



2004

# Old Turtle and the Broken Truth

Emily E. Johnson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Johnson, Emily E. (2004) "Old Turtle and the Broken Truth," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 5 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol25/iss5/16>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

Wood, Douglas. *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*. Illustrated by Jon J. Muth. Scholastic, 2003. ISBN 0439321093. \$17.95. 64 pp.

Reviewer: Emily E. Johnson

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Picture books;

Subject: Toleration--Juvenile fiction; Truth--Juvenile fiction; Nature--Effect of human beings on --Juvenile fiction;

One man found the broken truth. He clung to it; it made him feel good so he shared it with people like himself. Soon other people wanted the truth. Wars began to spread. Among the battles over the Truth one Little Girl emerged. She traveled through the Mountains of Imagining, the River of Wondering Why, and the Forest of Finding Out until she found Old Turtle. Old Turtle told her how the broken truth was found and the need to find the additional portion of it. Together the two wandered and spoke to one another and Old Turtle guided the Little Girl to the other part of the Truth. The Little Girl carried the gift of Truth coupled with Old Turtle's wisdom back to her own people. There she tried to explain but no one could comprehend her words. Then, the Truths were brought together to say, "You are loved / and so are they;" and the people began to comprehend.

Wood's use of animals is reminiscent of Native American traditions and his poetic expression creates a steady flow of words on each page. The placement gives an added dimension to the story, guiding the reader's eyes and showing how the story should sound. This peaceful flow is likewise depicted in Muth's watercolor illustrations. Each element contributes to the story's message and while simple words and sentences weave this story, the meaning is much deeper. A perfect book for those learning English as a second language.