



2002

### Timothy's Tales from Hilltop School

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#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Staheli, Jan (2002) "Timothy's Tales from Hilltop School," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 23 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol23/iss2/9>

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Wells, Rosemary. *Timothy's Tales from Hilltop School*. Illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Viking/Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN 0670035548 \$16.99. 64 pp.

Reviewer: Jan Staheli

Reading level: Preschool; Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture Book

Subject: Schools—Fiction; Animals—Fiction

For the Science Fair, Fritz wants to make a Superconducting Super Collider, and even though he has many difficulties, he keeps trying. Nora wants to give a special gift for a birthday party, even though her mama has no extra money this week. Shy, little Charles chooses to be an eagle for Bird Week, and even when Claude tries to bully him out of his choice, he solves the problem of an eagle's scream in his own unique way. Doris loves squeeze cheese for lunch and hitting at baseball, and even though she is big she discovers she is just right the way she is. Timothy and Claude are assigned to be partners for Measuring Day, and when Claude wants to be the boss and do it all himself, Timothy finds a way to share the work and the fun. It's Bug Week and all the children are going to dress up as bugs, so when Grace finds she is allergic to her diaphanous dragonfly wings made of peacock feathers, she learns that it is much more fun to share the spotlight than to be alone.

I will admit at the outset to a complete bias where Rosemary Wells is concerned. I love her! And these six stories about the children at Hilltop School are, once again, right on the mark. Gently, they tell of a child's world, and a child's concerns, and each story resolves simply and satisfyingly. The lessons learned are valid and valuable: about friendship, kindness, feeling happy about yourself, and not giving up. I highly recommend this book for young children, and the parents who love and read to them.