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Applesauce Season



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Synopsis

A taste of fall: Celebrated editor Eden Lipson and Caldecott Medal winner Mordicai Gerstein celebrate a fall family ritual in Applesauce Season, a picture book rich with the colors and flavors of the season.When the first apples of the season--Ida Red and Paula Red, Twenty Ounce, McIntosh, and Ginger Gold--show up in the city markets, it’s time to take out the big pot and make applesauce. A lovingly recounted description of a family’s applesauce-making ritual describes the buying, peeling, cooking and stirring; the wait for the sauce to cool and the first taste. Mordicai Gerstein’s paintings are full of the colors and flavors of the season: red apples, orange leaves, blue skies. Here’s a lovely picture book celebrating an American family tradition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD940L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press; 1 edition (August 4, 2009)

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,824 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture #208 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Biographies > Historical #292 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2Ã¢â ¬â •Urban meets bucolic in this charming family story that is narrated by a family’s youngest child. "We live in the city. There are no apple trees, but there are farmer’s markets where there are lots of apples." That’s where the boy and his grandmother shop. They choose the fruit, wash it, cut it up, cook it, and finally run it through the food mill. Then comes the eating, "Ã¢â ¬Â¦plain, or with ice cream, or cottage cheese, or gingerbread, or cookies, or sliced bananas." This is not a long book but it’s filled with enticing details. Even the names of the varieties are fun:

Black Twig, King David, Northern Spy. A celebration of family ritual and slow foods, the story is in the best tradition of "show, don't tell." Gerstein's colorful paintings are edged with dynamic scratchy lines that convey a lively sense of movement. His sly humor is a perfect match for the straightforward narrative, which ends with a recipe and a glimpse into the boy's sunny future-full of apples, of course.Ã¢â ¬â •Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL END

Ã¢â ¬Å“[A] smartly observed, warm-hearted tale . . . . Happily there is more than enough for seconds.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“The angle of Dad's shoulders as he squeezes between everyone to reach in with his spoon is one of those brilliant details in a children's book that conveys the warmth of family.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢NewsdayÃ¢â ¬Å“Exuberant watercolors follow along as a happy urban family buys, quarters, cooks, seasons, purees and savors the thick gooey stuff. Get out the food mill. Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The San Francisco ChronicleÃ¢â ¬Å“His [Gerstein's] sly humor is a perfect match for the straightforward narrative, which ends with a recipe and a glimpse into the boy's sunny futureÃ¢â ¬â œfull of apples, of course.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢School Library JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“The final page includes a detailed recipe and an illustration of the boy, now a dad, in the kitchen cutting apples with his daughter, sharing a smile.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Horn BookÃ¢â ¬Å“In a crowded orchard of apple books, this one stands out.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus ReviewsÃ¢â ¬Å“A wonderful tribute to her [Eden Ross Lipson] considerable contributions and talents.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Starred, Publishers WeeklyÃ¢â ¬Å“A wonderful story of apples, applesauce and family traditions.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Infodad.com

Our family LOVES this book. We have been renting it from the Library every fall since our child was 3. Now that she is 6, we finally bought our own copy, as she loves to read it over and over again. Great book to get in tune with the seasons, best followed by an apple picking outing and of course, a homemade apple sauce fest!

An up and coming elementary teacher and I absolutely suggest getting this book. It shows children that trial and error is ok and that to make that perfect batch of applesauce you have to find that perfect apple! This is geared family which I also love, family should always be the priority!

Delightful, realistic story with familiar and lovable (Jewish) stereotypes that revived personal family memories for me. I bought it for my son and his family,hoping that the traditions of applesauce (&

apple pie) would be enjoyed and passed on for yet more generations.Excellent illustrations and layout, as always,thanks to Mordecai Gerstein.

We love this book and read it every fall so we got our own copy.

I love reading this book to my children. They love learning apple variety names. We now make applesauce regularly and the kids participate based on what they have learned in the book. A must have in any chilren’s home library.

What a great lasting posthumous tribute to Ms. Lipson, the book’s author. The family works together to make its annual batch of apple sauce in the city. A bespeckled boy heads to the farmers’ market to get various types of apples. He helps his grandmother and family make the sauce. His mother cuts the apples in quarters, his grandmother in sixths, and thus traditions are passed down. The book includes a great recipe at the end, and the boy wonders if he will like sauce or pie when he grows older. Now, where can I get some winesaps and jonagolds and a food grinder?

The streets are busy with children, but soon it will be time to go back to school. About this time Grandma says, "It’s time for applesauce." There are apples that are ready earlier, but it is the peak season for other fruits and the best time to eat them. The city is lively and there are no apple trees, but there are markets where bushels of them await families who want to make applesauce. A little boy tugs his little dog toward the apples, but Grandma is already choosing six pounds she will need for the sauce. At summer’s end there can be found Ida Red, Paul Red Macintosh, Twenty Ounce and Ginger Gold. Later others will come.At home the apples are "dumped in the kitchen sink and washed." The boy stands on a stepladder, washes them carefully and hands them to his mother. Grandma had selected three different kinds for "real flavor." The apples are handed down the line. His mother cuts them in quarters, hands them to Grandma and she cuts them in sixths. That’s just the way it is done. Then into the pot, seeds and all, they go. Water is added and soon they will be "soft and bubbly and start to smell good." Mmmmmmm! Cinnamon sugar, a food mill and lots of love will go into making this special sauce that changes as the weeks go by!Whether you live in the city or the country, family food traditions make for very special times. I thoroughly enjoyed watching this family make applesauce from the selection of the apples at the farmer’s market to placing the finished product on the table. The artwork was charming and all the smiling faces meshed perfectly with the tale. In the end pages there are illustrations of the family and an assortment of apples, each

with a name beneath. In the back of the book is the recipe for the applesauce made in the book. This would be a perfect book to read during an apple season. It will be hard to resist trying out the recipe in this book!

Strong families are tied together by habits and traditions, and one important tradition is food we share. This book commemorates one family’s practice, year after year, of making applesauce throughout the Fall season. A child narrator explains the process of how the family makes applesauce. He enthusiastically describes different varieties of apples they find at their local farm market, and explains how the applesauce changes throughout the season as apple varieties ripen for the family’s ongoing "harvest."The applesauce tradition includes three generations, opening with a quote from Grandmother explaining why the family eats other fruit at the beginning of apple season. It closes with an intimate scene of the family remembering their deceased Grandfather by eating apple pie on his birthday. The young narrator says Grandfather liked to eat leftover apple pie with sharp cheese on the next morning, and wonders if he will prefer that when he is grown up. In this way the three generations are brought together with a secure sense of generational continuity through their shared food.Lipson’s prose is exceptionally well crafted, and Gerstein has joyfully illustrated each scene with colorful, interesting pictures. Some readers may find the book a little sentimental, but even if its mood doesn’t particularly appeal to your family, the book is worthwhile for its educational value and cooking instruction. It’s probably best for an elementary audience.

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