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The Fantastic Flying Books Of Mr. Morris Lessmore



Synopsis

The book that inspired the Academy Award® “winning short film, from New York Times bestselling author and beloved visionary William Joyce. Morris Lessmore loved words. He loved stories. He loved books. But every story has its upsets. . . . Everything in Morris Lessmore’s life, including his own story, is scattered to the winds. . . . But the power of story will save the day. . . . Stunningly brought to life by William Joyce, one of the preeminent creators in children’s literature, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* is a modern masterpiece, showing that in today’s world of traditional books, eBooks, and apps, it’s the story that we truly celebrate—and this story, no matter how you tell it, begs to be read again and again.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; First Edition/First Printing edition (June 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442457023

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Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 0.5 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars . . . See all reviews (372 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #38 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences #309 in Books > Children’s Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

They say this story is for ages 4 and up, but don’t let that keep you from buying it for yourself. As an English major and lover of anything book related, I jumped at the chance to own a copy of this. It’s a beautiful story about loving books and how they love you back, as well as the tale of a man’s journey to write his own story. I’m thinking about buying a copy for a friend of mine (a fellow English major and soon to be teacher) who just graduated college, as well as a copy for my best friend’s young son because the story can be enjoyed by both of them! The video (and storybook app)

appeared before the book, so the description "The book that inspired the Academy Award--winning short film" seems a bit inaccurate--unless it is referring to the storybook app, which is possible. Anyways after I saw the video (It is 15 minutes long and well worth the watching-- for free on Youtube, or if you want to support the creators and encourage them to create more lovely videos and books, you can purchase it on Itunes for only a few dollars*), I knew it would win Best Animated Short Film at the Academy Awards. The video is accompanied by music, but there isn't any dialogue. The book differs from the film in that there is text for the reader to enjoy. Though it is possible to understand the story by just looking at the beautiful illustrations, the text gives that extra boost that the music from the film had been. The book is also faithful to the film's story, and there was only one part of the video that didn't seem to make it into the book (the scene where Morris Lessmore binds up an old book), but it doesn't take away from one's enjoyment of the story.

With artwork reminiscent of Pixar films (especially Up, as well as the early Pixar short, Geri's Game), The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore is a brilliant new release showcasing the work of animation ace William Joyce aided by first-time picture book illustrator Joe Bluhm. I was reminded fondly of Lane Smith's Grandpa Green, which I reviewed last year and which was subsequently included on the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2011 and later won the Caldecott Honor. Both picture books are exquisitely illustrated, and both are emotionally connective. Like Smith, Joyce has fashioned a story not without sadness which nonetheless celebrates life. The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore would be particularly appropriate for children who have lost an older relative, or experienced tragedy of any kind--"every story has its upsets"--but the appeal need not stop there. Lessmore is a solitary if unlonely lover of words whose life is left in disarray by a storm of Ozian proportions. (The author, a Louisiana native. was inspired by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.) Lessmore is saved, both literally and figuratively, by books, and takes refuge, and then solace, in a library.

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