



A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love

Michelle Edwards , G. Brian Karas (Illustrations)

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Here's a heartwarming winter picture book that's sure to appeal to families who love knitting.

Mrs. Goldman always knits hats for everyone in the neighborhood, and Sophia, who thinks knitting is too hard, helps by making the pom-poms. But now winter is here, and Mrs. Goldman herself doesn't have a hat—she's too busy making hats for everyone else! It's up to Sophia to buckle down and knit a hat for Mrs. Goldman. But try as Sophia might, the hat turns out lumpy, the stitches aren't even, and there are holes where there shouldn't be holes. Sophia is devastated until she gets an idea that will make Mrs. Goldman's hat the most wonderful of all. Readers both young and old will relate to Sophia's frustrations, as well as her delight in making something special for someone she loves.

A knitting pattern is included in the back of the book.

A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love Details

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From Reader Review A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love for online ebook

Alina Borger says

This gorgeous story with pitch-perfect illustrations had me from hello (my childhood knitting teacher was Mrs. Whiteman, a similarity that may have biased me in favor of this book). I heard the author read aloud this warm story about caring for others and making the world beautiful--and promptly bought four copies, only one for myself.

Kirsten says

This is a warm gift of a book. Sophie loves her neighbor, Mrs. Goldman. Mrs. Goldman is always knitting hats for people as gifts, and Sophie makes the pom poms. When the weather gets cold, Sophie realizes that Mrs. Goldman has given away every hat and not kept one for herself, so she decides to make Mrs. Goldman a hat of her own. At first she's very unhappy about how it turns out, but then she figures out a way to make her gift shine. The book includes instructions in the back for knitting one's own simple hat and for making pom poms.

Notes on representation: Mrs. Goldman is Jewish, and there are Yiddish terms scattered throughout the text, which are defined in context. Sophie has tan skin and dark hair, and the text makes reference to her abuela in Mexico.

Starla says

This book is about a little girl named Sophia who likes to make pom-poms. A lady named Mrs. Goldman had taught her how to make them and how to knit. Though Sophia thought that knitting was too hard. Mrs. Goldman made hats and knitted numerous different things for others, but never herself. As winter approached Sophia noticed that Mrs. Goldman did not have a hat for herself. Therefore, Sophia decided she was going to make one for her. Every day during their walk she thought about the hat and wanted to make it a surprise for Mrs. Goldman. Sophia worked hard for many days to finish the hat for Mrs. Goldman. When she finished she noticed that hat was not pretty. The hat had many holes in it, so Sophia decided to cover it in pom-poms. Mrs. Goldman loves Sophia's pom-poms! Sophia put 26 pom-poms on the hat for Mrs. Goldman to cover the holes. When she was all finished she took the hat over to her and she cried. She loved her new hat and it kept her warm!

Text-to-self connection: I can relate to Mrs. Goldman! Just like Mrs. Goldman you work so hard for others that you tend to forget about yourself. Mrs. Goldman didn't have a hat for the winter and was cold. Sophia had taken it upon herself to realize it and to surprise her. An example of this in my own life is when it comes to others. I always buy merchandise for others, but never for myself. I never buy for myself because I take care of others before myself. This is a good thing, but can also be bad because some take advantage of it.

Text-to-text: This book reminds me of other books I have read where the characters are thinking about others before themselves. However, there is always someone watching out for you and you don't even know it. Just like they like to say, "You never know who is watching." A book that it reminds me of is Chris Kyle. Chris

Kyle was concerned about others before he died and tried to help them not even considering himself. He was fighting for our country despite all of the PTSD he had from war, he had continued doing his job.

Text-to-world: I would say this book is different from things in the real world. Many times, people are the opposite of Mrs. Goldman. More times than not individuals in today's world are more focused on themselves than on others. Many don't consider other feelings before taking part in an event or action. I believe that bullying is a good example of this. Many kids are bullied because of self-centered individuals. They do not consider other people's feelings.

Tasha says

Sophie first got a hat knit by Mrs. Goldman when she was a tiny baby. Now Sophie helps by making pom-poms for Mrs. Goldman's hats. She learns about doing good deeds or "mitzvahs" for people. When Mrs. Goldman and Sophie head outside into the blustery weather to walk her dog Fifi, everyone has something knit to keep them warm except for Mrs. Goldman. So Sophie decides to knit a hat for Mrs. Goldman. It takes some time to knit and meanwhile there are more cold walks. When it's done though, the hat isn't perfect. It is lumpy and has holes where there shouldn't be any. Sophie though has a plan that will make this a hat worthy of Mrs. Goldman.

This picture book is pure bliss. Edwards has created a vivid friendship between a grandmotherly neighbor and a young girl. There is kindness throughout, both in terms of the knitting but also the small kindnesses done for one another. Little details bring the world fully alive, like Sophie's knitting that she started with Mrs. Goldman smelling of chicken soup, such a warm and homey smell.

The illustrations by Karas are lovely. They show the hard work that Sophie puts in, her frustrations and her successes. They show the cold walks and the fierce winds, the attempts at wearing scarves. They show the joy of completion and then the dismay at seeing that the hat is not perfect. And finally, they show the real hat that is glorious and unique.

A lovely book sure to warm up your own chilly fall and winter days. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Laura says

A sweet story about handmade thoughtfulness. And that's a mitzvah!

Anna Smithberger says

What an absolutely lovely book. Too long for storytime, but absolutely lovely.

Jacob says

Y'all, this one will bring a tear to your eye.

Edward Sullivan says

A lovely, warm friendship story.

Jessie Bear says

Sophia enjoys the warm hats Mrs. Goldman knits for her, but when she realizes Mrs. Goldman needs a hat too, she decides to take matters into her own hands. *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman* introduces young readers to the concept of a mitzvah, first with a brief definition and then elaborating with Sophia's story. Karas' mixed media illustrations add a light touch to the story, earning chuckles with moments like the monster hat. The comedic proportions of the Sophia's handmade hat and Mrs. Goldman's kind response emphasize the impact of Sophia's mitzvah without becoming didactic. Themes of sharing and kindness make this warm-hearted story a perfect read for winter, for knitters and non-knitters alike. For crafty readers, instructions at the end detail how to recreate Sophia's hat. *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman* is very highly recommended for children ages four to seven.

Jeremy says

WORLD review here (scroll down).

Jewish characters, if you couldn't tell from the title. Sweet story about a girl who notices a need and works to solve the problem. *Mitzvah* means "good deed."

Sara Grochowski says

I adore G. Brian Kara's illustrations in this sweet story.

Lori says

An endearing book about friendship, selflessness, and caring for one another. Potential for showing stamina and persistence.

Emily says

I LOVED IT. Making hats to keep people warm is a mitzvah, adding beauty is a mitzvah, caring for your neighbors is a mitzvah. A beautiful book that models what our relationships and communities should look like.

Deborah says

So sweet!

Jason says

If all you can make is pom-poms, make pom-poms with everything in you.
