



Jennie's Hat

Ezra Jack Keats

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Jennie's favorite aunt is sending her a new hat, and Jennie is sure it will be beautiful. But when the box arrives, the hat inside is very plain. She had imagined a wonderful hat with big colorful flowers and even tries to make her own hat from a straw basket! Jennie is almost ready to give up on her dream when she receives a fanciful surprise from some very special friends. Ezra Jack Keats's timelessly charming illustrations will leave readers wishing for a dream hat of their own.

Jennie's Hat Details

Date : Published April 28th 2003 by Puffin Books (first published 1966)

ISBN : 9780142500354

Author : Ezra Jack Keats

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction

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From Reader Review Jennie's Hat for online ebook

Stacie says

Slightly dated story from the time when people wore fancy hats and a small girl who wishes hers might be fancy too.

Teri Patterson says

Clever story with gentle action and ups and downs. Lots of language opportunities about waiting, expectations, disappointments, plain and fancy, word play, caring for others and receiving care in return. Jennie imagines her new hat will be fancy; but when it comes, it's plain. She uses other household object to see if they will make a fancy hat. She can't stop thinking about hats and uses rhyming words. She is kind to the birds and they help decorate her hat.

Vocabulary: plain, fancy, add

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Re-pattern the Rhymes Activity (onset recognition): In the book, Jennie rhymes hat-choo with a sneeze and hat-erpillar with caterpillar. Recreate this pattern with brat, bat, mat, gnat, pat, rat, slat, sat, and vat.

Plain and Fancy Activity: Start with a plain hat (newspaper or paper plate) and add things to it (pictures, plastic toys, pom-poms, or themed items: a writing hat, an outer space hat, an animal hat...) Or instead of starting with a hat, start with a plain car, or a plain book, or a plain chair, plain shoes, a Valentine box...

Cross-curricular: Use common objects to represent hats. Notice the swirly design on the inside covers and how it's used throughout the book. Create similar swirl patterns and cut them out to use in artwork.

Julie says

The "magical" element comes into play too abruptly for me. I re-read several times and couldn't make this story gel in my mind. While the illustrations are stellar, I found the text lacking.

Dolly says

This is a fun story about hats. We've been reading the books in the series of books featuring Peter by Ezra Jack Keats. We really enjoyed those, so now we are expanding to other books he wrote. This was an interesting story with colorful illustrations and we had fun reading it together. We loved looking at the hats; this is a great book to read during Easter and Springtime in general.

Ben Truong says

Jennie's Hat is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats, which tells a story about a girl named Jeannie who receives a hat from her favorite aunt – just one problem: it's just too plain.

The text is rather simple and straightforward. It is a story about a girl named Jennie and she just received a hat from her favorite aunt. However, Jennie wanted a fancy hat like all the other women in the neighborhood, but she ended up having a plain hat. The illustrations are wonderful done and is reminiscent of magazine cut-outs or collage and depict the text exceptionally well.

The premise of the book is rather straightforward. Jennie wanted a fancy hat – one that she thought that her favorite aunt gifted to her. Unfortunately, it was just a plain hat, which was something that she didn't want. Jennie went as far as to try to wear other things like a lampshade, a flower pot, television antennas, a pot, and a basket for a more inventive hat. After church one day, a flock of birds, that Jennie fed weekly, descended on her hat and decorating it with a myriad of wild flowers and a nest of baby birds, giving Jennie the hat she always dreamed of.

All in all, *Jennie's Hat* is a wonderful children's book, a tad unrealistic and unbelievable, but a wonderful book nevertheless.

Zoraya Brown says

I would use this book as an addition to a weekly to monthly Ezra Keats-themed lesson. We will have chosen a book by Keats at story time each day, then continue to, discussing previous books before starting a new one. The sole purpose of these readings would be to emphasize that Ezra Keats, "the author," had written each one. My goal would be to have children maintain their knowledge of what an author is, as I notice in classrooms that I currently teach that they often forget. Having them focus on the same one and his work may help to stop this from happening through consistency of exposure to one author.

