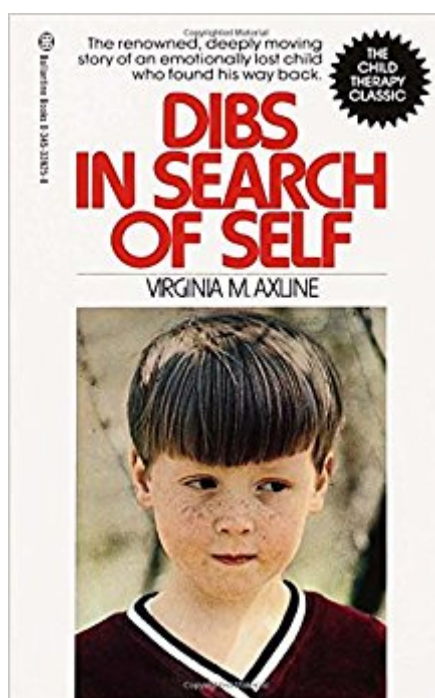


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# Dibs In Search Of Self: The Renowned, Deeply Moving Story Of An Emotionally Lost Child Who Found His Way Back



## Synopsis

The classic of child therapy. Dibs will not talk. He will not play. He has locked himself in a very special prison. And he is alone. This is the true story of how he learned to reach out for the sunshine, for life . . . how he came to the breathless discovery of himself that brought him back to the world of other children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a former teacher-turned-editor, who read DIBS many times before even coming to work here at Ballantine, I feel very connected to this book. The author is a leading authority on play therapy and the treatment of emotionally disturbed children. Dibs is one of these lost children. The story takes us through his long journey from being labeled as "mentally defective," to emerging as a gifted and lovable young man. Whether you're a teacher, a parent, a psychologist, or just someone who loves to actually feel what they're reading, DIBS is for you.--Laura Paczosa, Editorial Assistant

The classic of child therapy. Dibs will not talk. He will not play. He has locked himself in a very special prison. And he is alone. This is the true story of how he learned to reach out for the sunshine, for life . . . how he came to the breathless discovery of himself that brought him back to the world of other children.

In highschool I took a parenting and child development class where we had a little preschool and

taught kids. The other half of the class we learned about how kids learn and feel. This was a book that was read to us and I loved it. Years later when I saw it on I had to purchase it, even if I never get through the whole thing I wanted it. I think it is very well written and is a good teaching tool!

I first read this book more than 30 years ago, but we've moved so many times, that somewhere along the way, I lost my copy. Now that I am working with student teachers, I had to get a new copy. I had forgotten how great this book is. Why does mostly silent Dibs have such a compelling effect on his teachers? How can his parents truly consider him low in intelligence? As Dibs emerges in Axline's Play Therapy Room, I marvel at his strengths, I ache for his sufferings. So tentatively he reaches out to a world that has not allowed him to blossom: a few cautious steps here, a tactical retreat there. I grieve when he feels the need to retreat to the baby bottle. I exult when he paints and sings and reveals his brilliance to this therapist. I do not know that I agree completely with Axline's methods, but they certainly prove to be what little Dibs needs. Read and rejoice.

This book is rightfully a classic of its kind. I had read it before and lost my copy so was delighted to read it again with more knowledge of understanding severely distressed children. If Miss A, as Dibs calls her, had not taken on the case of this lonely, misunderstood, mistreated, highly intelligent little boy, you can only imagine what would have become of him. His parents believe he is mentally subnormal. His school is about to reject him. All he does all day is sit under desks, refusing to speak or participate in any way with the other children. This gradual unfolding of how to allow a small child to come to find himself in the playroom without any interrogation, with complete freedom to be himself and with minimal rules - "our time ends in five minutes Dibs" - is about it. No-one to say, you can't do that, even when he tips water all over the playroom floor or mixes the paints up into a glorious mess, or "you shouldn't want to bury your father," or even "why do you want to bury your father Dibs?" A beautiful written and observed book about a beautiful 5 year old boy.

I read this book in my youth, and now that I do work with children, I wanted to read it again, so I got it from . It was delivered promptly, in very good conditions. I was expecting a bigger book, so I found this one tiny, but it is ok. About the book, it is a very interesting case in Child Play Therapy, so if you are not looking for Play Therapy theory or philosophy, but actual cases, this is the best one!

This book was assigned reading for my play therapy class and gave excellent insight into the process and effectiveness of play therapy in the life of this little boy. I ended up reading it twice for

my assignment which I didn't mind because it is a quick and easy read. Dibs' story immediately grabs your heart and you are engaged in his journey to find himself again through play and the help of a caring therapist. The book was insightful into the process of play therapy, and it provided an excellent case example to use in parallel with our text. Virginia Axline's use of the skills in the session helped the textbook description make much more sense. I was also intrigued by the power of play in the lives of children and how much they use toys to express what is in their heart and mind when they either lack the vocabulary to express what they think and feel or when what they have experienced is too scary to them to talk about. For children, toys are often their words.

Great book, seller provided a great copy.

Great.

I do not have an autistic child, nor am I training to be a therapist. This book was recommended to me by my son who is going to school for a psychology degree and he said, you need to read this. I was almost immediately wrapped up with this charming child and his even better counselor. The dedication she had to her job was to be commended and Ms. Axline did a great job in her writing. Oh wait, was that her patient?? Well, either way it was a great read!! I'm sure he has gone on to do great things.

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