



The Lonely Scarecrow

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A lonely scarecrow with a scary face has trouble making friends with the animals who surround him, until a heavy snowfall transforms him into a jolly snowman.

The Lonely Scarecrow Details

Date : Published September 1st 1999 by Dutton Juvenile (first published April 1st 1999)

ISBN : 9780525460800

Author : Tim Preston , Maggie Kneen (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Fantasy, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Lonely Scarecrow for online ebook

Melanie says

A lonely scarecrow stands alone in a wheat field with a scary face but a friendly heart. None of the animals of the land will come near him because he looks so fearsome. The scarecrow watches the seasons change peacefully until winter comes around and he is suddenly covered in snow. The scarecrow doesn't look nearly so scary while covered in snow. The animals begin to gather around him. Birds perch on him. When the snow melted away the animals were surprised that the friendly snowman was also the fearsome scarecrow. But they'd already made friends.

Melanie Patrick says

Mentor text about friendship. The physical doesn't matter. It's the inside that counts.

Erin says

This is a silly book. The whole point of a scarecrow is to scare away animals from a field. Telling young ones that scarecrows really want animals to be near them and become their friends just confuses things.

The pages have texture to them which makes the book more fun for babies who are more into tactile books. Other than that, I'd skip it instead of reading it again.

Lesley Dahlseng says

A golden wheat field spans across the opening page of this book, and in the middle stands a scarecrow with "a scary face but a kindly heart." The illustrations are already enough to draw the reader immediately in, and after hearing of this scarecrow's predicament, one's heart can't help but root for him. He is a lonely scarecrow. He wants the animals and birds to be his friends, but his very design is intended to scare them away.

Maggie Kneen's illustrations carry the reader through sweet scenes of animal playtime in which the scarecrow longs to join. Each page is displayed with much creative variety, shifting between main images bordered by beautiful fall leaves, flowers and berries, to amazing full-page spreads, as well as floating images that offer close-up glimpses of the smaller details in nature's beauty. Overall, a fantastic design!

Fall's beauty gives way to winter's, and scarecrow finds himself covered in a blanket of snow. Instead of a scarecrow, the animals see only a jolly snowman. The scarecrow could not be happier to finally have friends, though he fears the day when the snow will no longer disguise his scary appearance . . . Will his newfound friends run away from him again?

Tim Preston's animals learn a lesson of which we all need reminding: outward appearance is not always

reflective of the heart. Though this character's face appeared scary at first, his kindly heart won out. The true harvest in this story is one of friendship.

Recommended for three to seven year olds!

Kristine Montgomery says

The winter snow transforms a scarecrow into a friendly-looking snowman who does not scare his friends any longer. The book describes how the scarecrow feels when he loses hope with ever making any friends because of how they feel when they see his outward appearance, but when winter comes and the snow starts to build up on him making him appear to look like a snowman, they see that he is no longer scary. The artwork is wonderful with texturized images that captures children's attention and senses. This is a good book to read to teach that there is good in everyone, despite how they appear on the outside. I would like to read this book in the classroom and have a discussion in a think/pair/share activity where the students can think of a time when they felt lonely and what it means to them to have a friend and be a friend to others.

This is a good book for younger children and lower elementary students from the ages of about 3-7 years old because it is a time when they are developing friendships and are understanding what being a friend means. They are also learning about respect for others and how to treat others fairly.

Elaine says

The Lonely Scarecrow

By Tim Preston

Illustrated by Maggie Kneen

This is a beautiful book with embossed pages for children to feel. It is the story of a lonely scarecrow stuck in a field. He wants to be friends with the animals, but they are frightened of him. He watches them play at a distance as the seasons change. Then everything changes when it snows and the scarecrow is transformed into a snowman. The animals are no longer afraid of the scarecrow, who is happy at last, but what will happen when the snow melts? This is a wonderful story that pulls at the heart strings. It is a book to share and treasure.

Jaimee says

A lonely scarecrow only wants some friends but he scares all the animals away. When there is a big snow he turns into a snow man and the animals are not so afraid anymore. The illustrations well done and the book I read had pages that were imprinted so that you could feel flower designs on the them. Great for young children who like to grab and turn pages.

