



The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-to-be

Mini Grey

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When it comes to sorting out a Real Princess from a Fake Princess, the famous pea-under-the-mattress test is tried-and-true. But for those of you who may have wondered how anyone could feel a tiny garden-variety pea under the weight of twenty mattresses, this book will put that question to rest once and for all.

This witty spoof was shortlisted for the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal in the UK. It was Mini Grey's first book and a worthy predecessor to such favorites as *Traction Man is Here!*

The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-to-be Details

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Author : Mini Grey

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From Reader Review The Very Smart Pea and the Princess-to-be for online ebook

Regina says

The story of the Princess and the Pea, as told by the Pea, who was destined for important things. I love the illustrations in which the characters have peas for eyes, and the home decor features peas and other vegetables. It's a great spoof, with many possibilities for the classroom. I'd like to use it to reinforce adjectives--the princess wannabes are all too loud, quiet, funny, grumpy, sleepy, scruffy, tidy, pink, scary, etc. The pea comes to the rescue for the prince, helping him land the girl who is just right for him. I'm going to include this book in fairy-tale units for comparison with the classic tale.

Bonus Note--Mini Grey was named Mini because she was born in a Mini Cooper automobile in a parking lot in Wales.

Cheryl says

I love the setting, very homely. And of course the princess eventually chosen by the pea turns out to be perfect for the prince... and though we're not sure of the queen's reaction, she did honor her vow.

Lisa Vegan says

I've been reading various accounts of The Princess and the Pea and found this very unique one. It's told from the point of view of the pea!

The illustrations are really great: They're full of intricate and entertaining details. I especially loved the picture of the princess who takes her teddy bear to bed with her.

Anyway, it's fun to see how the princess is finally chosen in this very funny story. I will say that the pea has a lot to do with it. This might be one of my favorite twisted fairy tales in picture book form.

Louise says

Another funny story by Mini Grey, another side to the classic story of the princess and the pea.. lovely illustration inside, I can't wait to read this with a class of children!

Chrissi Guarnieri says

This version of the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale, the Princess and the Pea, is written from the Pea's

perspective. The pea is selected by the palace gardener to be placed at the bottom of twenty mattresses and feather beds and to test the legitimacy of each princess that wants to marry the prince. The pea witnesses countless princesses rejected by the Queen and the Prince simply because they were too polite to admit they had slept horribly. One stormy night, a drenched woman (the gardener) knocked on the palace door, and the Queen allowed her to sleep atop the stack of mattresses. Though out the night the pea whispered in her ear about the "large round uncomfortable thing" that made her sleep horribly. When she woke she told the queen.

This story is entertaining, the illustrations are fitting, and overall a new perspective on a classic tale.
Fractured Fairy Tale

Felicia says

I love that the pea is telling the story. However, the queen is ridiculous. She should let the prince find his own princess, no matter how long it takes. And why is he getting an allowance at 35?!

Libby Haydon says

This is the re-telling of the princess and the pea but told from the pea's point of view who is bored of waiting under all the mattresses for the right princess to feel him, so he whispers to the next girl to sleep in the bed to make sure she tells the queen the next day that she felt the pea.

This story uses language probably more suitable for Reception - year 2 but there are some lovely words in the book for children to explore such as allotment.

This book could be used for phase 1 and 2 phonics, for the "p" sound and blending words such as "pea".

J. says

Cute detailed illustrations but the green pea eyes were creepy. It had a fun twist in the middle of the plot from the traditional story but the ending remains pretty much unchanged. The ending happens to be one fairy tale ending that is very unsatisfying- who said the poor girl wanted to marry the picky prince and why was she knocking on their door at night in a storm in the first place? Plenty of questions to explore in a retelling but they aren't addressed here.

Luisa Knight says

We've all heard the story from the Princess's perspective, but here's the tale from the Pea's point of view. It's cute!

Ages: 4 - 8

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Radar.

AMY says

Great alternate version of The Princess and the Pea with a gardener girl featured. Very interesting illustrations. Lovely and colorful book. Kids will enjoy. Lots of funny details dripping off the pages. Award winning author. Highly recommended for Grades 2-4.

Adrienne says

THE VERY SMART PEA AND THE PRINCESS-TO-BE

Review

In my opinion, the illustrations of the prince and the queen are borderline creepy (are those peas for eyes or are they glowing?), and my dislike of personification of things like peas is well-documented on GoodReads. So, those two factors, combined with a general dislike of the story, means that this is a no-go for me...

(Frankly, I still like to think that there is something more magical in the kingdom than a personified pea.)

But, just because this book is not for me does not mean that kids might not like it...

Miss Sarah says

A cute take on the traditional princess and the pea story told from the perspective of the pea. Love the pea's interference and the twist ending. preschool and up for humor and length

Anna says

This charming picture book presents a very popular fairytale in a surprising way, namely from the pea's point of view. It is funny and engaging. The fabulous illustrations can caught our attention as they are very detailed and colourful. The fact that the eyes of the main characters are made from the peas as is the Queen's (and cat's) jewellery and the wallpapers have a vegetable design constitute an interesting aspect of the book which may appeal to the readers.

This story can form a basis for many activities, such as comparing two tales: the original Andersen's version with the Mini Grey's one. Moreover, it can lead to a discussion on seeing things from different perspectives and therefore can be used during PSHE lessons. Marvellous illustrations and an interesting concept make this book a perfect choice for a story time. Highly recommended!

Anna Penniston says

A great book and author. This book allows the reader to think about how a story can be told from different points of view. Although this book is successful with KS1 children, it still offers itself to KS2, due to the clear personification, points of view, and humour used in the book. However, it would be more effective if children already had a clear knowledge of nursery rhymes and traditional tales.

Fiona Hill says

I thoroughly enjoyed this take on Hans Christian Andersen's original Fairytale 'The Princess and the Pea' which was a favourite of mine as a child. This Mini Grey adaptation tells the story from the Pea's perspective and reveals how the Pea helped the princess. I also enjoyed the twist at the end of the book, as the girl who ends up marrying the Prince originally is seen working in the Prince's Palace Allotment at the start of the book.
