a very frightening disease that I had never even heard of. Trust me, parents, when I say you want to read this book because the symptoms can easily be misdiagnosed and the longer that happens the more serious the effects on your child. Melanie S. Weiss is a Registered Nurse who wrote this book from the first person point of view of a child going through this illness so as to explain what's happening to children with the disease without frightening them. This is as noble a reason to write a book as any I have ever heard. I certainly learned a lot, and I want to repeat that every parent should read it because diagnosis is tricky, and this is one of the things you want to eliminate first from the list of what might be wrong with your child.

Melanie S. Weiss has written an elegant, simple and straight to the point book with appropriate pictures and vocabulary. There are a lot of needed explanations that are simple enough for children and their parents to understand. If you love children and if you have children, you can't lose by buying and reading *In A Pickle Over PANDAS* as part of the proceeds go toward PANDAS/PANS research. PANDAS is the acronym for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcus.