The Retired Kid

Gillian Streeter

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter
Reading Level: primary
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Picture books; Humorous stories;
Subject: Retirement--Juvenile fiction; Old age--Juvenile fiction; Contentment--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Brian thinks being a kid is overly hard. He has to baby-sit, learn to play an instrument, go to school, and more. So he announces his retirement and moves to a Florida retirement community. At first, retirement is great. Brian goes fishing with his friend Harvey, an ex-plumber. He also goes to the movies, plays card games, and learns how to play golf. Unfortunately, retirement means having to do other things too--drinking prune juice smoothies, listening to other retirees’ medical stories, and going swing dancing. When Harvey suggests he remember the “good old days,” Brian decides to come out of retirement and return to being a kid. Agee’s sketchy black pencil and bright gouache make all the illustrations look wonderfully child-like and energetic. His sparse text conveys the frustrations of youth and old age comically, but truthfully as well. Voted the LA Times’ Favorite Children’s Picture Book of 2008.

Volume 29, no. 3 (January/February 2009)