



The Lion and the Puppy: And Other Stories for Children

By Leo Tolstoy

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The Lion and the Puppy: And Other Stories for Children By Leo Tolstoy

While living in Russia, Tolstoy operated a tiny school for the peasant children, where they could learn to read, write, and draw. He found that there were a lack of folktales and fables to read to the children so he created his own, which are now brought together in this beautifully illustrated collection. From "The Lion and the Puppy," a story about friendship, to "The King of the Shirt," a parable about obtaining happiness, to "Escape of the Dancing Bear," about a bear who is trained to be captured, these stories are sure to captivate and delight children of all ages. Similar in scope to Aesop's fables, children will be able to take away important lessons, as well as laugh at silly mishaps and characters, from this timeless collection. Ages 9-12.

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The Lion and the Puppy: And Other Stories for Children By Leo Tolstoy Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Taken from Tolstoy's *Azbuka*, or "primer," these are the stories he created for the village children who came to the "school" in his garden, the same children who would soon be old enough to work in factories for 12 hours, seven days a week. In the title story, a hapless puppy is thrown in the cage of a lion. The two become close companions until the puppy dies; the lion grieves and dies shortly thereafter. In the poignant "Escape of a Dancing Bear," it is the brown beast's training to twirl at his master's call that leads to his recapture, and "The Old Poplar" is the tale of the misguided intentions of a gardener. These are just a few of the treasures Riordan selected; his friendly introduction sets the appropriate tone for the straightforward translations. Done with taste and reserve, the brevity of each tale contributes further to the general accessibility of the stories. Though few, the realistic, sometimes stiffly rendered pictures lend color to the stories. All ages.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 3 Up-- A collection of 25 of Tolstoy's short stories, each based on Russian folklore with a definite moral or lesson to be learned. Like the best fables of Aesop, the morals naturally spring from the stories; they are not dogmatically imposed. The stories are warm, earthy, and filled with the wisdom of everyday life. Accompanying the stories are 13 ink and wash drawings which do a competent job of illustrating the action of the stories but nothing more. A valuable addition to folklore collections. --Denise A. Anton, Cornbelt Library System, Normal, Ill.

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Language Notes

Text: English, Russian (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terri Rouse:

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Connie Nixon:

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John Almanzar:

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