



The Apple-Pip Princess

Jane Ray

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With sumptuous artwork, Jane Ray tells an original fairy tale of a humble princess whose love for nature's beauty restores a kingdom.

Once there was a kingdom full of laughter, happiness, trees, and birdsong. But when the queen dies, the land becomes quiet and barren, and everyone is filled with sadness. What will make the kingdom bloom again? Can Serenity, the youngest of three princesses, bring hope and life back to her kingdom with a single apple pip — a precious seed left to her by her mother? This original fairy tale is brought to life and exquisitely illustrated by the internationally renowned Jane Ray.

The Apple-Pip Princess Details

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Author : Jane Ray

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Apple-Pip Princess for online ebook

Alice Ludlow says

A beautiful story in a traditional fairy-tale style. It brings across the important values of leadership and true happiness. Furthermore, the illustrations show that this is a fairy-tale set in a non-white background, making it perfect for children who are usually unrepresented in literature. The illustrations are also beautiful, combining both drawings and collages in places. There are also many techniques from the illustrations that could be replicated over in art lesson and learning about how plant grow in science.

Stephanie Jackson says

Multi cultural princesses that have nice sisters? yes!

Cheryl says

Almost want to give it five stars, for the multiculturalism, for art, for nods to traditional tales, for modern twists.... Little things like the fact that there's no mention of the lack of a male heir, and the sisters' interesting come-uppance, make this special.

And big things are special, too. The people and the kingdom grieve, and that is all it takes to explain how desolate they've become... there's no invading neighbor, evil witch, greedy vizier; just grief. And so the solution is natural, plausible, authentically inspiring, not just a corny fantasy. (Even though the time-frame is fantastic.)

Highly recommended to all fans of traditional or original fairy tales.

I will look for more by Jane Ray.

Raenice Weakly says

Author: Jane Ray

Genre: Fiction, Fairy Tales, Picture Books

Release: March, 2008

Source: Library

Rating: 5/5

Description: Sometimes it's the smallest things that make the biggest difference. . . .

Once there was a kingdom full of laughter, happiness, trees, and birdsong. But when the queen dies, the land becomes quiet and barren, and everyone is filled with sadness. What will make the kingdom bloom again? Can Serenity, the youngest of three princesses, bring hope and life back to her kingdom with a single apple

pip -- a precious seed left to her by her mother? This original fairy tale is brought to life and exquisitely illustrated by the internationally renowned Jane Ray.

With sumptuous artwork, Jane Ray tells an original fairy tale of a humble princess whose love for nature's beauty restores a kingdom.

Review: There once was a kingdom that flourished under the reign of a gentle king and his beautiful wife. But then the queen dies, leaving the king to raise their 3 daughters alone. Everyone and everything becomes barren and sad. Eventually, the king decides to set his 3 daughters to a special task: do something to change the land. Will the youngest princess, Serenity, be the one to save the land?

WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE

* Nothing at all.

WHAT I LIKED

* Everything! Another awesome children's book. It was touching, beautifully written, gorgeous illustrations...

The Apple-Pip Princess is perfect to read aloud to your children or students. I definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves a sweet, awesome read.

Claire Russell says

The Apple Pip Princess tells the story of a King with three daughters whose mother has died. With the Queen's death, happiness has left the Kingdom and the King has all but given up. The three sisters each get the chance to prove to the King that they deserve to rule the Kingdom. The two older sisters both build towers to reflect their importance. The first sister builds a wooden tower which will be the tallest in the World and the next sister builds a metal tower that will reflect her beauty. The smallest princess, Serenity has been left a wooden box of things by her mother which at first seem ineffectual and Serenity despairs. The box contains: an apple pip seed; raindrops; rainbows; sunlight; a feather and a nightingale song. Serenity decides to plant the seeds and is soon helped by a boy from the nearby village. Other villagers join in but Serenity doesn't think that she will complete her task and she and the boy sleep. When they wake up they see that everything has grown and the land looks fantastic and hopeful with new life. The King comes out and sees how much Serenity and her new friends have accomplished, contrasting sharply with the big ugly towers her two sisters are now ridiculously balanced on top of. The King tells Serenity that she will rule the Kingdom as she has displayed grace and hard work – the essential qualities for a ruler. Her sisters come down from their towers and everyone celebrates under the trees.

The Apple Pip Princess is a gorgeous all encompassing tale. It is a mix of a Fairy tale and folk tale and has the feel of an epic story with a big dose of escapism. At its heart is the message of simplicity, how the smallest gestures can be the ones that bear the most fruit (excuse the pun!) How capitalism and greed cannot compete with nature and the rewards that it brings. The story is accompanied by the most beautiful illustrations which add to the feeling of mysticism and far-away lands. They also convey what a stunning land Serenity creates. I loved reading this book and think it could be used in the classroom as an example of a modern day fairytale, perhaps as a basis for children to write their own fairy or folk tale. The book is aimed

at 4 to 8 year olds.

Lisa Vegan says

This is an original fairy tale and while it uses a familiar formula, there are some unique aspects to the story.

The tale is engaging, and I love how the youngest princess goes about getting the privilege of ruling the kingdom. How Serenity, the youngest child, gets the land to blossom, using her own idea, her inheritance from her mother, and the land's people is just lovely, and the results even more heartening. I also appreciate the overall harmony that's achieved by the last page.

