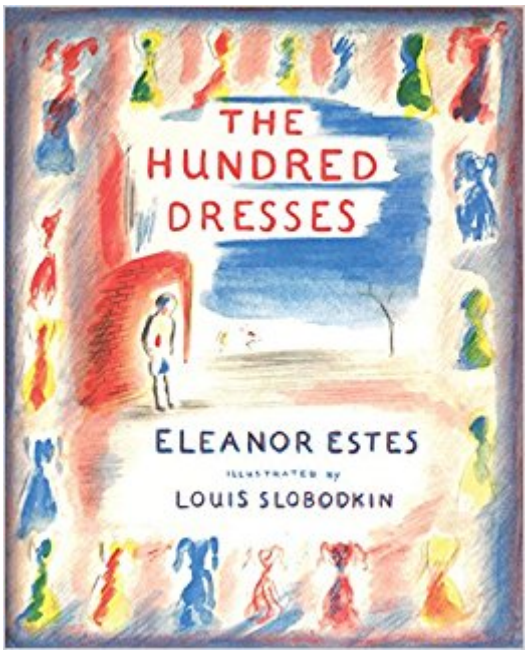
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The Hundred Dresses



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Synopsis

Eleanor EstesÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Hundred Dresses won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s too late for apologies. Maddie, one of WandaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." This powerful, timeless story has been reissued with a new letter from the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s daughter Helena Estes, and with the Caldecott artist Louis SlobodkinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s original artwork in beautifully restored color.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1-Simul edition (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152052607

ISBN-13: 978-0152052607

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.4 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 470 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,395 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Technology #102 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Classics #262 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Wanda Petronski lives way up in shabby Boggins Heights, and she doesn't have any friends. Every day she wears a faded blue dress, which wouldn't be too much of a problem if she didn't tell her schoolmates that she had a hundred dresses at home--all silk, all colors, and velvet, too. This lie--albeit understandable in light of her dress-obsessed circle--precipitates peals of laughter from her peers, and she never hears the end of it. One day, after Wanda has been absent from school for a few days, the teacher receives a note from Wanda's father, a Polish immigrant: "Dear teacher: My

Wanda will not come to your school any more. Jake also. Now we move away to big city. No more holler Polack. No more ask why funny name. Plenty of funny names in the big city. Yours truly, Jan Petronski." Maddie, a girl who had stood by while Wanda was taunted about her dresses, feels sick inside: "True, she had not enjoyed listening to Peggy ask Wanda how many dresses she had in her closet, but she had said nothing.... She was a coward.... She had helped to make someone so unhappy that she had had to move away from town." Repentant, Maddie and her friend Peggy head up to Boggins Heights to see if the Petronskis are still there. When they discover the house is empty, Maddie despairs: "Nothing would ever seem good to her again, because just when she was about to enjoy something--like going for a hike with Peggy to look for bayberries or sliding down Barley Hill--she'd bump right smack into the thought that she had made Wanda Petronski move away." Ouch. This gentle Newbery Honor Book convincingly captures the deeply felt moral dilemmas of childhood, equally poignant for the teased or the tormentor. Louis Slobodkin, illustrator of the 1944 Caldecott Medalist Many Moons, brings his wispy, evocative, color-washed sketches to Eleanor Estes's time-proven classic about kindness, compassion, and standing up for what's right. (Ages 6 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Sensitive, intuitive, restrained . . . will take its place with the books that endure."--Saturday Review"Written with rare intuition and pictured with warm sympathy and charm."--The Horn Book"No young person . . . will ever forget it."--Book Week

This book was recommended by a pediatrician as one he reads his children each year during the holidays. Though the book was written in the 1940s, the message of standing up against bullying resonates well in today's environment. My eight-year-old granddaughter was enthralled. My five-year-old granddaughter stayed with us through most of the story. I was in tears as I read. I can see us reading The Hundred Dresses every year.

It is obvious that Wanda Petronski is poor. She wears the same faded blue dress to school every day. EVERY day. Her behavior is unusual and she doesn't have much to say, and when she does she's laughed at. Most of the children might not have noticed her so much had it not been for Peggy and Maddie who make a teasing "game" out of Wanda being so poor AND showing it.. Find out how this causes Wanda to be laughed at so much that she has to move away. It's a sad story, but one that's hard to put down. It will make you think of your own feelings about others that are poorer than

you, or just different from you.Realistic Fiction: Beginning-Chapter Book, Grades 3-8The Creative Teacher: Activities for Language Arts (Grades 4 through 8 and Up)

This children’s book (that every adult should read) hit two areas. One: Bullying has been around a long long time. Two: The English vocabulary is truly a dummied down version of what it used to be. So so sad to know that past generations could read this book and children the same age/grade level in today’s public schools could not. It’s a great book to read to children, draws out wonderful discussion about several areas in the public arena today and, for those parents who will take the time to do it, a super way to teach some vocabulary.

If you’re a crybaby like me over poignant children’s books, this will be a book you will weep over privately and then have your partner read to your child.Beautifully illustrated, award-winning story of school bullying and the resilience of the artistically rich, economically poor victim and her family, who**spoiler**move away after experiencing non-acceptance from small-town xenophobic/class discriminating neighbors.Lessons are learned, life-long regrets are formed.See also: Crow Boy by Taro Yashima, Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren for unique children who are sometimes ostracized by peers.

I first read this book in 7th grade, and have never, ever forgotten the impact it had on me. Now, I am 56 years old and have ordered it for my granddaughter.The story is required reading for almost every school child in the country, and for very good reason. It is an exercise in conciense that is barely equalled anywhere. Without being preachy, it speaks to the hearts of kids who are not necessarily cruel, but are capable of doing cruel things.I especially like that the ending is not a neat and tidy happy resolution. There are consequences to our decisions, and not everything can necessarily be rectified - even if we are sorry in the aftermath. The Hundred Dresses might be the first mature story a child reads that has a realistic, and thought provoking ending.

I was "window shopping" on & stumbled across this book. When I was a kid I had seen & heard of this book, but had never read it so I ordered it (I collect interesting children’s books, so I figured I’d add it to my collection after reading). The book that arrived is an older library book, in great condition - it still has the heavy plastic cover and inside it has the check out pocket still adhered to the back pages (from the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library). I love it, it’s perfect for me!

One of my favorite books as a child. A newspaper article clued me that it was still in print. I loved it even more when I read it as an adult. Good Children's Literature should have such an impact.

My son came home from school to tell me about this book his class started reading and told me I really needed to read it too. So I did. It was such a great book and had such great lessons in it.

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