



Six Crows

Leo Lionni

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While a farmer tends his field of wheat, six hungry crows watch and wait in a nearby tree. When the wheat ripens, the farmer builds a scarecrow to frighten them off, but these ingenious crows are not so easily scared. Bringing this original fable to life with brilliant collages, Leo Lionni deftly draws parallels between animal and human behavior that children can readily appreciate. And once again he shows us that compromise can work magic.

From the Hardcover edition.

Six Crows Details

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Author : Leo Lionni

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From Reader Review Six Crows for online ebook

Dolly says

This is a fun tale of conflict and one-upmanship that is only ended when a wise owl convinces the farmer and the pesky crows to talk it out, stating "*It's never too late to talk things over.*" and "*Words can do magic.*" It's a simple story, with colorful illustrations that teaches a moral, but is not too heavy-handed with the message. We enjoyed reading this story together and will look other books by Leo Lionni we haven't read yet.

Bec says

Such a read!

Lynn says

I picked this book up when I saw a Leo Lionni's name on the cover. I've never heard of this book before and was curious. It was originally published in 1988, which would have made me an adult already. I've also not run into the book in schools I've taught in. I read it and loved it so much I'll read it with students too. It's a lovely tale of 6 Crows and an Indian farmer who wants them to scare them away from his wheat. A scarecrow is built and crows make a kite to scare the farmer! Owl has an idea to make all this nonsense go away!

Steve_sonderman says

Six Crows is a fable written by Leo Lionni. The illustration in the book is great, as Lionni has received Caldecott honors in many of his other books. This book could be taught in a unit with fables. It also stresses the importance of communication and stepping out of your comfort zone. The ending also leaves a little bit up to interpretation, so discussion and further assignments can be made once the book is finished. Although the illustration and moral are good, the book isn't extremely interesting. Not one of Lionni's best, but if you are into the genre you would enjoy it.

SaraKat says

This book was on my school's pillars of character reading list for citizenship. It features an owl teaching two arguing groups to talk to each other to solve their problems. It is funny at first, and the crows and farmer are engaged in an arms race that escalates alarmingly. As in all arms races, the non-arms portions of the field are neglected, causing problems for all. The owl is an outside observer and can see both sides being silly, so he steps in to mediate. I liked the art.

Denise says

I enjoyed this story about some crows and a farmer having a tough relationship as the crows want to eat the crops and the farmer wants a good yield. Eventually they make peace and find friendship thanks to an owl who acts as a mediator. The story provides a good base for children to use as they create similar texts about two rival parties and a peacekeeper. Reader's Theater would also be fun and children could take turns being a crow, the farmer, or the owl.

Grace says

"Six Crows" by Leo Lionni is a fable about conflict resolution through a conflict between a farmer and six crows that keep eating his crop. A fable teaches you a lesson through a brief story and Lionni teaches children the importance of compromise through this clear message. The moral in this story is very straightforward and important for students of all ages. You can get so caught up in the problem, that you forget what you are fighting for. In Lionni's book, his illustrations are very simple, however, works very well with the overall theme. This book teaches you how powerful words are, through not only the message but the descriptive language. The colorful and simplistic illustrations only add to the inspirational theme and vocabulary.

Connie says

Farmers plant wheat. Crows eat wheat. (I mean, the farmer conveniently plants this all-you-can-eat buffet for them!) If the farmers and the crows could talk, surely they could come to an amicable arrangement... right?

Maybe, maybe not. Maybe, instead of talking like sensible creatures, the farmer will outdo himself making progressively scarier scarecrows, and the crows will outdo EVERYBODY making progressively scarier scarefarmers, and in the meantime the wheat will wither in the field and nobody will get to eat some. At least, not until they talk it over for a change.

Very good and clear moral message for kids, and it juuuuuust avoids being too "preachy" and annoying.

Indiana says

I stumbled upon this book on amazon when I was ordering a copy of Leigh Bardugo's YA fantasy novel "Six of Crows". This children's picture book with a very similar title came up as a search result. I grew up reading many of Leo Lionni's books but this was not one in my library. I immediately rectified that and added it to my collection. It has wonderful illustrations as with Lionni's other books. The six crows are utterly adorable. And a charming lesson about communication with words to be learned by all.

Erin says

This fable is about a farmer who dislikes that 6 crows keep eating his wheat right before harvest time. He builds a scarecrow to keep them away from the field. The crows are frightened by it and want to scare it away. They build a large bird kite out of leaves and bark to fly through the sky. This frightens the farmer who then makes an even bigger, scarier scarecrow. The crows build yet another bigger, scarier bird. Both the farmer and the crows were so busy scaring each other that the wheat field was getting neglected. A wise owl spoke to both parties and told them to talk it out.

Good for preschool storytimes.

Erin Saaranen says

Six Crows by Leo Lionni (picture book)

In Balabatur Hills, six crows are trying to get to a farmer's wheat in his backyard. The farmer decides to build a scarecrow to scare the crows away, but these crows are not easily scared, so the farmer must work his "magic" to find a compromise.

I would ask my students questions throughout the book to check their listening/comprehension skills. Specifically, I'd ask them to guess what the farmer is going to do in the end.

Amy says

This was a cute story, and the kids liked it. My niece saw the cover and exclaimed, "Oh good! Leo Lionni! This should be good!" The kids like crows, too, so they did enjoy this story that featured them.

Tracy Morton says

I am using this book as part of my scarecrow storytime. It is a good book about making friends and communicating. It is a bit serious so I think it would be too much for my preschoolers. I am going to try it with the kindergarten children.

Kelly Tessitore says

Six Crows is a cute story that begins as what seems like a stereotypical plot. How will the farmer get rid of the pesky crows? But through critical literacy, he gives a perspective that is not always mentioned. He provides the perspective of the crows and then shows how using words can straighten out a misunderstanding. He leaves readers with the message that if you talk things out during a disagreement then your problem will be solved and everyone can be content. This is appropriate message for young children who often struggle to use their words in an effective way while interacting with other children. The

illustrations are unique and add to the overall charm of the story.

Rochelle Sondaе says

It surprises me when I randomly pick a book to read and discover that it speaks directly to events happening in my own life. I'm a fan of Leo Lionni's work so even before I read this I was pretty sure I was going to like it. The farmer of the local wheat field wages war against the six crows that are eating his grain. In retaliation the crows build a large leaf crow to scare away the scarecrow. The farmer then builds a scarier scarecrow and the crows respond with an even larger leaf crow. The owl decides enough is enough when she sees that the wheat is getting neglected and promptly talks to both parties insisting that they reconcile their differences before the crop is lost. It reminded me of my wise Grandmother stepping in on childhood disputes making sure we always gave a hug/kiss and makeup before things got too far out of hand.
