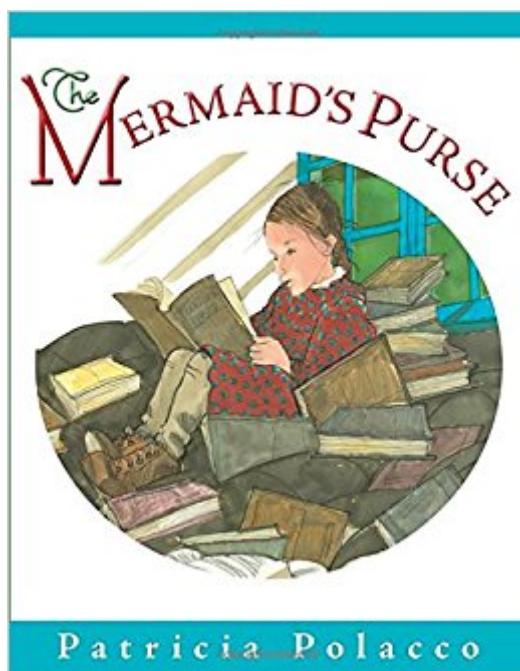


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The Mermaid's Purse



Synopsis

Based on the life of beloved author-illustrator Patricia Polacco's own amazing grandmother, this wonderful celebration of reading and community is as exhilarating as it is heartwarming. Young Stella loves books so much, her books begin to take over the farmhouse. "Why, Stell, you need your own library to hold those books," her pa tells her, so he and the neighbors build her one! She calls it "the Mermaid's Purse" since the midwife said Stella was born in one. Stella opens the Purse to her neighbors and travels around the countryside, sharing her books door-to-door. Not everyone gives them a chance at first, like grouchy Pig Ears Lonsberry. But farmer Dunkle sure changes his mind when information in a book saves his sick sheep. Eventually, everybody comes to love the Mermaid's Purse so when a tornado destroys it, scattering Stella's precious books far and wide, the whole community rallies to help.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (October 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399166920

ISBN-13: 978-0399166921

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #64 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #658 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4 Polacco tells a story based on her grandmother's early years in 19th-century Michigan. Stella was born in a Mermaid's Purse, otherwise known as a caul, and that meant that she was born blessed. More than anything, Stella loves books. She reads anytime she can and saves up all her money to buy books, too. Eventually she owns so many that her father and

other men from town build her a library, and she names it the Mermaid's Purse. Stella's collection soon comes in handy as she uses it to help a farmer save his sheep from dying of bloat, keep her future husband from drowning, and prevent another farmer from losing his water rights. However, her books can't stop the Mermaid's Purse from being destroyed by a tornado. Stella grows despondent, and it isn't until farmers from all over the county find her books scattered around and return them to her that she is finally happy again. The art is done in the muted tones and style that are without a doubt Polacco's trademark. This is the type of family tale that the author/illustrator is known for. The story is lovely, with the message that books can teach anyone about everything. The title also features pictures and tidbits about the real Stella's life after the narrative is over, which is a nice touch. VERDICT A terrific library read-aloud that is also suitable for one-on-one and small group sharing. —Paige Garrison, Augusta Richmond County Library System, GA

—“Once again, Polacco brings forth a new family story, this time about her grandmother. . . . Polacco's signature textual and illustrative styles blend to depict a folksy, bygone past. The pencil-and-marker artwork lovingly evokes the poignant memory, making this one of her most personal-feeling books. Three photos of her grandmother on the back page add backbone to the tale. Heartwarming. —Kirkus Reviews —“Through lyrical writing and expressive images, Polacco returns to recurring themes from her books: the importance of family, community, and reading. Polacco again draws on her family history —basing her heroine, Estella, on her own grandmother —while also giving this down-home tale a mystical undertone. . . . The community again unites to bring about a satisfying finale. . . . Robust pencil-and-marker illustrations bridge the narrative's fluctuating moods, portraying Estella's triumph and heartbreak with assurance. —Publishers Weekly —“This is the type of family tale that the author/illustrator is known for. The story is lovely, with the message that books can teach anyone about everything. The title also features pictures and tidbits about the real Stella's life after the narrative is over, which is a nice touch. A terrific library read-aloud that is also suitable for one-on-one and small group sharing. —School Library Journal

What a beautifully encouraging book for my struggling readers in my class. They loved every second of the read aloud. You know you've got their attention with a good story, when they move as close to you as possible during a read aloud. My struggling readers keep picking it up off of my bookshelf. A good story will always get a kid to read more and more. Thank you Patricia.

I took this book first from the local library first and my seven year old daughter loved this book. In this book, the author Patricia Polacco tells the childhood story of her grandma, Estella who was born in a mermaid's purse (a membrane like a pocket). Little Stella loved reading and always had her nose in a book. Through the book the author wonderfully portrays the importance of reading and is very successful in instilling a love towards reading in the little reader's minds. My daughter loved the book so much that she wanted me to buy it as a gift for her class. I read it to her class on her birthday and all the kids seemed to really enjoy it. The teacher later told me, kids keep reading this book over and over. I had read few other books of this author and me and my daughter loves all of them and so does her teacher. I had recommended this book to one of my friend's daughter who is not much interested in reading. I believe this book could influence her to pick up books and read. I highly recommend this book and the author in general.

I pre-ordered this lovely book. Based on Patricia's actual family memories and stories, she tell the story of her grandmother as a girl and her love of sharing books with others. Just beautiful!

I enjoyed the book - bought for class room use in 3rd grade. I believe the children will enjoy the story. The illustrations fit the story very well.

P. Polacco books are very sweet. I have about 6 and will buy more. They always have a good moral and are uplifting.

Lovely story and once again beautifully illustrated by this best of childrens' authors.

One of the best books by Patricia Polacco! I love her writing and illustrations!

Perfect for Birthday Present

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