



Monty's Magnificent Mane

Gemma O'Neill

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Does Monty care about his beautiful mane more than he does his friends?

Monty the lion loves his long, golden mane, so he's not happy when his meerkat friends mess it up. Stomping off to the waterhole, he's cheered up by the flattery of a new friend . . . a green friend . . . a big, green friend. With a SNAP Monty realizes that his flattering pal is actually a giant crocodile looking for dinner. And it's up to Monty to save everyone—including himself!

Monty's Magnificent Mane Details

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Author : Gemma O'Neill

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From Reader Review Monty's Magnificent Mane for online ebook

Julie says

The story is a sweet tale about friendship, but the illustrations and the use of alliteration are what really captivate the reader. Vivid use of color and manipulation of the graphics on the page, especially when Monty lets loose with a big roar! My 10-year-old, thankfully, still loves picture books about animals and this is one we both enjoyed.

American Mensa says

I read this book to my brother, he's four years old. This is a good picture book for kids up to about five years old, or for older kids who like picture books. It's about a lion who is a bit of a show-off. He gets his mane dirty and the Meerkats try to help him shake the feathers and dirt out but he is not amused. He goes down to the lake and gets chased by a crocodile. They run to where the Meerkats are but the lion protects them and they are all safe. The part where the lion roars might be a little scary for younger kids. It is a good book for kids who like to read about animals and feelings.

It has a lot of amusement by really expressing what the main character does. The pictures are good because they have a lot of color and emotion. My favorite part is when the Meerkats put braids and feather in Monty's mane. My brother liked how Monty's mane was really long and that it was a good place for the Meerkats to play. His favorite part is when the crocodile chased him.

Review by Aubrey L., age 7, Greater NY Mensa

Barbara says

Mixed media illustrations blooming with color fill this book's pages, adding greatly to the appeal of a familiar story. Monty is a lion who is quite vain about his mane. Although he enjoys playing with his meerkat friends, he's much more interested in grooming himself and keeping his mane clean and attractive. When a close call with a crocodile causes Monty to lose part of his mane and leads the crocodile to threaten his little friends, Monty sends that crocodile back where it came from with one mighty roar. After all, while friends might be annoying, there's no way Monty will leave them to the jaws of the crocodile. Young readers may find it interesting that in saving himself at first, Monty leads the crocodile right to his friends, which would make him responsible for whatever might happen to them. Because of this, the book might provide plenty of room for discussion as to what he should have done and the nature of friendship. I really loved the lively images and the last page that shows Monty contentedly allowing his friends to play in his mane. I'm not familiar enough with the relationship between lions and meerkats to know it that friendship is possible.

Kelly says

What I got out of this book is a story about vanity and friendship. Nice illustrations.

Tracy says

I read this book to a Toddler that I babysat and it was fantastic! We made a Lion Mask out of a paper bag and used paper for the eyes, nose, mouth and mane. Then I read Monty's Magnificent Mane and used funny voices for all characters. Her favorite part was ROAR -- "Do it again!" and then we would ROAR and ROAR some more. I read the book to her three times with and without the Lion Mask.

Melissa says

The colorful illustrations make this book a fun read.

Michelle says

I really liked the art style and it had a good message of treating your friends well and not being vain

Hilary says

Nice story; Monty learns to be less selfish and put the important things first.

Des says

beautiful artwork and good lesson

Julie Hatch says

whimsical, gorgeous illustrations and a sweet story

Emma says

The illustrations are the best part of this book. They are very colorful and I like how many of them seemed larger than the page.

Maria says

Absolutely stunning illustrations. Loved so much the mix between very detailed pieces with a loosely drawn background, or the one from hand-drawn parts mashing up with collage pieces. The visual universe is exquisite.

The story, not so much. It's ok but nothing extraordinary. It feels like a pretext for the illustrations.

Emmaline MacBeath says

SUMMARY: Monty loves his magnificent mane of hair very much. So much, that when the meerkats compliment him on his hair, Monty lets them play in it. Until they make a mess of it that is. They try to fix their mistake, but Monty is not happy. He goes down to the water to admire his hair. There he runs into a ferocious creature that chases Monty back to where the meerkats are, putting them in danger. Monty stands his ground and protects the meerkats--even if they mess up his mane sometimes.

ILLUSTRATIONS: The illustrations were created in mixed media. They are larger than life, full of color, full of movement and life! I especially love the two page spread of Monty's roar. Absolutely gorgeous.

THE GOOD: This is a wonderful moral story about being a friend when it counts the most and letting unimportant things go when they don't really matter. The crocodile took a chomp out of Monty's hair because of his vanity, but in the end it didn't matter because he was able to protect his friends. There are also a lot of M words which would make it a great book for classroom use when learning the letter M.

THE NOT AS GOOD: The story lacks a bit of development that would make it even better. It comes to the conclusion with a piece or two of background story missing. The parts with the crocodile may be too scary for the youngest children.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: Ages 4-7

Mira says

Weird story, but I love the pictures.

Brooke says

This is a book about a lion and his mane. It has nice pictures and is large. It might be too long to share for a toddler storytime, depending on the group.
