



Timothy Goes to School

Rosemary Wells

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Timothy is very excited about starting school--until he meets Claude. Claude sits next to him, and he wears all the right clothes, says all the right things, and garners all the praise from his teacher and classmates. Timothy is feeling down, until he meets a girl who's having the same problem with her seatmate...."Children will easily relate to this tale, in which humor and realism effectively mesh." --**Booklist**, starred review

Timothy Goes to School Details

Date : Published July 1st 2000 by Puffin Books (first published January 1st 1981)

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Author : Rosemary Wells

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From Reader Review Timothy Goes to School for online ebook

Susan Lubner says

I started out liking this book, and I am a fan of Rosemary Wells' illustrations. But the ending for me was dissappointing. Not okay to laugh at other people, and certainly not a good message for the picture book set (or anyone for that matter).

Monica Olmstead says

good book for kids to read as in the words are not hard to read but not a good message for the kids. The end was bad. Timothy and Violet laughed at the other kids and timothy was wishing bad things to happen to Claude through the entire book. so ya bad message being sent to the kids

Arsenio Richardson says

I really liked this book because the literature was good and the story being told was very real. The author did used raccoons as the characters which were ok because she had them in people clothes and on two feet not all fours. I thought the author used the colors well even the though pictures were not the best. The setting of school could have been a little better but I understood where she was going with the art. The literature was really good because it dealt with problems that elementary age kids deal with all the time. I would recommend this book to a lot people dealing with young kids.

Amy says

Let me start by saying I love Wells and most of her work. Both of my kids have loved her Max and Ruby shows and books. I had bought Timothy Goes to School awhile ago for my daughter. We read it last week in anticipation of kindergarten. The start of the book was good with the mother loving Timothy and helping him "fit in" with the other students. Timothy is teased by another student at school each day named Claude. The book ends with Timothy making a new friend who is also teased by another student. The ending of the book has Timothy and his new friend laughing about and making fun of those who tease them. This book is teaching that if you are teased, the best approach is to tease back. I am trying to teach my children to treat everyone nicely, even if they are mean to us. I am getting rid of this book from our family library.

Margie Potter says

Mixed emotions about this book. In the end did Timothy and Violet laugh because they realize they should not be jealous of other people or did they laugh because they were making fun of Claude and Grace....I guess it is left up to you to determine where the story went. I did not think it was a joyful ending and could send the wrong message.

Beyond the Pages says

While I kind of liked this book in general, I felt that it was left in an unresolved place. Timothy and Claude's initial presentation to one another was flat. As the story continued, we saw that there was some tension, negativity, jealousy, arrogance and ill feelings between the two. Thereafter, we soon met Violet who had the same kind of issues with a fellow classmate. When the two classmates, Timothy and Violet, came together, they compared notes, so to speak, and banded together. Soon what was dysfunctional became functional? It was rather hard to believe.

I did like the illustrations. They were colorful and varied. I liked the school setting with all its play/work considerations.

I wish this book would have ended on a more positive note regarding the underlying issues that were revealed. Sure, the two friends came to be close, in a sense, but I did not see any growth occur. There was no obvious learning that happened with Timothy, Violet, or Claude.

This book definitely served as a conversation starter between my children and myself. We talked about attitudes, ill wishes, & how and what we communicate about and to others.

This title was secured from my local library.

Ines Gracia says

This was one of my favourite books when I was a child..... but I'm not a child anymore and I see that this book is almost nothing without the pictures.

MJ says

Alissa had trouble understanding the jealousy and rivalry between the 2 boys.

Deidra says

Written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Published by Puffin, copyright 2000.

Grade level: 1-3

Timothy is all ready for his first day of school in his brand-new homemade sun suit. When he gets to school though, he meets Claude. Claude is wearing the "right" clothes for the first day of school, and Claude does everything else right too. How will Timothy ever measure up? Timothy doesn't start to feel better until he meets Violet, a girl who is feeling the same way as him. Timothy and Violet become best friends, and realize they don't need to be jealous of those who seem "perfect."

Children will love the illustrations in this book, and they will be able to relate to how Timothy is feeling.

Possible themes/units: insecurity, friendship, beginning of school year

Skylar Burris says

This is somewhat like having a full day's kindergarten class in a single book. It's a workbook without all the marking and writing; your child, in a sense, becomes a member of the class and does the activities along with the rest of the class. It samples a lot of areas in small doses: rhymes, letter recognition and sounds, letter combining, listening comprehension, and sound combinations. It was a bit too demanding for my four year old in parts, but she seemed to enjoy it, and I think it would be a great book to read again just before kindergarten. I would give it four stars for a one-time read, but once she knows the answers to the exercises, there's not much to hold her attention for a repeat read, so I had to settle on three stars.

Jensine Foley says

I would use this book if i was teaching young children. I believe this has a very good point to it, while Timothy just wants to go to school he struggles trying to fit in and find new friends. I feel as if a lot of kids struggle with this and this book can show them that they are not the only ones.

Kelly says

This almost got 4 stars from me. The story was going in a solid direction. But then...the ending. Very odd. It just sort of...stopped.

Juli19 says

Timothy is a little raccoon that is very excited to go to his first day of school. When he is at school he meets his classmate Claude who is so perfect about everything. Claude wears the right clothes and says the right things. Timothy does not like that and wishes bad things to happen to Claude but nothing bad happens to him. One day Timothy is feeling down and he meets Grace who is having the same problem with her seatmate. At the end both raccoons which share the same feelings about their seatmates become friends. I did not like the story, it make children think that it is ok to wish bad things and make fun of other children that are different or "perfect" like the book states.

Darlene Pasquale says

- 1) no awards
 - 2) appropriate grade levels - Pre K-2nd grade
 - 3) Summary - This book explores Timothy's first day of school. Poor Timothy feels like an outsider. Will he ever be able to make a new friend?
-

4) Review - I think that this is a great story about making friends. When children first start school, one of their tasks is to interact with other children and make new friends, which is not always easy. This book alludes to that, however, I feel like there are some bullying aspects in it that adults should be aware of.

5) A teacher could set up an anchor chart or a list on the board, and discuss with the children, what it means to be a good friend. Here, they could address the mean things that happened to Timothy, while coming up with ideas on how to be nicer to somebody who is new. A teacher can also set up an icebreaker activity that asks simple questions such as a child's favorite color, food, or animal, to help students see that they have things in common, making it easier for them to make friends.

Brenda says

It is Timothy's first day of school and he is struggling with Claude about what are the perfect clothes to wear to school. He is told that "nobody wears a suit to school." Timothy's mother encourages him to choose various other outfits. At the end of the story Timothy meets Violet, who is also discouraged by a girl rabbit who appears to be "perfect." They become friends and laugh together. I see their laughter not directed at the other children but more at the silliness of wanting to be one of the "perfect kids" and that they had something in common. I saw this as a story about wanting to be accepted and how similarities and differences can bring two people together. I felt the author illustrated this well by choosing a girl and boy bunny to become the friends at the end.
