



## A Begonia for Miss Applebaum

*By Paul Zindel*

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Henry and Zelda are stunned to discover that their favorite teacher, Miss Applebaum, won't be back at school teaching science. In fact, Miss Applebaum hasn't very long to live. When Henry and Zelda become the Saturday companions of their, beloved teacher, her exuberance for learning, having fun, and helping the homeless is contagious.

Their visits to Central Park, museums, and other places around New York City open an exciting new world to Zelda and Henry. But Miss Applebaum can't escape the inevitable. Will Henry and Zelda be able to carry out her last wish?

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## **A Begonia for Miss Applebaum** By Paul Zindel Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Zindel's novel is a paean to teachers (the extraordinary ones) and to Manhattan. Its protagonists, Zelda and Henry, each have a rich store of enthusiasms and views, but most of these diverge. For instance, "Zelda is worried about the regular death that happens when you grow too old," according to Henry, while Henry himself looks out for falling objects, such as air conditioners. Yet they're united in tracing their favorite high school teacher, the exuberant Miss Applebaum, to her apartment. This generous woman is dying of cancer and happy to share her remaining, sometimes madcap, weeks with them, racing through museums and Central Park. While much of Miss Applebaum's charm must be taken on faith--she never seems quite real--readers will accept that ordinary experience grows larger for Henry and Zelda when they are with her. Her inspirational effect on these two bright and somewhat isolated characters is touching. A Charlotte Zolotow Book. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7-12-- Zindel skillfully weaves humor and suspense into his message that caring often means taking risks. In a dual-narrator format, high-school friends Henry and Zelda become Saturday companions to their beloved retired science teacher, Miss Applebaum. Despite her losing battle with cancer, Miss Applebaum exudes a contagious zest for learning, life, fun, and helping the homeless in New York City's Central Park. After encounters with Miss Applebaum's eccentric doctor and hostile niece, Henry and Zelda assume the role of protectors, attempting to get her better treatment and eventually carrying out her last request to be buried in Central Park. (This scene may be totally unbelievable to many readers.) By example, Miss Applebaum teaches Henry and Zelda that beauty and mystery are everywhere and that everyone has a responsibility to treasure and preserve the world around them. Henry and Zelda are a balanced pair of likable, forthright characters: Henry is impulsive and direct, while Zelda is cautious and emotional. The two are believably absorbed by their close encounter with dying and death. A thought-provoking, well-paced, fresh addition to the Zindel collection. --Gerry Larson, Chewing Junior High School, Durham, N.C.

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From the Publisher

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### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Myron Abbott:**

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this A Begonia for Miss Applebaum.

**Chad Jones:**

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**Joann Huertas:**

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**Edna Spalding:**

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