



## When You Were Small

*Sara O'Leary , Julie Morstad (Illustrations)*

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When father puts young Henry to bed he always says "Dad, tell me about when I was small." His father complies, telling Henry how, when he was little, he used to be so tiny that he could take his pet ant out for a walk on a leash! What's more, he got his hair combed with a toothbrush and was such a little boy that he could even fit in his father's shirt pocket. Henry was so small that his father's original name for him, Hieronymous, wouldn't fit.

An enchanting, comic bedtime story that can make even the smallest child feel big, *When You Were Small* is the perfect book for children in a hurry to grow up.

## When You Were Small Details

Date : Published January 17th 2006 by Simply Read Books

ISBN : 9781894965361

Author : Sara O'Leary , Julie Morstad (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review When You Were Small for online ebook

### Jade Ralston says

This is a lovely story about a father and son bonding at bedtime. It shows how the father remembers his son. The son enjoys hearing about it. I like how it shows the father being there for him and putting him to bed. I read books where the mother always does that. The father can too. I liked seeing that. The pictures were colorful and and just right for the story.

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### Julie says

Cute but not memorable. I have a feeling kids would lose interest after a few "when you were smalls," although the scenarios do get more outrageous as they go along.

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### Pat Miller says

This is a very sweet book with charming old-fashioned illustrations. A father tells his son about what life was like when he was small. But not small as being a baby or a toddler. Small as in being a fully functioning boy but just the size of Stuart Little. Very nice. I hope this book gets the audience it deserves.

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### Baby Bookworm says

*This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!*

Hello, friends! Our book today is *When You Were Small*, written by Sara O'Leary and illustrated by Julie Morstad, a whimsical tale of Henry, and what life was like when he was very, very small.

Each night, Henry and his father play a sort of game, and it always begins with Henry's request: "Tell me about when I was small." His father then relates (possibly made-up) stories of when Henry was small. Very small. About six inches tall or so. He would sleep in a slipper with a washcloth for a blanket and a teabag for a pillow. He used a ruler as a toboggan. His parents would take the toy castle out of the aquarium, and Henry would be king of it. When Henry questions if all these stories are true, his father simply smiles and replies, "Don't you remember?"

Simple and sweet. The story explores a popular children's book theme, miniaturized life, with fun, playful scenarios and examples of little Henry in the big world. The illustrations are key here, and Morstad's timeless pen-and-ink art style creates Henry's tiny world with delicate detail that makes everything feel as small as described by the text. It's earnest, slightly silly, and inspires the imagination of little readers to look at things from a different perspective. The length is fine, and JJ enjoyed it, so we can definitely recommend this one. Baby Bookworm approved!

*(Note: A copy of this book was provided to The Baby Bookworm by the publisher in exchange for an honest*

review.)

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

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### **KC says**

Love....

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### **Kristen McBee says**

I'm not whimsical enough to understand this book.

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### **David Schaafsma says**

Picture book about a father asked to tell stories of when his son was small. The artwork is sweet, endearing, colorful, but not flashy. Intimate. Humorous. Each page is a different answer to the question, all of them inventive and cute and clever. There's no development to the story, no arc to the story, but each answer with the art is so great it overcomes that shortcoming for me.

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### **T Crockett says**

This is a magical book. The premise is a lot of fun. The wording is delightful and great for reading aloud and the pictures are just perfect. There are several I'd happily frame and put on my wall.

This was a big hit with the 3-4 year old set. At first I wasn't sure if they got the premise, but about 1/2 way through it became clear they were in on the joke. Lots of requests to read and reread this one.

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### **Snowman says**

Well, I'm not sure. A kid asks his dad what he did when he was small, and his dad makes many lies about ridiculous things that could never happen. And guess what? The kid believes him! I didn't like this book.

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### **Linda says**

What child hasn't asked about "what was I like when I was small?" Henry's father makes up some adorable little stories about when his son, Henry, was small. This book would be great to share with preschool age children who are developing their feel/skill of knowing what is real and what is made-up. Walking a pet ant, being used as a chess piece, bathing in a tea pot! What fun and funny little stories.

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### **Clare Cannon says**

A picture book that captures the playful interaction between a father and son remembering—imagining—the things he did when he was small. The tongue-in-cheek text with its inventive scenarios is perfectly offset by the spare, whimsical illustrations, leaving the book with the perfect balance of credibility and surprise.

Reviewed for [www.GoodReadingGuide.com](http://www.GoodReadingGuide.com)

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### **Annie says**

dreamy...

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### **Tiffany says**

This was a great bedtime story. D and I talked about if he was small like Henry, compared Henry to Arietty, and laughed about having a bath in a teapot. Deacon knows that he was a baby like his cousin, and not just a smaller version of himself, but for some reason he thinks I was small like this. It was interesting to get him talking about how people grow up.

The illustrations were sweet and I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read nonsensical but fun stories to their children.

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### **Rebecca says**

OhioLINKed this because it's the same illustrator as *Singing away the dark*, which was wonderful. This one is a sweet story that takes the statement "Dad, tell me about when I was small" literally. ("When you were small we let you sleep in one of my slippers. The left one. You used a fuzzy wash cloth for a blanket and a tea bag for a pillow.") Line-drawing illustrations are reminiscent of Audrey Niffenegger's style.

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### **The Brothers says**

A very cute book about a father describing to his son what the son was like when he was "small." It includes things like taking an ant out for a walk on a leash and bathing in a tea kettle.

Lovely illustrations.

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