“Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You” is a novel by Barthe DeClements. It tells the story of Helen, a sixth-grader who is struggling with reading. The book was published in 1985 and has been challenged for its content, specifically the use of the term "retard". DeClements, the author, has responded to the challenges by stating that she uses the term as a way to address the reality of the situation and to highlight the problem. The book has been used in schools and libraries, and has been praised for its ability to address the issue of learning disabilities and the challenges faced by students with these disabilities. The book has been translated into several languages and has been made into a graphic novel. It has received positive reviews and has been nominated for several literary awards.