

## Valentine's Day Reading List



### ANANSI AND THE SKY KINGDOM

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Bobby Norfolk Sherry Norfolk  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Baird Hoffmire

DESCRIPTION

In this story from West Africa, Anansi the spider uses his wits, his trickster skills, and the help of his friends to bring light to the world.

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 570L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-81-7 / **HARDCOVER:**

### ANANSI AND TURTLE GO TO DINNER

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Bobby Norfolk Sherry Norfolk  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Baird Hoffmire

DESCRIPTION

In this trickster tale from Africa, Anansi learns the value of being a good host. He also learns the truth of the old saying, "what goes around, comes around."

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** J / **LEXILE:** 520L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-56-5 / **HARDCOVER:**

### BAKER'S DOZEN

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Gaber

**DESCRIPTION** The baker, Van Amsterdam, becomes known in Colonial America for baking his St. Nicholas cookies but his greed drives him to become stingy in his business. When an old woman buys a dozen cookies from him and expects to receive 13, he withholds the last one. Unfortunately, his business goes downhill until the day she returns for 12 more cookies. But this time, he gives her an extra measure, and the custom of offering a "baker's dozen" or 13 items spreads throughout the colonies.

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**READING LEVEL** **INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** P / **LEXILE:** 850L

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**ISBNs** **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-70-6 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## BEAR'S ALL NIGHT PARTY

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Bill Harley  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Melissa Ferreira

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**DESCRIPTION** Have you ever wanted to play when no one else did? On the night of the full moon, Bear wants to celebrate, but none of his friends agree. That doesn't stop Bear.

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**READING LEVEL** **INTEREST:** 2nd-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** L / **LEXILE:**

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**ISBNs** **PAPERBACK:** / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-72-4

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## BIG QUIET HOUSE

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Greenstein

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**DESCRIPTION** This story opens with "There once was a man whose house was very small," and it continues, "It was cluttered with things from wall to wall." With a tiny, cluttered house, giggling children, and a snoring wife, the poor man can't get a good night's sleep. If only, he thinks, I had a big quiet house! He throws off his covers and goes to visit the wise old woman at the edge of the village. Surely she can help him solve his problem. And she does, but not without giving him some very unusual advice. "Bring a chicken into your house," she suggests. And when that doesn't work, she has him

add a goat, a horse, a cow, and even a sheep. The ending of the story proves, as so many ancient folktales do, that quite often, nonsense makes the best sense of all. Susan Greenstein's bold illustrations—white pencil on black surface with watercolor - carry the reader through the warm interiors and peaceful nights of the shtetls of Eastern Europe.

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READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** J / **LEXILE:** 610L

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ISBNS      **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-04-2 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874834-62-8

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## CLEVEREST THIEF

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**      **AUTHOR:** Padma Venkatraman  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Baird Hoffmire

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**DESCRIPTION**      When the head of a Buddhist monastery decides to pick a successor, he sends the young monks out to accomplish one task. The monks must each steal something, but they must steal in such a way that no one knows they have stolen.

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READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** L / **LEXILE:** 740L

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ISBNS      **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-82-4 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## CONEJITO: A FOLKTALE FROM PANAMA

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**      **AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Geraldo Valerio

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**DESCRIPTION**      In this action packed folktale from Panama, a clever little rabbit and his Tía Mónica find ways to outwit a fox, a tiger, and a lion, all of whom want to eat him for lunch.

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READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** M / **LEXILE:** 460L

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ISBNS      **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-96-6 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-79-7

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## CONTEST BETWEEN THE SUN AND THE WIND: AN AESOP'S FABLE

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Gaber

DESCRIPTION

Based on a fable from Aesop, the Sun and the Wind test their strength by seeing which of them can cause a man to remove his coat, demonstrating the value of using gentle persuasion rather than brute force as a means of achieving a goal.

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 460L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-66-9 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874838-32-9

## THE DRUM: A FOLKTALE FROM INDIA

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Rob Cleveland  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Tom Wrenn

DESCRIPTION

In this story from India, a poor boy's dream of having a drum takes him on an unlikely journey of discovery. He meets several people who guide him along the way. In time, he learns to make his own "magic" in this world.

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 660L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-02-2 / **HARDCOVER:**

## GO TO SLEEP, GECKO!: A BALINESE FOLKTALE

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Geraldo Valerio



**DESCRIPTION**

Gecko may be small, but he has a giant-sized problem. Every night he is awakened by the fireflies outside his window, and when Gecko doesn't get his rest, he gets a little grumpy. So he goes to Elephant, the head of the village, to complain. His request that the fireflies stop working at night sets off a comical chain of problems for everyone in the village and complicates everyone's life. Through this cumulative tale from the Balinese tradition, Gecko learns that his well-being depends on that of the entire village, and he finally goes to sleep, a little wiser.

