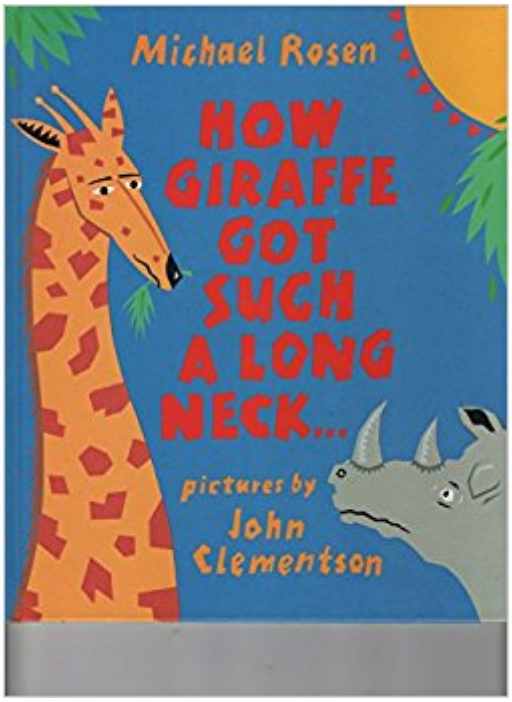
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How Giraffe Got Such A Long Neck: ..And Why Rhino Is So Grumpy



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Synopsis

During a terrible drought in which there is nothing to eat, Man prepares a magic herb that results in Giraffe’s long neck so he can reach the high leaves on the trees and a grumpy Rhino, who arrives too late for the magic.

Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Dial; 1st edition (September 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803716214

ISBN-13: 978-0803716216

Product Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 20 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,514,412 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #1126 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies

Customer Reviews

This gorgeous book may not lead to a movie deal for its author, but might well bring a great wallpaper deal for its illustrator. Clementson’s vibrantly hued, densely patterned cut-paper compositions have soared in wit and personableness since his last collaboration with Rosen, How Animals Got Their Colors. Happily, this tale is neatly told verbally as well as visually. "In the beginning of the beginning Giraffe wasn’t as tall as the trees. She was more like a deer, lean and quick and no taller than a bush." But drought comes, drying up all but the highest leaves in the trees. When Giraffe and Rhino ask Man to help them reach the trees, he gives them a magic herb. Rhino forgets to eat his, and so Giraffe imbibes both portions, resulting in a doubly long neck and a cranky Rhino. Although this is a traditional tale in East Africa, it is tendered here with markedly unconventional style. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Through an effective blend of illustration and text, Rosen and Clementson offer an engaging picture book that tells one version of a porquoi story told by Eastern and Southern African tribes. The lively language is bright and repetitive: "In the beginning of the beginning Giraffe

wasn’t as tall as the trees. She was more like a deer, lean and quick and no taller than a bush." Then came a drought, and Giraffe and Rhino asked Man to help them reach the only food around-the leaves high up on the trees. While he prepared some magic herbs for them, Rhino wandered away and Giraffe, tired of waiting, gobbled them all down himself. With the economy of language required in storytelling, Rosen has created memorable characters: "Oomph!" snorts the Rhino more than a few times. Clementson’s bright, stylized illustrations fill the pages with vibrant color, energy, and detail. A note indicates that he based his depiction of Man on early Masai tribesmen. From the design on Man’s bowl to the one-dimensional animal figures, the effect is authentic. The connections made by this funny story to readers from other cultures are important ones. This would be a valuable addition to a folktale collection.Lee Bock, Brown County Public Libraries, Green Bay, WICopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I used this story in First Grade before teaching an art lesson on giraffes. Students loved the connections and were very successful in their art project.

This is a great addition to my collection of folk tales for children. The story is fairly well known, but the illustrations set it apart.

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