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The Wednesday Surprise
Synopsis

Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday. Dad thinks he has received all his presents, but Grandma stands up and gives him the best one of all: she reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540L (What's this?)
Paperback: 32 pages
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 1, 1989)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0395547768
Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.8 x 8.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars  (See all reviews) (16 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #34,375 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #120 in Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational  #534 in Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations  #1441 in Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching
Age Range: 4 - 7 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

The twist on this one is pure perfection. Children quickly make the assumption that the grandmother is teaching the young girl how to read and that her improved reading will make a perfect birthday surprise for her father. But everything changes when it is the grandmother who stands up, takes center stage, and reads aloud. In the few sentences it takes to do this, your entire look at the book quickly shifts and it's very easy to get choked up as the grandmother reads to her son for the first time. The surprise also generates a lot of good conversation with kids in the classroom. I've read this book with kids of all ages, from kinder up through middle school and the surprise never disappoints. This is a fantastic addition to any classroom library or bedtime collection.

Chris Bowen
Author of, "Our Kids: Building Relationships in the Classroom"

A beautiful story with an unexpected twist at the end. Nice art, and very realistic narrative by the precocious 7 year old. We appreciate the way it shows such a warm relationship between
grandmother and granddaughter. We certainly hope that our girls will enjoy the same sort of friendship with their grandmothers.

I am a reading specialist in a middle school with a large population of second language learners and I love reading this book to my reading students. They are always so surprised that the grandmother is learning to read. It shows them that you are never too old to learn!

Annas dad was working. He is a truck worker. He was going to come in time for his birthday. Anna and her grandma were making a BIG surprise. Do you think dad is going to like the surprise? I wonder what the surprise is going to be? I like this book because it reminds me of a surprise of my own life. I felt so happy when my teacher Miss. Aubry read this book. I recommend this book to everybody that likes surprises.

I heard about this book at a workshop and rushed home and bought it and I love it. What a great book to get kids interested in. With such questions like: what is happening?, what will happen next? Once you reach the end and you fight back the tears ask the one you reading it to if that’s the way they thought it was going to end. Must read with anyone. Young or old.

Do you have a secret? Annie had a really big secret with Grandma who comes on the bus to Annie’s home. In the book The Wednesday Surprise, written by Eve Bunting, Grandma cooks hot dogs, eats ice cream, and reads with Annie. Every Wednesday they have fun together. They want to have a birthday party for Annie’s dad. First they want to read more books. I liked this book because Annie read with Grandma. It is funny and sweet. I had fun reading this. The only part that I didn’t care for is the length of the book. The book, I think is a four star rating, because it was good but it was not wonderful.

This is a great book to read to children while asking them what they think the surprise is. There is a lot of visualization in this book that makes for thoughtful reading, as well as a delightful ending that leads to much discussion. A “requirement” for all libraries at home or school.

Eve Bunting is a wonderful writer! This picture book is amazing! I am glad I bought this book! I am using it for my lesson plan assignments in the K-6 teaching program!

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