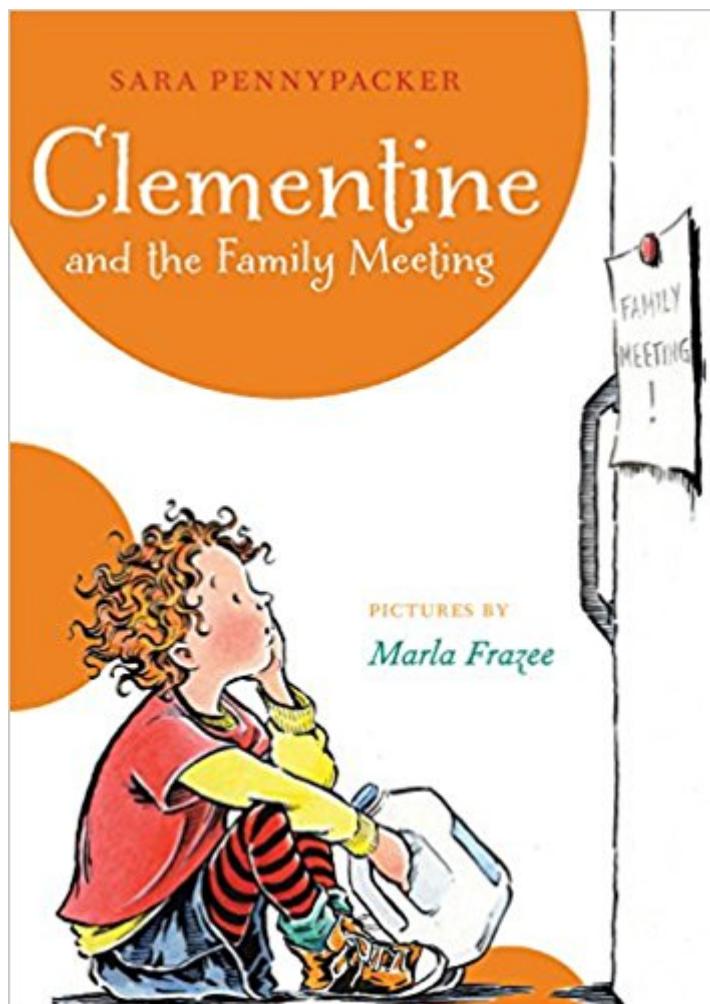


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# Clementine And The Family Meeting



## **Synopsis**

Clementine's having a nervous breakdown. The FAMILY MEETING! sign is up in her house, and she just knows she's in trouble for something. Has she been too mean to her little brother? Too sloppy? Eating too much junk food? Try as she might to find out what's on the agenda, her parents won't reveal anything before the meeting. As far as Clementine is concerned, the agenda should be something like: "We're getting a gorilla." But no, it's something entirely different. "We're talking about a new baby," says her father. "A brother or sister for you two. What do you think about that?" NO THANKS! is what Clementine thinks. After all, four is the perfect number for a family. There are four sides to a table, not five. Will Clementine learn to make room for one more? Readers will chuckle at Clementine's unique perspective on the age-old issue of sibling rivalry.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Series: Clementine

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Clementine has had many not-so-good days. But this one just might be the worst. She loses her favorite hat, her science project is ruined and the "family meeting!" sign is up on the refrigerator—that's never a good thing. Even though family meetings are supposed to be about family

issues, Clementine usually ends up getting in trouble. But this one is different. Clementine's dad announces that their family is going to grow. Are they getting a gorilla, like Clementine has always wanted?! No. It's a new baby. Clementine is N-O-T, not happy. They are a family of four. Four is a perfect number. In infallible Clementine reasoning: "Four can be two and two sometimes, and nobody is lonely. Two kids and two grown-ups. Two boys and two girls. There are four sides to the kitchen table, so we each get one." Five just doesn't work. Pennypacker tackles the oft-written new-baby theme from a refreshing, older perspective; jealousy is not the foremost emotion, it's vulnerability. Everything is changing too fast. Clementine and her dad have always had a unique bond, but in this venture, he especially shines. He picks up on unspoken feelings and knows just how to give the right amount of comfort. Filled with familiar Clementine charm but, more importantly, a whole lot of heart, too. Kirkus "Something is always up with third-grader Clementine. Here, it's her worries about a family meeting and the disappearance of the rat she and her friend Waylon are using in a science experiment. The mystery of the family meeting is solved early on—there's a new baby on the way. Unraveling her feelings about this event takes up most of the book. The whereabouts of the rat is also resolved, though in a way some readers might see coming. This entry in the popular, ongoing series is once again illustrated by Frazee's delightful pictures.