**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Pre-K-3rd / **LEXILE:** 430L

**ISBNS**

**PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-92-8 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-80-3

## GREAT SMELLY, SLOBBERY, SMALL-TOOTH DOG: A FOLKTALE FROM GREAT BRITAIN

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Julie Paschkis

**DESCRIPTION**

When a rich man is rescued from thieves by a smelly, slobbery dog, the man offers the dog any treasure is his house as a reward. The treasure that the dog chooses is the rich man's daughter. With great sadness, the daughter honors her father's promise and goes to live with the dog. Over time, a friendship grows between the girl and the dog, but she still misses her father. In this tale from Great Britain, award winning author Margaret Read MacDonald puts a new spin on the classic story "Beauty and the Beast," reminding us all that appearances can be deceiving and that compassion can be powerful.

**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** L / **LEXILE:** 510L

**ISBNS**

**PAPERBACK:** / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874838-08-4

## GROWING GOLD

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Padma Venkatraman

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Tom Wrenn

**DESCRIPTION** In this story from India, a farmer’s three lazy sons don’t want to work, they just want to make a lot of gold. When their mother tells them about gold buried in the field, they discover the value of a good day’s work.

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**READING LEVEL** **INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** K / **LEXILE:** 690L

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**ISBNs** **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-60-2 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## LITTLE RED HEN: AN OLD FABLE

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Gaber

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**DESCRIPTION** A little red hen lived in a house with a frisky dog, a cat, and a mouse. So begins this fresh look at a beloved old fable. The Little Red Hen’s frisky housemates—Dog, Cat, and Mouse—would rather play than settle down to daily chores such as planting, cutting, and grinding wheat. But when the wheat is used to make a delicious cake, the little creatures are more than happy to help eat it! Heather Forest’s rhythmic retelling captures the chaos of daily living and celebrates the spirit of teamwork inherent in the tale. Susan Gaber’s whimsical illustrations transport the reader to a cozy cottage where the little Red Hen helps others learn how to help her even if it is more effort than doing the work herself.

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**READING LEVEL** **INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 510L

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**ISBNs** **PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-97-3 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-95-7

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## PRICELESS GIFTS: A TALE FROM ITALY

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR** **AUTHOR:** Martha Hamilton Mitch Weiss  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** John Kanzler

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**DESCRIPTION** A humorous retelling of an Italian tale in which a Genoese merchant, richly rewarded for solving an irritating problem for the king of the Spice Islands, causes a greedy rival to try and gain a fortune in the same way.

READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** M / **LEXILE:** 750L

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ISBN      **PAPERBACK:** / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-88-9

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## ROOSTER'S NIGHT OUT

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**      **AUTHOR:** Martha Hamilton Mitch Weiss  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Baird Hoffmire

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**DESCRIPTION**      In this chain story from Cuba, Rooster learns that he needs a lot of help from his friends to get cleaned up in time for Heron's party. Then the real fun begins.

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READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** H / **LEXILE:** 740L

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ISBN      **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-26-8 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## STOLEN SMELL

**AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR**      **AUTHOR:** Martha Hamilton Mitch Weiss  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Tom Wrenn

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**DESCRIPTION**      In this story from Peru, we meet a baker who is so stingy that he wants to charge people just for smelling his baked goods. When the baker takes his case to court, the wise judge decides to teach the greedy man a well-deserved lesson.

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READING LEVEL      **INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** K / **LEXILE:** 720L

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ISBN      **PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874838-38-1 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## STONE SOUP

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Gaber

**DESCRIPTION**

Two hungry travelers arrive at a village expecting to find a household that will share a bit of food, as has been the custom along their journey. To their surprise, villager after villager refuses to share, each one closing the door with a bang. As they sit to rest beside a well, one of the travelers observes that if the townspeople have no food to share, they must be "in greater need than we are." With that, the travelers demonstrate their special recipe for a magical soup, using a stone as a starter. All they need is a carrot, which a young girl volunteers. Not to be outdone, another villager contributes a potato, and the soup grows as others bring corn, celery, and other vegetables and seasonings. In this cumulative retelling of an ancient and widely circulated legend, author Heather Forest shows us that when each person makes a small contribution, "the collective impact can be huge." Susan Gaber's paintings portray the optimism and timelessness of a story that celebrates teamwork and generosity

**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** K / **LEXILE:** 310L

**ISBNs**

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874836-02-8 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874834-98-7

## SURF WAR !: A FOLKTALE FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Margaret Read MacDonald  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Geraldo Valerio

**DESCRIPTION**

Sandpiper finds her daily stroll on the beach interrupted by Whale, who boasts that he is ruler of the sea. Sandpiper responds with equal bravado, asserting her rights to the sand and seawater. Soon the rivals are calling in their cousins, and the beach and sea are filled with shorebirds and sea mammals of every stripe. The standoff grows ominous as Whale leads his cousins in an assault on the beach, eating the sand from under the birds. Sandpiper retaliates by ordering her cousins to drink up the ocean. Soon the landscape is filled with fish, crabs, and sea creatures gasping for survival. How will this end? The outcome of this timely yet timeless nature tale suggests that we are all connected in the ecological chain.

