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# Starfish

## by Lisa Fipps



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

### What's It About?

Ellie is tired of being fat-shamed and does something about it in this poignant debut novel-in-verse. Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules--like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space--her swimming pool--where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.

### Who Wrote It?

Lisa Fipps is a graduate of Ball State University, award-winning former journalist, current director of marketing for a public library (where she won the Sara Laughlin marketing award), and an author of middle-grade books. *Starfish* is her debut novel. She's working on her next novel and several others. She used to live in Texas, but currently lives in Indiana. Lisa loves art and music and collects rocks. She hates bugs and hanging up clothes, but loves dogs, especially her dog, Gigi. You can



learn more about Lisa by visiting her website: [www.authorlisafipps.com](http://www.authorlisafipps.com) or by watching the interview at the end of this video.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK




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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.