Thanksgiving at the Tappletons'

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Book Review

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Title: Thanksgiving at the Tappletons’
Author: Eileen Spinelli
Illustrator: Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: Harper
Publication Year: 1982
ISBN: 9780062363978
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool, Primary
Rating: Dependable

Review

Thanksgiving is always a big day for the Tappletons, but this year everything seems to be going terribly wrong. First the Thanksgiving turkey slides out the door, into the street, and finally into the pond. When Mr. Tappleton goes to buy the pies there are completely sold out. Their son Kenny had fed all of the vegetables for the salad to the rabbits in Mr. Butterworth’s class the day before. Jenny doesn’t put the blender lid on all the way, and mashed potatoes go flying everywhere. No one has the heart to tell the others what happened, so when it comes time for dinner they all have to confess what happened to their Thanksgiving dinner. Still, they realize that Thanksgiving is about more than the traditional food they eat and they have a great Thanksgiving dinner together anyway.

Thanksgiving at the Tappletons’ is an amusing book about everything going wrong. While some parents might want to point out that the family should have been honest with each other sooner instead of hiding it when things did not work out for them, the end message that family is the most important part of Thanksgiving helps end the book on a good note. This is a book that many parents will enjoy reading to their children.