



One Fine Day

Nonny Hogrogian

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Awarded the Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book of 1971

"One fine day a fox traveled through the great forest. When he reached the other side he was very thirsty." The jaunty red fox stole milk from an old farm woman, lost his tail under the annoyed woman's knife, and spent the day bargaining to get it back. This humorous retelling of a favorite Armenian folktale is a story small children will follow and "read along" with ease.

One Fine Day Details

Date : Published September 1st 1974 by Aladdin (first published August 1st 1971)

ISBN : 9780020436201

Author : Nonny Hogrogian

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals

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From Reader Review One Fine Day for online ebook

Emily says

The book is well-written, but once I started reading it I remembered detesting it as a child, and that didn't help me like it any more now. I hope the old woman doesn't have any pets.

Starjustin says

I enjoyed this book (written and published in 1971)but can see why, having read other reviews , in 2018 the Fox getting his tail cut off for stealing an old woman's milk would be difficult to accept in a children's book. I still think that the story teaches a good lesson and much can be taken from the positive ending.

Shawn says

A nice but familiar story of a fox who has lost his tail and must negotiate with a number of different parties, organizing trades to get it out back on.

Kathryn says

Lovely illustrations (earning a Caldecott Medal, in fact) are the star of this story of a sly fox who steals milk from an old woman. She chops off his tail in punishment and says she will sew it back on only if he gives her more milk. This sets the fox off on a journey to find all the things others demand of him before he can finally get that milk. It's a cumulative tale that might appeal to some children. I'm afraid the violence kind of kept me from enjoying what might otherwise be a fun little story, but it is based on an Armenian folktale and I know violence is no stranger to traditional folktales.

Manybooks says

The bright and evocative illustrations are what makes Nonny Hogrorian's One Fine Day such a visual treat (and I can certainly understand why and how it won the Caldecott Medal). However, although I do appreciate the cumulative aspect of this story (and think that there is an important message of give and take, of the fact that one often has to give in order to receive presented), the (in my opinion) uncalled for violence of the poor fox having its tail cut off simply because it stole milk from a peasant woman, rather lessens my reading pleasure somewhat. And while I am, indeed, glad that once the fox has managed to return with milk, the peasant woman sews its tail back on, she really should not have cut off the fox's tail in the first place, basically, a rather heavy over-reaction of violence towards a simple case of petty thievery; and after all, the fox was indeed very thirsty (and thus needed to slake its thirst).

That being said, violence is part and parcel to many fairy and folktales, and actually for me, I think it is the illustration of the peasant woman holding the fox's severed tail that is much more of an issue than the text of One Fine Day itself, something which I have noticed as often being the case for me with illustrated fairy and

folk tales (that I can usually and even readily accept and tolerate textual, narrative violence, but illustrated violence, even implied illustrated violence, not as much). I still do not all that much like the fact that the peasant woman cut off the fox's tail, but the illustration of the woman holding the detached tail really does bother me on a personal and emotional level so much more than the textual description of the same ever could (because it really does look and appear as though the peasant woman is holding the poor fox's tale aloft as some kind of acquired hunting trophy).

And finally, while there thankfully and appreciatively is a bit of supplemental folkloric/historic information on One Fine Day located on the side flaps of the dust jacket (such as the fact that this is an adaptation of a traditional Armenian folktale), in my opinion, there really should be a more substantial author's note presented (considering that Armenian folktales are likely not all that well known outside of Armenia proper, it would be of both folkloric and academic interest to have even some basic information on the origin of this tale be made available). And the limited supplemental information there is certainly does not at all satisfy my own, my personal folkloric interests (but also, having the supplemental information relegated to the side flaps of the dust jacket of One Fine Day is problematic in and of itself, as dust jackets often go missing, are discarded, are destroyed, and if the dust jacket of One Fine Day no longer exists, then of course, the supplemental details presented on the side flaps of the dust jacket would of course and by necessity no longer exist either).

Laura says

Caldecotte Medal 1972

This is a cumulative tale about a thirsty fox who lapped up an old woman's pail of milk while she wasn't looking. The consequence was that she cut off the fox's tail! The fox is all upset and asks her to sew it back on so he isn't laughed at by all his friends. She told the fox she would sew it back on if he gives her the milk back. The story thus begins its chain of repetition of all the things the fox needs to do to complete the request of the old woman.

The illustrations are nice and have an old folk lore feel to them, unfortunately though, I wasn't too enraptured with the text. I feel like the story needed a smoother, less random flow to the cumulative requests of all the people and things the fox spoke to.

Calista says

My first book for 2018. I'm not sure what I was expecting for a Caldecott winner, but I think it was more than this. The art was bright and lovely and I appreciate it, yet the story seemed rather simple.

A fox losses his tail and must negotiate with many people to get what he wants. It all works out.

It feels like there isn't much to this. I might need to lower my expectations for these books from the past. This is a good book, I feel it is like many other good books out there. I guess it was the best of the year in 1972.

I read this for my goal of reading the Caldecott stories for 2018.

Sarah Rusk says

One Fine Day by Nonny Hogrogian was her first book in which she both wrote and illustrated. Hogrogian's illustrations were a great success. She combined pencil with watercolor to create smooth fur of the fox, bushy grass in the field, and wavy water in the river. Hogrogian's story tells of a fox who was very thirsty and therefore drank milk from an old woman's pail. The old woman became upset and cut off the fox's tail. The fox naturally became upset, and then goes on an adventure to get his tail back, working with many different animals and people alike. One Fine Day won the Caldecott Medal and for good reason. Its story presents collaboration, honesty, and trust with a predictable character in the fox. Young children will enjoy this story as it has beautiful illustrations and a happy ending. I would recommend using this book in the classroom to show different techniques for illustrating, sequencing/retelling, and to accompany a unit on friendship.

