The Meanest Birthday Girl

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BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Rosen, Phyllis () "The Meanest Birthday Girl," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 40 : Iss. 2 , Article 158. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol40/iss2/158
Dana is not a very nice little girl. She calls other kids names, takes their food, and generally is rude to them. Then she receives a big white elephant for her birthday and gradually realizes it is not such a great gift. She tries to take care of it but finds that it eats her food, sleeps in her space, and is not very kind to her. She recognizes that she has been less than nice and she apologizes to the boy she was so rude to. Then she decides to give away the big white elephant.

Readers will enjoy the great illustrations in this book, as well as Dana’s character development. Dana realizes she has not been nice, and then she gives away the elephant to someone who has not been nice to her. The reader may be unsure if that’s because she wants this person to learn the same lesson, or if she just wants to retaliate a little. It’s funny for adults at the end. The message might be subtle for children.