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The Legend Of Lightning Larry



Synopsis

"One of the books every boy should have on his bookshelf." -- Examiner.com
No outlaw could draw as fast as Lightning Larry. But what really terrified those bad men was that peculiar gun of his. It didn't shoot bullets. It shot light. And Larry always aimed for the heart. Can Larry save the town of Brimstone from Evil-Eye McNeevil's outlaw gang? Find out in this rip-roaring original tale of a gunfighter with a huge smile and a hankering for lemonade.

TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS -- A READER'S THEATER SCRIPT OF THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN AARON'S BOOK "STORIES ON STAGE," OR FREE ON AARON'S WEB SITE.

Aaron Shepard is the award-winning author of "The Baker's Dozen," "The Sea King's Daughter," "The Monkey King," and many more children's books. His stories have appeared often in Cricket magazine, while his Web site is known internationally as a prime resource for folktales, storytelling, and reader's theater. Once a professional storyteller, Aaron specializes in lively retellings of folktales and other traditional literature, which have won him honors from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, the Bank Street College of Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, and the American Folklore Society.

Toni Goffe is the British illustrator of numerous well-loved children's books and is a winner of the 1993 Gold Medallion Book Award. He is also illustrator of Aaron's "The Legend of Slappy Hooper."

"One of the books every boy should have on his bookshelf; girls will probably like the story too . . . The language is perfect, [with] the right dose of silliness to make both parents and children chuckle . . . The illustrations are ideal." -- Cindi Rose, Examiner.com, Aug. 20, 2012

"A tall-tale superhero for our time. . . . A readaloud that could lighten up classes well up in the elementary grades." -- Kirkus Reviews, Mar. 1, 1993

"Pass out the bandanas and dig out the spittoon. Read this story in an old-timer's voice, and everyone will have a good time." -- Chris Sherman, American Library Association Booklist, Mar. 1, 1993

"Move over Wyatt Earp. Make room for a cowboy of a different caliber. A wide age range of listeners will request this one again and again." -- School Library Journal, Nov. 1993

"A rib-tickler. . . . Kids will enjoy acting this out as readers theatre." -- Jan Lieberman, TNT, Spring 1993

"Lovely. . . . Should reach the tickly bone of youngsters." -- Storyline, June 1993

"Perfect for telling or reading out loud." -- Katy Rydell, Stories, Spring 1993

"My class loved this story. Great to use when introducing tall tales." -- D. Peccianti, Reviews of All Resources (Monterey Peninsula United School District)

"Introduces one amazing cowpoke. . . . Will have young listeners laughing out loud and asking you to 'read it again.'" -- Smithsonian, Nov. 1993

"Told in the spirited language of a true yarn-spinner, this is a rollicking picture book to warm the heart of just about everyone." -- Kids' Line, Summer 1993

"The old west is turned on its ear in this lighthearted tall tale. . . . Shepard's frontier

vernacular manages to be both faithful to the genre and hilariously funny; the book reads aloud wonderfully. . . . Especially good for classroom use." -- Wendy E. Betts, The Web Online Review, Apr. 22, 1994

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (230 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #31 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns #96 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 4 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

The notorious outlaw Evil-Eye McNeevil was making the people of Brimstone pretty miserable with his gang terrorizing the place. Then into town rode Lightning Larry, determined to clean up Brimstone. Shooting the gang members in the heart with magical bolts of light that turned them into nice guys not only whittled away at Evil-Eye McNeevil's power, it was also great for lemonade sales. With his gang dwindling away, McNeevil challenges Larry to a decisive shootout at the Okey-Dokey Corral. Would evil triumph over good, or would Lightning Larry succeed against heavy odds? I think kids will enjoy the story - after all, who doesn't love a good western? Heck, I enjoyed the story, and I'm older than the hills. It's a good story, and the illustrations are some of the best I've seen in a children's book. And yes, I'll have another lemonade, please.

Now that's what I call a real Western book when guns are blazing by page 3 (Although only bolts of light, are shot to set bad hearts right). This is the second book I've bought by Aaron Shepard (and many thanks to the author for making them both enjoyable and affordable.) If you enjoy kids books

with an American theme I might also recommend "Little Miss Liberty" by Chris Robertson (please see my review for that as well).

This book is set in the Old West where bad guys could be found on every street. In every nook and cranny you could find a rotten, no good outlaw. They feared nothing at all. After all they were dirty and mean. As mean as mean can get. That is until Lightning Larry rode into the town of Brimstone. As he got off of his horse and entered the Cottonmouth saloon, he had a smile as big as Texas on his face. As he walked to the bar and ordered a large cold mug of Lemonade everyone turned to see who it could be. Now I know what you must be thinking--how in the world would any one fear a cowboy who drank lemonade? I had the same feelings myself when I started to read this book. But then Mr. Shepard did what he does best--created a character that all children would love. A character that children would love. Another big five from this reviewer-- who bought this book for her grand kids. That's right I bought this book. Now that should give you some idea how good this book is. As a reviewer we are use to getting books for free. When I saw this I had to buy it. Whispering Winds Book Reviews

My husband just loved reading this book to our boys! The cowboy (Larry) uses his guns to shoot lightning bolts that make bad guys "nice". Their friends are not too thrilled about that!

Like I said, I love Lightning Larry! I was in reader's theatre not to long ago, and we did this play. Instead of Sickening Sid, I was Sickening Sally. It was a lot of fun. Honestly, I was surprised to find that this was a book. It was EXACTLY like the lines in the play. Love this book. Zing! ;)

Love it, Love it Love it!!! My grands enjoy this book and read along with "Right in the heart!" I personally love westerns and this is a lovely book with a positive message. They also may love the different voices I use for the characters...My grandchildren ASK for me to read this book. I highly recommend this book.

Back in high school I used this story as a script for a competitive speaking script. In Kentucky "storytelling" was one of the most popular events, because (unlike traditional events) you could jump around, scream, yell, and you didn't have to hold a script while you read it. Now, I have kids, and I can't wait to show them just how much fun this book was to me back then. It's a fantastic story, well written, and well illustrated.

This is the kind of project that could turn sappy in a heartbeat. But this book doesn't. Indeed, I thought it got sharper, more clever and funnier as it went on. The author catches the feel and language of classic western tall tales, and the illustrator backs that up with energy and a certain rascally charm. So, if you take to heart the lesson of "The Virginian" -- "Smile when you say that, pardner." -- this is an entertaining and subtly accomplished treat. (Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

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