Heather McMaster says

This book is in the folktale genre, and it is written in a patterned format, with simple art work that seems not to be outlined. One Fine Day (Hogrogian, 1971) is a story about a thirsty fox that drank a woman's milk and ended up getting his tail sliced off in return. He must adventure out to ask animals to help him get, so that he can gather more milk for the lady to get his tail back. Unfortunately, the other animals repeatedly request multiple favors in return for their assistance. The theme is helping others, as well as adventure. The illustrations have texture within the setting, and it is evident that this illustrator chose to incorporate some cultural components, such as the clothing that the characters wear. Often, the pages use empty space as a background to place text in. This book seems to have a beginning reading level, and I'd suggest it for lower elementary students.

I would use this story to teach my classroom about patterns. The students could all listen to the story, while having a bucket of various shaped blocks at their table. The students could be given a pattern worksheet before they read the story, which could contain the beginning of a shapes pattern. For every repeated sequence that the fox does, such as every time the fox is asking each animal for assistance, the students could add on the next shape in a pattern. While learning about patterns in shapes, they would also be learning about repetition in social situations.

Hogrogian, N. (1971). One fine day. New York: Macmillan.

Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

This book was a Caldecott Medal Winner several years ago. It's a bit strange, the sort of books some kids will find disquieting. My daughter did not really like it as the fox's tail gets cut off in the beginning and then he spends the rest of the book trading for favors and items trying to get his tail sewn back on. Obviously, nicely illustrated and a cool tale in the style of the older fairy tales and fables.

Kristin says

Book summary: This is an award-winning book. This book is about a fox who gets its tail cut off by a

women because he drank her milk. The woman would sew back on the fox's tail if the fox brought her some milk. The cow would give the fox milk if brought grass. The grass wanted water, the water wanted a jug, a lady with a jug wanted a bead, the man with a bead wanted an egg, the hen with an egg wanted grain, then a nice man gave him some grain so he can down the line of favors get his tail sewn back on and return to his friends.

Grade level:K-3

Appropriate classroom use: This would be a good book to do a quiz on. What would the fox need to get the egg from the hen or so on so you can check for understanding and whether or not the kids were paying attention.

Indv. students who benefit: Those who need to read more books aloud or silently to progress on reading.

Small group use: Literature circles or learning stations could be done with this book. Reading a page at a time together.

Whole class use: Understand that what the old lady did was wrong. Not sure if i want to read this book to kindergartners because of the act of violence.

Related books: Nonny Hogrogian books such as Come Back Moon, caldecott medal winners, and other picture books.

Multimedia connection: Available in audible.

Kiera Burnett says

Summary and Critique:

The beautiful illustrations in the book redeem the minimal story line and underdeveloped characters. Although this book seems under advanced and minimally interesting, it uses the principle of high frequency, low variation, meaning that beginning readers would be better able to understand and recognize these words. The illustrations also lend to this concept as certain characters and scenes appear multiple times in the story, allowing children to become familiar with them.. The illustrations in this book seem to match the folktale theme eloquently as they are vivid in color, textured, and imperfect in a simplistic sense. Interestingly, this book is almost lyrical in the way the author combines words and prepositional phrases, leading to a more natural sounding story.

Classroom use:

In a classroom setting, I would use this book more for children to read on their own as opposed to with the class as a whole because the illustrations allow children to understand the story even if the word meaning is somewhat unclear. This book would play into a folktale unit as well as it is a traditional Armenian folktale

Genre: Folklore

Format: Picture book

Reading level: Grades 2-4

Theme: Stealing

Topic: Bargaining to get what one wants

Gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status: The only inclusion of these details was depicting the farmer lady the fox stole from as old and a bit decrepit.

Book Concierge says

The book jacket promises a “story of a greedy fox’s adventure as catchy as a nursery rhyme.” I can’t improve on that synopsis of this Caldecott-winning picture book. The illustrations are beautifully rendered

and serve the simple tale very well.

Jill says

I like foxes, which is why this book jumped out from the shelf. But, I don't like the message it sends. The old woman reacts violently to the fox helping himself to her milk. It's too Old Testament for my taste, not to mention I really don't enjoy reading kids' books where you end up repeating yourself a million times a-la The Green Grass Grew All Around.

Jenny says

Beautiful illustrations...clearly deserving of the Caldecott Medal. I am a bit puzzled or disappointed in the message that the text could be sending. First, the lady's violent overreaction isn't the message I think children today need to see....Violence was neither necessary nor warranted. Certainly the fox made a mistake...and children do need to be taught not to steal, and to make amends if/when they do make such a mistake. But to me, this wasn't the message that stood out...the fox didn't set off to get milk for the old woman because he felt bad for his actions...he set off on his journey so that he could get his tail back so his friends wouldn't laugh at him. Now, I doubt most kids will read this story the same way I did...but I don't love that the message that stands out to me is that he had to go to person(animal/object) after person to be able to get milk for the old woman in order to protect his reputation and to not be embarrassed in front of his "FRIENDS". I want my children to do what they do because it is right and because it brings them peace and happiness, not to please their friends and be popular. That's not true friendship. So, while I am probably reading too much into this story...it will not be a favorite.