The illustrations are slightly off kilter in a completely delightful way; they're really beautiful, very special.

This book is a winner and it shows that fairy tales don't have to be classics to be an asset to the genre.

Tasha says

In a barren, ramshackle kingdom lives a king and his three daughters. Their mother died years early and that is when the kingdom started to decline. Before her death, the queen asked each of her daughters to select something of hers to keep. The two older daughters selected shoes and a crown, but the youngest princess chose a very special box containing bottles and boxes filled with raindrops, rainbow, sunlight, spider web, a feather, nightingale song, and an apple seed. The king sets a challenge for his three daughters. The one who can make their mark and make him proud at the end of the next 7 days and nights will become the ruler of the kingdom. The two older girls build enormous towers to reach the moon and stars, one of wood the other of metal. The youngest princess plants seeds, cares for them, and works very hard using the gifts left by her mother. By the end of the week, she and the many people of the kingdom who see what she is doing and help, have transformed the barren land into green grass and trees.

This story of one person creating change and doing good is very powerful. Encapsulated in a folktale structure, the moral is not overly stated but instead stands on its own. The folktale structure is an important one, taking this modern tale and combining it firmly with tradition. Ray's language is a joy to read aloud, as it fairly dances off the tongue. In fact, Ray has created a princess tale that will resonate with everyone who hears it. Her artwork also lends another level to the story. These princesses are not golden-haired and fair, but dark complexioned and more universal as characters. The art too merges traditional feel with modern on each page.

Highly recommended as a read aloud for "green" days at school or for a princess book that will appeal to everyone. It would also be a pleasure to add to apple story times for preschoolers who are ready for a longer book. Appropriate for ages 4-8.

Miriam says

The lovely and eclectic illustrations are the high point of this moral tale about a sad and desolate kingdom whose queen has died.

Stacey says

I loved this book. Admittedly, a lot of the charm was having all of my kids snuggled onto the couch with me before supper, (after the vying for position and extra wiggling was done).

This is a practical and fresh fairy tale about an old king choosing a successor from his three daughters. Emma's questions drew out the pride and conceit of the older daughters who felt they were more important and more beautiful than anyone else, and did not act justly. This was a perfect foil to the humble apple pip princess who sought to be like her mother and provide assistance and work along side the people.

One of the most beautiful moments in the story, that I read in a loud voice, often over Caleb pointing and naming everything in the pictures (nice illustrations too). Was when Emma hollered in frustration, "Caleb, you don't have to know everything!" Now, if you have ever read any book with my daughter, you already know that she asks a million questions. She asks them while you are reading--and the answer is almost always forthcoming if she listens. It provided a beautiful teachable moment, and that night when we were in bed, she held her questions to the end of the page.

Finally, of no consequence to the book--but in relation to princesses, I was delighted to overhear Emma talking to her friend Renee in the car. She said, 'I am sad that princesses don't like lollipops'. Then she said, 'no, wait, I am a princess. I like lollipops. God is the biggest king and I am his daughter so I am a real true princess even though I wear pants and shirts and stuff'.

I prefer princess Emma to bat Emma-- or Emmamal, but I love that girl.

Molly Cluff (Library!) says

The illustrations were what made this one for me. So whimsical and detailed.

Jo Oehrlein says

A fable about showing leadership and bringing healing to a community.

The oldest sister shows she's ready to lead by building the tallest tower. The next sister shows she's ready to lead by building a shiny, showy tower. The youngest sister plants seeds and inspires others to do the same.

Luisa Knight says

A king must choose between his three daughters as to which will be the best to rule the land. Luckily, pride and vanity do not rule the day.

Ages: 5 - 8

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zabarj says

Author/Illustrator: Jane Ray

Published: 2008

Interest Level: K-2

Summary: Ray celebrates the transforming power of growing things in this beautiful, original fairy tale. A once-green kingdom turns into a barren dust bowl after a queen's death. The king, concerned about his land's future, challenges his three daughters to "do something to make your mark." The creator of the best project will rule the kingdom. Two princesses build towering structures, but the youngest, Serenity, plucks a tiny apple seed from a box of nature's treasures that belonged to her mother. That seed's sprout inspires more planting, and soon the kingdom becomes a lush paradise, and Serenity is named the new ruler. Ray's rich language and sure pacing create a winning read-aloud, but it's the shining collage artwork that really stands out. Mixing color photos into her typically fine, elaborately decorated illustrations, Ray creates dramatic scenes of a kingdom's renewal while highlighting the close ties among the brown-skinned princesses and the kingdom's diverse people. Link this celebratory story Claire Nivola's *Planting the Trees of Kenya*

My Take: This tale reminded me of the *The Empty Pot*. There is a lot that can be done with this book. The use of language is first element of this book that strikes me. Students, if used as a read aloud, can uncover meanings of words through word studies. Also, the book lends itself to holding discussions around the illustrations.

I would use this book have students make predictions. There are many good stopping points for students to stop and think about the prediction process.

Kathryn says

In this original fairytale, we have three princesses whose father tells them they must do something within one week to prove who is most fit to take over the ailing kingdom. Predictably, the older sisters are preoccupied with glorifying themselves rather than helping their subjects but the third princess finds a beautiful and selfless way to bring good fortune back to the kingdom. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful and I fell in love with the charming tale. Highly recommended!

Shiloah says

Excellent story. We had a great conversation about the moral principles contained herein.
