Grumpy Duck

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An unhappy duck spreads his unhappy mood around the farm and to every animal he meets. By the time he is done, the cloud over his head is ginormous and covers the entire sky. Finally, the cloud bursts, and everyone enjoys the downpour, returning to the activities that make them happy as a rainbow appears overhead.

The wonderful illustrations make this a cute book, but the story lacks meaning and resolution. The duck goes about offending all of his friends and does nothing to make the situation that he has created any better. The theme seems to be that if you have a bad day, you should bring everyone around you down until the situation changes, and then everyone can be happy again. It might be better for children to understand that they can use self-control to change a bad day to a good one, and they can at least prevent themselves from ruining everyone else’s day.