Rosa Cline says

In this story a little girl awaits and wonders what her new hat will look like. She imagines all types of fancy ones but when it arrives it's just a plain little girl hat. She is disappointed and a little angry. She goes off and tries different things for a hat. and as she is thinking about her new hat she goes out and feeds the birds and animals outside; thinking of them. She goes to church with her parents and see all the fancy pretty hats everyone is wearing and when church is over and she goes out. Her friends the birds and animals remember her kindness they bring leaves, ribbons, various things they've found and bring and put it on her hat. Helping make her hat a special one. Kindness given is kindness brought back... a special thought that is wonderful to teach children!

Judy says

Birds? Yep. It's because of the birds that I read this book. And it's the only book by Keats that we've read that features a girl. Beware: after reading this to a young girl, she just might start creating inventive hats.

Scott says

It wasn't my favorite. Then it started to grow on me. The end is kind of magical.

Mary says

A picture book classic about a young girl who wishes her plain hat was fancier. She tries not to be disappointed, but it's clear she longs for the kind of hat she sees women wear at church. Then Jennie's kindness is sweetly repaid. A great story to use with a hat making craft.

Marybeth says

Jennie receives the gift of a hat from her aunt. However, she is disappointed that it is very plain. She stops sulking long enough to go feed the birds which is her Saturday ritual. The next day, the birds return the favor by decorating her hat after church. She is delighted by the decorations and will remember the day and her mood in the end.

Although somewhat dated, this picture book still makes a good read aloud with discussion points about giving and receiving gifts. There is a strong message of kindness throughout the book.

Robert Davis says

Ezra Jack Keats' illustrations here are, as usual, excellent. The story is simple and should delight young girls... and boys as well, why not? It certainly delighted me!

Jennie receives a hat as a gift, and is disappointed that it is not fancy, but plain. She sulks and grumbles, as children will do. but something amazing happens that brings Jennie her wish. You must read it to believe. Although Jennie is rewarded with her wish, I had hoped that she would have learned to appreciate the gift she was given, and not the one she had wanted.

Kevin Salazar says

This book is a great one for me because it shows how Jennie used her imagination to find happiness and what she really wanted. I feel like that is what the goal should be, whether it would be reading, boredom, or

anything that they would need in order to find their escape from reality. When reading, using your imagination is crucial because to understand a story on how the author intended the readers to understand it, you have to lose yourself in the book by using your imagination. Since everyone is different, every experience is going to be a different one.

I would use this book for third graders because they're old enough where they can use their imagination more vividly than the younger kids. As well, we can have a project where they can make their own hat where they can be creative with that.

Courtney Dyer says

Breaking from his typical African American male protagonist, beloved author, Ezra Jack Keats, creates a playful story with a female protagonist who dreams of a fancy hat with colorful flowers and ribbons. Using collage and composite illustrations, Keats timelessly brings this fanciful story to life.

Jennie has been anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new hat from her favorite aunt. However, when it arrives, she is very disappointed in how plain the hat is. Wishing it were a little fancier, Jennie sets out to create the perfect hat. Just when she is about to give up, she receives a fancy surprise from unexpected friends.

Being a huge fan of Ezra Jack Keats and his 'Peter' books, I was a little disappointed after reading this one. It just didn't hold my attention the same way that Peter and Willie do. Also, there was nothing relatable about it for me. If I were to recommend this book, I would recommend it for children ages 4-8, however, it may only appeal to girls. As a teacher, this book could be included in an author's study on Ezra Jack Keats, but I personally probably wouldn't include it. Maybe an art teacher could use this book as a segue into a collage lesson or hat-creating art project.

Alyssa Clark says

1. Jennie's Hat by Ezra Jack Keats has not won any awards.
 2. I would recommend this book for K-2.
 3. In this book, Jennie is so excited to see the hat her favorite aunt has sent her, but when she sees the lackluster hat, she is very disappointed. So, around the house she looks for things that could make a fun and lovely hat. With the help of some birds, Jennie's dull hat becomes the most beautiful hat of all piled high with flowers, photos, leaves, and colored eggs.
 4. I like this book because of Jennie's imagination. She found many things around the house and tried to turn them into the perfect hat. The drawings were also beautifully done.
 5. One thing I would do with this book is have children design and create their own hat. They would be able to use any materials they wanted and could decorate it however they please. Another activity I would have the students do is compare this book to Fancy Nancy. I think there are similar themes between the two about wanting to be fancy.
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