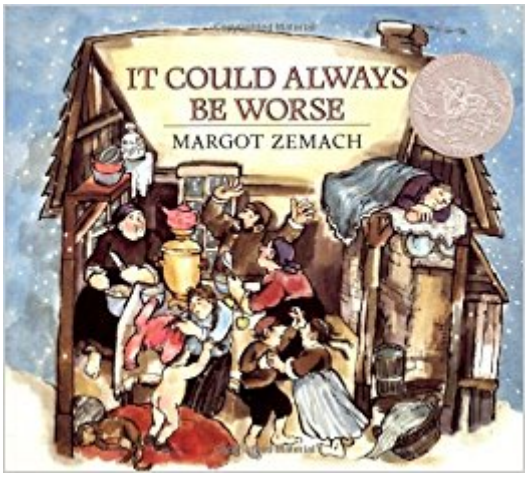
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It Could Always Be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale (Michael Di Capua Books)



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Synopsis

Once upon a time a poor unfortunate man lived with his mother, his wife, and his six children in a one-room hut.Because they were so crowded, the children often fought and the man and his wife argued. When the poor man was unable to stand it any longer, he ran to the Rabbi for help.As he follows the Rabbi's unlikely advice, the poor man's life goes from bad to worse, with increasingly uproarious results. In his little hut, silly calamity follows foolish catastrophe, all memorably depicted in full-color illustrations that are both funnier and lovelier than any this distinguished artist has done in the past.It Could Always Be Worse is a 1977 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year and Outstanding Book of the Year, and a 1978 Caldecott Honor Book.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What's this?)
Series: Michael Di Capua Books
Paperback: 32 pages
Publisher: Square Fish; Reissue edition (September 1, 1990)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0374436363
ISBN-13: 978-0374436360
Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #91,372 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #107 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #647 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Religions
Age Range: 3 - 6 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

A wise rabbi doles out surprising advice to a man complaining of overcrowded quarters in this Yiddish folktale; Zemach's exuberantly chaotic illustrations earned her a Caldecott Honor. Ages 3-up. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ã¢â ¬Å“The familiar tale of the simple villager whose house was so crowded and noisy, he went to the Rabbi for help. . .Never has the tale been made into a picture book of such beauty and

gusto.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Starred, The Horn Book

The story and pictures part of the book are fine. It’s a great story. However, the book was not properly cut at the manufacturer’s. About Ãƒâ Ã Â inch of the top of the cover is white with random colored strips rather than just the front panel image. I had to separate every page of the book by cutting the top with a sharp knife.It would make a poor gift presentation but I bought it for my grandkids and they won’t even notice. They look at the pictures, not technical deficiencies.I’m only posting this as a heads up to anyone wanting to buy it as a gift. I probably could have returned it but what’s the point: It could always be worse! ;)

"It could always be worse" is an old Yiddish folk tale, marvelously re-told by Margot Zemach. I used to hear this tale from my grandmother and it has long become part of the Eastern European Jewry’ folklore. I now had an opportunity to share this funny tale with my child and he absolutely loved it. The book’s design is wonderful and prompts questions about how Jews really lived in the Pale. Also, great emphasis on the rabbi’s influence on the community’s everyday life. My personal question was why the rabbi was called "Holy Rabbi."

Why are there not six stars? I love this book. The drawings are darling and the story is good for the whole family. I bought it to help one of my children stop complaining so much about how so-and-so has it better. It turns out that I am being blessed by the perspective in the book as well! The father in the book is given instructions by his rabbi that make his life increasingly terrible, but ultimately the man learns that our comfort and appreciation is often relative. By focusing on how good we have it compared to how bad it could be, it is easy to see life’s blesings.

It may be considered a humorous story, but makes me consider when I think life isn’t going well, and who doesn’t wish for it to be better, that it could always be worse. I remember to be thankful that I do have life good enough to be able to help out some who really do need life to be just a little bit better.

I have a grandchild hope chest. I am very selective about what goes into it. This book along with "I Love You Forever" are the first 2 books to make the cut. I loved it with my kids and I love it well into the future...

I use this as a great "lesson" book. ITs great for kids, its great for parents or anyone as a great story to help someone cope with the feeling of being overwhelmed. Great for any age. My daughter used it in her phd class to prove a point, and I bought her a copy. I have bought several in my life for just the right moments.

This story is one I read to my children. I purchased this one for my granddaughter. It is a charming tale and important life lesson.

THIS IS ONE OF MY ALL TIME FAVES!!!! I use it with child & adult clients!!!! We all need to read this!!!!!

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