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The Adventures Of Isabel (A Poetry Speaks Experience)



Synopsis

Meet Isabel, a remarkable girl (based on Ogden Nash's own daughter) who encounters four fearsome foes and doesn't worry, scream or scurry. Courage, spunk and a lot of humor help make Isabel's adventures something you'll share over and over again. Beautiful watercolor paintings bring The Adventures of Isabel vividly to life, while the audio CD of Ogden Nash reading his classic poem will let everyone follow the amazing exploits of Isabel! As a bonus on audio CD, Ogden Nash reads The Adventures of Isabel. Ogden Nash was born in New York in 1902 and wrote The Adventures of Isabel in the 1930s. He published hundreds of poems, many of them for his two daughters, Linell and Isabel. They occasionally appeared as characters in his poems, as Isabel does in The Adventures of Isabel. Nash died in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1971. Bridget Starr Taylor and her husband have two sons, a daughter, and very recently twin grandchildren. She and her family live in New York and spend summers and weekends at her farm in Connecticut. Bridget rides a bike wherever she goes and plays tennis, most often in polka-dotted shorts!

Book Information

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Series: A Poetry Speaks Experience

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402210272

ISBN-13: 978-1402210273

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 9.9 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #924,117 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #212 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Limericks & Humorous Verse](#) #286 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous](#) #7218 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Anthologies](#)

Customer Reviews

This is absolutely my favorite children's book. Every little girl should read and enjoy it. I recommend it for big girls too. It's the best!

My son is 4 and loves this book! We have read it every night this week, at his request. It is a wonderful book for learning new words (cavernous, scurry). It taps into my son's sense of the absurd. The theme of a child conquering big, scary things is very age appropriate. I highly recommend this book!

Though I don't like the violence (fairy tale style,) this is a rare sort of book that uses rhyme in a clever and child-centered way AND has an empowered female main character. There are few books on my quality children's literature list that favorably meet either one of those qualities, let alone too. My next criterion is artwork. The illustrations in "The Adventures of Isabel" are bright, colorful, playful and engaging. When I first introduce this book, my preschoolers think they are going to be frightened. I encourage them to see it through, and they always come back for more, delighted by the unexpected outcomes. It is short and sweet, so it is appropriate for young children. Although the scenarios are thoroughly make-believe, this is a great story to use to present the potentiality of for shifting our relationship with fear when meeting new or dangerous circumstances in the world. The final illustration shows a possibility that takes the narrative even further - representing the formation of a new, healthy relationship with medicine.

I first read this poem when I was in the 3rd grade. I remember that I would always go to the station that had the book just so I can listen to the audio. I fell in love with the name "Isabel" since, and knew that one day I would name my child after this book, and sure enough, I had my first child, and I named her Isabel, so now that she's around the age of when I first read the book, I decided to purchase the book for her! She loved it! Even my boys love to read it! It's a great book!

"Isabel met an enormous bear, Isabel, Isabel didn't care; The bear was hungry, the bear was ravenous, The bear's big mouth was cruel and cavernous." Thus begins Mr. Nash's poem about brave little Isabel. A girl who is not put off or frightened even when she faces fierce bears, wicked old witches, hideous giants, troublesome doctors, AND horrible dreams! In each case, Isabel uses her imagination and conquers. For example: The bear said, "Isabel, glad to meet you, How do, Isabel, now I'll eat you!" Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry, Isabel didn't scream or scurry. She washed her hands and she straightened her hair up, Then Isabel quietly ate the bear up. Four Stars. Great, not-scary artwork by James Marshall that is colorful and fun. As a read-aloud it is a little challenging, but practice draws out the proper cadence. My two kids like this book (they are boy and girl; 4 and 6); and I like that it suggests to them that they can solve their own problems, even scary ones.

I'm fourteen and I still remember this book so clearly. Its a classic. Everyone should own this book.

This book was horrible. I was only moderately bothered by the poor word choices for rhymes, but when I was reading to my 3 and 4 year olds about head severing and an exploitive doctor Isabel killed, I could hardly continue. Hoping to avoid nightmares and looking forward to getting this one out of our house.

My 18 year old daughter and I were just talking about her favorite children's books today and this one came up. My husband was the one who remembered it because it was as much fun for us as it was for her. Written in verse, it's about a little girl who is fearless in the face of the most frightening adversaries (e.g., nightmares, doctors, etc.). It seems some reviewers are unfamiliar with Ogden Nash's work ("God in His wisdom made the fly. And then forgot to tell us why.") and this is sad. Back when Americans cared a bit about culture, he was well known for his "droll verse and unconventional rhymes" but also wrote charming short stories. We had the original book with the more comic (not as cutesy) looking characters and liked it just fine. And, just wondering, what is the point of a CD? I'm sure your kids would rather you held them close and read to them.

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