



2019

Grumpy Goat

Karen Abbott

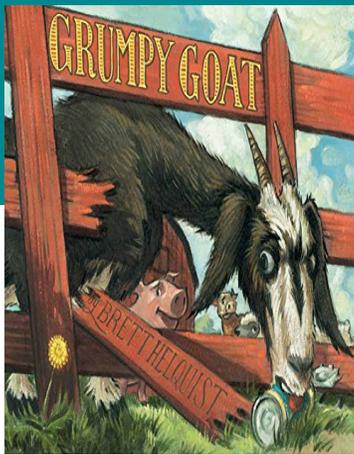
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Abbott, Karen (2019) "Grumpy Goat," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 40 : Iss. 4 , Article 20.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol40/iss4/20>

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.



Book Review

Grumpy Goat

Author

Brett Helquist

Illustrator

Brett Helquist

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Dependable

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

40

Year

2013

Publisher

Balzer + Bray

ISBN

9780061139536

Grumpy Goat is devoted to his gut. All he wants to do is eat. He is only concerned about where he wants to eat, when he wants to eat, and not being bothered by the other animals while he eats. This used to be the happiest farm, but Goat's surliness brings all of the animals down. Then, while munching the grass, Goat sees a dandelion. He thinks that it is dandy indeed and he cares for the blossom through the summer. The animals join him in appreciating the bloom until fall comes and his lovely plant falls apart in the wind. He is crushed. All of the other animals on the farm offer their support and soon make friends. To his surprise the field is covered in dandelions come spring.

The story has a positive message about making friends, but the execution is weak. There is not a pivotal point that really brings the animals together and creates a greater sense of unity. It's just a passive occurrence as other things are happening. Goat has an unusual affinity for the plant that seems out of sync with his feelings for the other animals. This could be incorporated to add depth to the goat's character but it is left up to the reader to make it make sense. The illustrations are gruff and stubbly and seem to match Goat's surly disposition perfectly. The humor is subtle but adds a nice touch to the overall story, especially since the death of the dandelion is quite sad. This is a good story, but it's a little rough around the edges.