Booklist "Clementine knows that a family meeting means trouble, and when her mother won't give her an advance peek at the agenda, Clementine is really worried. Is she smiling enough? Being nice to her brother? Using her best manners? Nothing can prepare our heroine for the bombshell her parents launch: there will be a new baby in the house. Clementine's reaction is less than enthusiastic. "Our family is four. There are four sides to a puzzle so we can all work on it at once. Four is the perfect number for a family!" Clementine's friends are changing, too. Margaret has become a "makeup fiend," and Waylon, her science class buddy, is suddenly obsessed with his self-professed superpowers. Even Eighteen, the rat who was supposed to be the star of their science project, has run away. Clementine's father reassures her by admitting that he understands her ambivalence about the new baby. And when Clementine calls a family meeting of her own, readers will see how much she has matured in just a few years and can imagine what a great big sister she will make. Clementine is becoming a more complex character as she matures, and fans of this fine series will enjoy the nuanced way she has grown more trustworthy and mature while staying true to herself. Horn Book "Clementine's fifth adventure for early chapter-book readers addresses a topic many children can relate to. The third-grader's parents call a family meeting to announce that a new baby is on the way. Clementine's reaction to the news is realistic she says "No thanks!" She argues that four is the perfect number for a family, for reasons as varied as there are

four sides to a puzzle to the fact that hot dogs come in packages of eight, so a family of four can have two each. Her parents are a little surprised by her reaction but take the time to try to understand how she is feeling and demonstrate how special she is to them. Through some humorous conversations with her friends, grandparents, and teacher, Clementine changes her perspective on the situation. This is a solid entry in the series, and it will surely keep readers wanting more. SLJ" --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Sara Pennypacker ([www.sarapennypacker.com](http://www.sarapennypacker.com)) is the author of four previous Clementine books and Sparrow Girl, illustrated by Yoko Tanaka. She divides her time between Texas and Massachusetts.

One of the things that I enjoy most about the Clementine books is the fact that Clementine seems so real, just like the kids I work with every day. She has her strengths (very observant, kind heart, willing to work) and her weaknesses (fidgety, impulsive). She has good days and bad days just like every child does. She has problems at school (missing science project rat) and at home (adjusting to a baby on the way). But Clementine's family and friends are interesting characters as well and are more than just secondary characters. The writing is superb and very suitable for a third grader, I can here her voice in my head even when I am not reading the book. The illustrations by Caldecott Honor winning Marla Frazee provide the perfect compliment to the writing. Overall, a great addition to the series and I highly recommend the whole series.

Hands down the favorite book series for my 8 year old granddaughter!! Wish there was more!!

ITS OKAY.

my grandson loves it

Clementine and the Family Meeting is the latest title in the Clementine series of books. My first grader came to these books by way of the audio CDs. She loved listening to the stories so much she insisted we get the books. I love to encourage her to read and it is even better when she picks out the titles herself (with mom's final seal of approval of course). I think Clementine's major draw is how real her character is - she may be a third-grader but children as young as 6 will easily relate to her precocious nature, her larger than life personality, as well as her quirks. In this latest installment,

Clementine is excited about the family meeting and a little nervous. Is she in trouble, again? Well, it turns out the meeting is about a potential addition to the family! Is Clementine ready for this, and will she be able to rise above her own selfish thoughts? The Clementine series has many positive lessons for young children and is perhaps most suited for ages 6-9.

Love this book it was delivered exactly when it was supposed to and on time.

Like the other Clementine stories, this one is funny and poignant and wonderful and a treasure to revisit many times.

My kid loves this book. It is funny and makes kids think.

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