



Friends

Mies van Hout

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Happy was an international hit that showed off Mies van Hout's uncanny ability to convey feelings with her vibrant illustrations. With *Friends* she goes one step further and shows emotional interactions. Just as she made the fish of *Happy* uniquely hers, here she uses monsters to show different situations--they cuddle, laugh, play, but they also fight, tease and more--making the images recognizable for little monsters of all ages.

Friends Details

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Author : Mies van Hout

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From Reader Review Friends for online ebook

Carol says

First, I actually enjoyed the illustrations a lot more than the text. I love that they are bright and colorful on a black background. I am not usually a fan of scribbly-type art, however there is something fun and expressive in these characters. Each illustration represents a word or short phrase, which is fine just not overly appealing to me. I think it is a good choice for young children, especially pre-school age. This is a good book to show them the range of emotions one might experience in a friendship and that all of these feelings are acceptable.

Stacey says

Sometimes monsters can be scary to young children. Mies van Hout shows the beauty of friendship through monsters. This can show children that monsters don't have to be so scary. Mies van Hout uses simple verbs with beautiful illustrations to demonstrate the action. This is a wonderful book to add to any young child's library.

Heidi-Marie says

I just barely discovered this author's book "Happy" (and read it in storytime this week!). So it was fun to read this book in the similar style. I really enjoy the pictures and how expressive she is able to make them in chalk drawings. I adore the "cuddle" picture.

10/16/13: Used in my Friends theme. It worked, but not as well as "Happy." Still, with the smaller group it's OK when I have to pause to explain what "embarrass" means. Good to teach one or two new words or concepts to them, especially with such cute pictures. They liked the book, they just didn't get as in to it as the other.

Lorna says

Great for illustrating and identifying emotions. Fun, lively monster illustrations will appeal to the preschool and kindergarten crowd.

Stacie says

Simple little list of activities and emotions inspired by our friends. Super cute monster scribbles too. Checked out of JoCo library on my friend Maria's card. Maria would rate the book a 4.8.

Pawsitive School Counselor says

What a simple, yet powerful book about feelings and friendship. I can't wait to use this with my K students. Each page has a single word, for example "tease," and a strong image. I love that as the book progresses it starts with two friends and goes through the roller coaster of emotions that many friendships go through. Teasing, jealousy, and eventually forgiveness. Many times my students have friendship problems and their parents jump to say it's "bullying" when really it is just a natural eb and flow of friendship. This is also a great way to help students identify feelings and emotions.

Lara says

I didn't love this one quite as much as I did Happy (I think partly I'm just more partial to fish than I am to monsters), but it's still a beautifully illustrated book, and such a great and simple concept for young children. In this one, instead of illustrating emotions, van Hout illustrates verbs like "fight" and "cuddle" and "bore." The words in this book feel a little less concrete to me, or maybe the illustrations feel like they aren't quite as perfect...I'm not sure. But even so, it's a quiet, imaginative book that I think a lot of children and adults alike will really enjoy. I eagerly await whatever van Hout does next!

Cara Byrne says

With a single word on each page describing what friends do (whether play, embarrass or hope), this book presents many different kinds of friends.

Heather says

An absolutely gorgeous book filled with lush illustrations on the emotions of friendship with one word one each page. Geared to preschoolers but an ageless book all the same that any art lover or child at heart will cherish.

Maureen Milton says

Employing her characteristic exuberance of oil pastel on black paper, Van Hout creates a variety of affable monsters to illuminate verbs about the vicissitudes of friendship. In pairs, the monsters play, bore, tease, cry, fight, ignore, and, finally, cuddle under, around, and across the verb on each double-page spread. The vibrant colors and especially evocative facial expressions of the furry, fanged, and sometimes spiky monsters will help readers navigate the wilds of friendship by fostering discussion.

Amanda Harkin says

Summary: This is a great book for visual literacy. Each page only has one word, either an emotion or action, that relates to friendship. The book explores feelings with vibrant colors and child-like pastel drawings. This is a good book for boys and girls in preschool and kindergarten as they develop their reading skills.

Activity: As you read the book, discuss what the class sees in the picture. Read the word to them and ask them what is happening in the picture? How do the characters feel? What are they thinking? Why do they feel that way? What happens next- how can they make up, if they are upset or what else could they do together if they are happy? Then, have the students return to their seats and use crayons and manila paper to draw a picture of an emotion or interaction that you assign to them. When they are done, post it on the wall as a class display with their words written on them.

APA: Van Hout, Mies. (2013). Friends. Lemniscaat: Rotterdam.

Samantha says

A nearly wordless picture book showcasing monsters navigating friendships.

Each page includes one word which describes the action of the vibrant artwork set against black pages.

The monsters aren't terrifying which makes this a title that would be appropriate for preschoolers and the nearly wordless nature of this book makes it possible for pre-readers to describe the action of the text based on their reading of the pictures and any stories the action might encourage in their imaginations.

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

This book goes along with Mies van Hout's book Happy that I like so much. It is just one simple word and an illustration that portrays that part of friendship. Some bits are the good parts (such as play or cuddle) and other bits are the frustrating parts (such as tease or fight). But it shows that these monsters know all about the different emotions and parts of friendship.

Heydi Smith says

A perfect addition to friendship Storytime.

Simona GB says

Cool and helpful to understand friendship, also for adults. A great gift for someone with whom your relationship is "complicated".

