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Three Pebbles and a Song

Vicky M. Turner

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Spinelli, Eileen. *Three Pebbles and a Song*. Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2003. ISBN 0803725280. \$16.99. Unpaginated.

Reviewer: Vicky M. Turner

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Fairy tales;

Subject: Mice--Juvenile fiction; Winter--Juvenile fiction; Work--Juvenile fiction;

Moses the mouse is very like the grasshopper in the famous tale by Aesop. Moses would rather dance, sing and juggle than gather food or warm things for the nest. Old leaves twirling give Moses the inspiration to dance, the soft wind in the cornstalks give Moses a tune to sing, and shiny pebbles by the brook instill in Moses the urge to toss and catch. Inevitably, the snow comes, and thanks to Mama there is food in the house. Thanks to Papa there are old rags to snuggle in for warmth, and thanks to Moses' sister Missy there are sweet raisins for treats on special days. Long before winter is through, however, everyone is bored and wishes for something exciting to do—and, of course, Moses has all the answers.

The author has the understanding that work and play go together, and the illustrator, thanks to Beatrix Potter and a wild mouse the cat might've drug in, gives the mouse family an unexpected insight on winter—and spring.