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Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories (New York Review Books Children's Collection)



Synopsis

How to introduce children to Shakespeare, not just to the stories behind the plays but to the richness of Shakespeare's language and the depth of his characters: That's the challenge that Leon Garfield, no slouch as a wordsmith himself, sets out to meet in his monumental and utterly absorbing Shakespeare Stories. Here twenty-one of the Bard's plays are refashioned into stories that are true to the wit, the humor, the wisdom, the sublime heights, the terrifying depths, and above all the poetry of their great originals. Throughout, Garfield skillfully weaves in Shakespeare's own words, accustoming young readers to language and lines that might at first seem forbiddingly unfamiliar. Leon Garfield's Shakespeare Stories is an essential distillation—a truly Shakespearean tribute to Shakespeare's genius and a delight for children and parents alike.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #374,040 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Theater #216 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #515 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

Five star review with qualifications. I think the book is said to be written for children fourth grade and up. I can't imagine fourth graders -- except perhaps the very top 1% -- could handle this book. Middle school is probably the appropriate audience. (Of course, when the author wrote this book, things were a bit different, and perhaps fourth graders back in 1975 could have read this book). I was hoping for a preface, a foreword, an introduction, something from the author or the editors on the book -- just some talking points, but nothing. It jumps right into the stories. Sort of feels like "Grimm's Fairy Tales." I think the book deserved a bit more than that -- a four-page introduction would have been nice. Having said that, the book jumps right into the stories and the little I have

read, the author seems to have done a good job. It looks like everyday prose, but the dialogue: direct quotes from the Shakespeare plays. The best thing about the book: textbook size so easily carried and held by little hands. Not the big coffee-table book one might expect. No dust jacket. I give it 5-star with qualifications because I doubt there is a better book for the intended audience out there and I don't want to scare off any potential buyers by giving it a 4. If you can find something better for middle school students, let me know.

Leon Garfield has done a great job of providing the themes of Shakespeare in an instantly accessible form that I found delightful. Shakespeare's works are an insightful analysis of humanity but they are also an intricately artful demonstration of language. For my eyes, Mr Garfield has given us a taste of both in his book. I am thrilled to be reading and discussing Hamlet, The Twelfth Night, Henry IV etc with my twelve year old - I couldn't have imagined a better introduction for him.

I have never seen anything like this amazing book that brings Shakespeare to life for kids and adults who are entertained by these classic stories in a new way. I love it!

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