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Don Quixote and the Windmills

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Kimmel, Eric. *Don Quixote and the Windmills*. Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004. ISBN 0374318255. \$16.00. 32 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure stories; Humorous stories; Picture Books;

Subject: Don Quixote--Juvenile literature; Knights and Knighthood--Juvenile fiction; Spain--Juvenile fiction; Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Eric Kimmel's latest book is a retelling of the windmill episode in Cervantes' literary masterpiece, *Don Quixote*. Senor Quexada is a woeful man who is so obsessed with books about knights and their exploits that his mind snaps. He announces to his household that he is now "the renowned knight and champion Don Quixote de la Mancha." He dons a rusty suit of armor, saddles up his old nag, Rocinante, and recruits a neighbor, a farmer named Sancho Panza, to be his squire. The two men set out on their adventure with Don Quixote on the look out for ogres and giants. Seeing windmills in the distance, the well-meaning knight errant mistakes them for giants who are threatening the countryside. While Sancho tries to convince his master that the windmills are just that, Don Quixote rushes towards them in an attempt to bring the "giants" to their knees. Kimmel does a fine job of catching the humor of Cervantes' original episode. Fisher's bold, colorful drawings are energetic and make a fine complement to Kimmel's text. Kimmel includes an author's note explaining the origin of Cervantes' novel.