**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** I / **LEXILE:** 310L

**ISBNs**

**PAPERBACK:** / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874838-89-3

## SWEET LAND OF STORY

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Pleasant DeSpain  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Don Bell

DESCRIPTION

This unique collection of American stories from the frozen tundra of Alaska to the lush green hills of Virginia; from the sweltering bayous of Louisiana to the windswept prairies of South Dakota is told in DeSpain's signature gentle style. Every reader will find something of interest; the stories range from practical tales of wisdom such as "Pulling the Rope" to silly and scary ones such as "The Haint that Roared" and "The Big, Smelly, Hairy Toe." The stories represent not only the geographic diversity of the United States but also offer a portrait of our nation's character, values, beliefs, and customs that differ from region to region yet retain a fundamental sense of shared community.

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** 2nd-5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** O / **LEXILE:** 690L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-8748-3600-4 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874835-69-4

## UGLIFIED DUCKY

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR

**AUTHOR:** Willy Clafin  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** James Stimson

DESCRIPTION

You may think you know the classic story of the Ugly Duckling, but think again. In the capable hands of his alter ego Maynard Moose, renowned storyteller Willy Clafin takes us on a wacky journey where this Uglified Ducky, a hapless young moose, "blunders away" from his home, is mistaken for a baby duck, and endures endless humiliation as he tries to learn to waddle, quack, swim, and fly. Eventually, he finds his true "fambly," who helps him discover his own beauty. In his fractured "Moose" English, translated in the glossary at front, Maynard relays a surprisingly tender story that echoes the original tale's theme of the struggle to belong and discover your true self. The Uglified Ducky's quest is playfully but sympathetically interpreted in James Stimson's luminous, droll gouache illustrations.

READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** 2nd-5th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** S / **LEXILE:** 830L

ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874839-53-1 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874838-58-9

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## WHEN TURTLE GREW FEATHERS: A TALE FROM THE CHOCTAW NATION

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Tim Tingle  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Stacey Schuett

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**DESCRIPTION**

In this Choctaw variant of Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare," master storyteller Tim Tingle reveals some unexpected twists and expands the cast to include a wild turkey, a colony of ants, and a cheering squad of Little Bitty Turtles as well. When Rabbit boastfully challenges Turtle to a race, Rabbit gets his comeuppance and Turtle gets a little assist from his winged friend, Turkey. In the process, we learn why Turtle's shell is cracked and why you never see Rabbit racing Turtle today. The bold and vibrant illustrations capture not only the grasslands of the High Plains but also the demeanor of its animal inhabitants and the humor of the tale.

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**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** M / **LEXILE:** 590L

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**ISBNs**

**PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-21-8 / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-77-3

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## WHITE WOLF WOMAN

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Teresa Pijoan  
**ILLUSTRATOR:**

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**DESCRIPTION**

With the aid of more than 40 myths from the oral traditions of 30 native American tribes, ranging from the Eskimos to the Indians of Guiana, Pijoan invites readers to take a close look at the common spirit that binds together all forms of life. The native American heroes and heroines in these myths, imbued with the strength of this common spirit, possess the power to transform themselves into snakes, birds, bears, wolves, and occasionally, as in the Sikyatki tale "Water Jar Boy," into everyday objects.

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**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** 6th-9th / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** Y / **LEXILE:**

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ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-0-874832-00-6 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## WOMAN WHO FLUMMOXED THE FAIRIES

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Heather Forest  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Susan Gaber

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**DESCRIPTION**

According to this Scottish folktale, long ago, sweet-toothed fairies flew into people's homes and feasted on leftover cake crumbs. But the King of the Fairies was annoyed that crumbs never remained from the very best cakes baked by the talented baker woman, so he orders the fairies to capture her and bring her down to the Fairy Kingdom. The resourceful woman requests items from her kitchen at home, where her bewildered husband looks on as utensils and ingredients float out of the window, borne by invisible fairies. Eventually she strikes a clever bargain with the impatient Fairy King to win her freedom and return home in return for sharing her tasty cakes.

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**READING LEVEL**

**INTEREST:** K-3rd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** O / **LEXILE:** 850L

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ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** 978-1-939160-71-3 / **HARDCOVER:**

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## ZIGZAG

**AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR**

**AUTHOR:** Robert San Souci  
**ILLUSTRATOR:** Stefan Czernecki

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**DESCRIPTION**

When the doll maker creates Zigzag from clothing scraps, she promises that "some child will love you." Her promise gives the strange-looking doll hope. But the other dolls and stuffed animals in the shop don't want such an ugly toy hanging around, so they force Zigzag to leave. Clinging to the promise that a child will someday love him, little Zigzag sets out on a journey in search of happiness and a new home. Young readers will be intrigued by this heart-warming story of perseverance and compassion. Children love to explore the simple bold illustrations that make the story look like it was quilted from scraps.

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READING LEVEL

**INTEREST:** Pre-K-2nd / **FOUNTAS & PINNELL:** H / **LEXILE:** 610L

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ISBNs

**PAPERBACK:** / **HARDCOVER:** 978-0-874837-64-3

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