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Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail

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Book Review

Leopold

Author

Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer

Illustrator

Suzanne Beaky

Reviewer

Beverly Jones

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

Ben is a young boy who is afraid to join the soccer team. He can't stop thinking about what could go wrong. So his grandmother uses a parable about a timid turtle named Leopold to show him just what could go right. Leopold is afraid to come out of his shell and join his friends in the water. But when he finally decides to take a chance, he sees all the great things he's been missing. Ben is motivated by his grandmother's story and joins the soccer team for the first practice. He ends up having a great time and even scores a goal.

Courage is the central theme in this turtle-rific tale. This uplifting book is a wonderful way to teach children how to be brave and courageous. The use of a parable is always an ingenious way to get a point across. The rhyming style is also enjoyable and appreciated. The flow of this book is smooth as the story transitions between Ben's story and Leopold's story. Hand-painted illustrations by Suzanne Beaky take readers on a memorable visual journey. Kudos to the authors and illustrator for providing children with a delightful read that showcases a lesson worth learning. The tale of Leopold shows readers that life is a risk worth taking.

Pages

32

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2015

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