Kathryn says

Sweet story about a "scary" scarecrow who is really sweet and loving at heart and how the animals come to discover that. Cute pictures (I love Maggie Kneen's animals!) and decently written. Definitely a "message" in this one. Scarecrow is up year-round so this isn't just an autumn read.

Thabata says

“The Lonely Scarecrow” is a tender story about feeling alone, longing for friends, company and happiness. Its illustrations are delicate and very, very beautiful. In the middle of a field stood a lonely Scarecrow. Because of his appearance the animals would not come near him. When winter approached and all of the creatures sought refuge in their homes, the Scarecrow thought he would feel even lonelier, for now he would not have anybody, not even to look at in the distance. But winter came and the snow formed a blanket on him, transforming his appearance altogether! Now he was a jolly snowman, one that creatures liked and played around. He was finally bright and happy. With his snowy coat he was not alone anymore. But then the snow melted and the animals regarded him. Although he was afraid to be alone again, they understood that the way he looked didn’t matter. He was now seen as friendly and dear to them all the same.

Meg McGregor says

A scarecrow wants the animals and birds of the fields to play with him and be his friend but they are scared by his outward appearance.

When a snowfall comes and covers him completely, he looks like a jolly snowman and the animals and birds do not fear him.

A good message for little ones to learn and that is you need to look deep down to see the good in everyone.

Debbie says

The scarecrow out in the middle of the field does his job well, maybe too well. As the scarecrow watches, all the animals play around him but none will come to him, he is a scarecrow. After a huge snow storm, the animals believe there is a wonderful happy snowman in the middle of the field and start to play with and around the snowman, come spring, the snow melts to reveal the scarecrow once again. The scarecrow was afraid that all of his new friends would once again be scared and run away from him, to his happy surprise, they did not leave and so the scarecrow was no longer so lonely.

Very cute, great for a out loud read, all of the wonderful pictures and the descriptive sentences. The kids enjoyed the scarecrow being covered with snow, artist did a great job making him look happy in the snow. Moral of don't judge by someone’s outsides easily comes through in this short story. Easy for small kids to follow, this is a short story that is fun to read over and over again.

Heather says

While reading this, hearing that the scarecrow is out in the field through all the seasons, I wonder why he's left out like that. It seems that they'd only be out in the fall, but I'm not a farmer, and have never had a scarecrow out to keep birds away, so maybe they leave them out all year?

By the illustrations it's hard to see what the scarecrow is made of, and why he has a metal mouth. His hands look like a humans would inside a glove, entirely too real looking. Not like a scarecrow would look. Instead of having a cloth face, his face looks like a cantaloupe. Also, he has a metal mouth that the animals are scared of, and I've never known a scarecrow to have a metal mouth before. That needed some explaining, because why is his mouth made of metal? Here again, it was too life-like. His mouth was actually open, a gaping black hole, and he had pointing white teeth that looked like shark teeth.

In the spring he watches the animals play at the edge of the field, listens to ducks and watches the birds make nests.

When the wheat in the field grows tall, the scarecrow becomes almost covered, and he can't see the animals anymore, or here the lark's song.

When the combine comes to mow down the wheat, the animals hide from it, and the scarecrow stood alone in the field.

Fall comes and the leaves fall from the tree. The breeze turns cold and the animals run to their burrows and nests. The scarecrow felt even more lonely, because he knew winter was coming. My heart went out to him then. You can feel how lonely he is and how much he just wants friends.

Snow starts to fall on the still woods and silent fields. The animals wake up to find the world had changed overnight. A thick blanket of snow covered everything, and in the scarecrows place was a jolly snowman. It's a bit of a stretch for the snow to cover the scarecrow, and turn his scary face into a jolly one. There's no way his metal mouth would suddenly turn into a smile. Or that the animals wouldn't recognize his coat, beady eyes, or nose. But I guess readers are supposed to go along with it for the sake of the story.

