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The Knight Who Said "NO!"

Krista Alletto

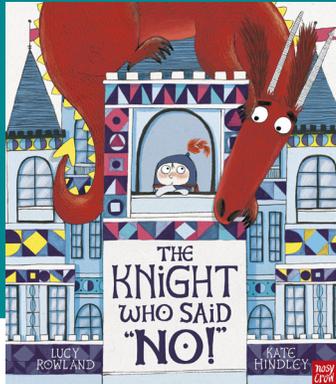
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Book Review

The Knight Who Said "NO!"

Author

Lucy Rowland

Illustrator

Kate Hindley

Reviewer

Krista Alletto

Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Preschool

Pages

32

Year

2018

ISBN

9781536208139

Publisher

Nosy Crow

Ned the knight lives with his parents in a towering castle and always does as he is told. Whether being asked to fetch firewood or pick cabbages, Ned's answer is always "yes." He also hurries inside the castle every night when the scary, red dragon arrives for his nightly flight around town. One day, Ned wakes up and feels strange. He doesn't feel like saying "yes" anymore. In fact, he feels like saying "no" to every request, including the one to hide away inside the castle when the dragon flies into town that night. When Ned comes face to face with the dragon, he realizes that the dragon isn't so scary after all - he only wants a friend.

This book is initially appealing, but overall it misses the mark. The big illustrations are colorful and impressive, and the rhyme in the text is bouncy and fun, but the message and storyline fall short. The author tries to teach something about obedience and disobedience. Unfortunately, these messages are underdeveloped. When Ned's personality suddenly becomes so blatantly non-compliant and disagreeable, the text may inadvertently teach the wrong message to young readers. Overall, this book is fun to look at, but it lacks consistency and substance.