



2009

Yonderfel's Castle

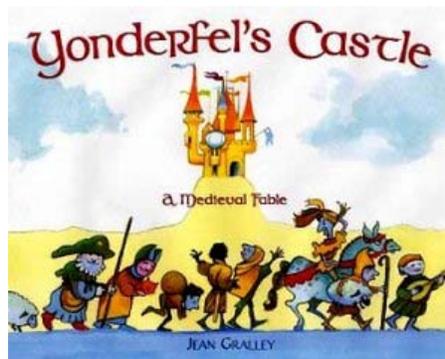
Ruth-Anne Brown

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Brown, Ruth-Anne (2009) "Yonderfel's Castle," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 30 : Iss. 3 , Article 3.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol30/iss3/3>

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, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Gralley, Jean. *Yonderfel's Castle*. Illustrated by Jean Gralley. Henry Holt, 2009. ISBN 9780805063295. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books; Fables; Fairy tales;

Subject: Fairy tales; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Juvenile fiction; Castles--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

King Yonderfel is a generous and selfless ruler. All day long he stands at his gate inviting anyone and everyone to come live off of his hospitality. One day the ogre that owns the mountain where Yonderfel's castle stands comes to demand more rent. King Yonderfel will not charge his people to stay, so he can only pay half of what the ogre asks. The ogre then starts up his tractor and tears away half the mountain. This makes the castle tip to the side, and all the people leave, ridiculing King Yonderfel and his tipsy castle. Travelers will no longer come to his castle, so the king begins knitting guest towels to pass the time. Years pass and a great storm comes to the valley. The people remember who never turns anyone away and paddle for Yonderfel's castle. Everyone is warm and dry because of all the guest towels. Then come the ogre's shouts for help. When the ogre is pulled inside, the castle topples off the divided mountain and falls into the waters, but towel sails carry the people to a better mountaintop. Even after the good king dies, his people are heard at the gates welcoming all who pass by.

This charming medieval fable shows the unflinching charity of a king. The illustrations are light and colorful, depicting humorous characters and scenery. Gralley has created a heartwarming story of a king who knows that no kindness is ever squandered.

Volume 30, no. 3 (January/February 2010)