The creatures happily play around the scarecrow, and the scarecrow is cheerful and bright. However, he worried how the animals would react when the snow melted and discovered that the snowman was really the scarecrow.

The way it's written, the melting process seems to take place in a matter of seconds. As the animals are on him, seemingly from the same scene before when they played on him in the snow, the snow suddenly melts off of him, and the animals are shocked to see it's really the scarecrow. A bird pecks his hat and a mouse crawls in his coat, and the scarecrow knows he'll never be lonely again.

I was hoping those weren't the last words of the book, but they were. The ending felt too sudden. There wasn't enough of a lesson or a heart-touching moment at the end. How does the scarecrow know, just by the animals being around him, that he's never gonna be alone? I felt like there could have been more of a lesson on the animals' part, and more of a realization of them about the scarecrow actually not being scary, and not judging appearances or something. It ended right when there could have been a good lesson, and the ending wasn't conclusive enough. It could have went on to say how they were all friends after that through all the coming seasons, just to have a more definitive ending.

The illustrations were a little old-fashioned. However, I liked the texture in the drawings, particularly the tracks the animals left in the snow, and the flowers. I thought the illustrations of the field with the flowers in them, with the blue sky and puffy clouds, were the prettiest. The fields reminded me of the poppy field in The Wizard of Oz.

The pages where the scarecrow is covered by wheat are cute.

This isn't the traditional scarecrow, with overalls and a flannel shirt, with a cute face. I much prefer the traditional kind. This one was dressed in cast-off clothing, and the tattered coat, hat, and metal mouth made him look creepy. Which I guess is why the animals were scared of him, and was the whole point to the story, but I prefer cuter scarecrows.

I didn't like how some pages had a white background and only a small scene illustrated on the page. I like for the whole page to be covered. The promise of the beautiful illustrations from the book jacket did not live up to how they actually were in the book. I went in expecting incredible artwork, and that wasn't the case.

Katy says

Who is this for? Cool, textured pages would lead one to think younger, but the content and word choice are definitely a bit older than that.

Matt Garcia says

Pretty good story and illustrations were well done.

Andrea says

This was an okay read, not great but not bad. It's kind of about a misunderstood character, one whose outside doesn't match his inside. He looks scary but he's actually nice. It's a nice message to give someone a chance.

I love scarecrows and I find it interesting to be in the scarecrow's POV, to learn his side of the story and to hear that he doesn't really like his job because he doesn't want to scare people. After all, The Wizard of Oz was the first one to introduce us to the scarecrow's side of things. "It's very tedious being stuck up here all day long with a pole up your back." I love scarecrows!

The illustrations really dated the book and they're an old style. It just made me feel like I was reading an old book and the colors were all the same so they weren't very engaging. They are raised off the page and are nice to feel, so that gives it an interactive element.

The scarecrow was a bit scary because he had a "jagged metal mouth." It looked like little razor blades had been put into his mouth. I didn't know what kind of scarecrow this was, but I've never heard of anyone putting metal blades into a scarecrow's mouth. Some kids might find that scary.

I also noticed that the author used big words that don't belong in a children's book. I'm always amazed when I see these very adult, big words in picture books for young children, when there are easier, more child-friendly synonyms that could have been used.

"Marooned in his golden sea."

It mentioned a combine monster, and Idk how many kids would know what a combine is, unless they're in farming families.

"and the ravaged acres of mud"

The animals avoided the scarecrow all season long until it snowed, which covered him up and made him look like a snowman. Only then would the animals even approach him and crawl over him. He looked really sweet all covered in snow, smiling, with the animals enjoying him. At times he looked so sad, his mouth curved down as he watched the animals playing away from him. He was a character we could get behind.

Once the snow melted he looked horrified with his mouth gaping open, thinking the animals would be afraid to see that they'd been climbing on him. But the animals stayed on him, couldn't believe the snowman they'd had so much fun on was the scarecrow they'd been so afraid of. They all stayed on him, and he knew he wouldn't be lonely again. A sweet notion that he had finally made friends that he would keep.

I just wish the illustrations had been different, cuter, with more colors and newer-looking. It also had more text than I expected so it took a little longer to read through.
