



2005

Silly horse

Laura Wadley

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Levin, Vadim. *Silly horse*. Illustrated by Evgeny Antonenkov. Pumpkin House, 2005. ISBN 096460101X. \$15.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Preschool

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fantasy poetry; Humorous poetry;

Subject: Children's poetry, Russian--Translations into English--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Originally published in Russia in 1969, "Silly Horse" has arrived in the United States just this year. Levin's poetry is as silly as the horse of the title, and seems expertly translated for this edition by Wolfson and Zunshine. The poetry is a delight, as in "A Little Poem About Big Rain": "For a month the sky's been grey/All we get is rain all day:/Soaking houses, trees and leaves,/Dripping noses, shoes and sleeves,/Soggy ground is soaked right through,/Parks and fields are soaking too,/And too far away to see/Ships are soaking in the sea." Antonenkov's pictures are every whit as fine. Rich, evocative - one might even say Slavic - coloring and scratchy textures make this book a memorable, satisfying read for children and adults.