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Leo The Late Bloomer



Synopsis

Leo isn't reading, or writing, or drawing, or even speaking, and his father is concerned. But Leo's mother isn't. She knows her son will do all those things, and more, when he's ready. 'Reassuring for other late bloomers, this book is illustrated with beguiling pictures.' -- Saturday Review.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 120 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reissue edition (1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006443348X

ISBN-13: 978-0064433488

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 122 customer reviews

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Antic illustrations add a comic edge to a sweetly reassuring tale about a tiger cub who eventually catches up to his more accomplished animal friends. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Robert Kraus is the author of *Little Louie the Baby Bloomer* and *Leo the Late Bloomer*, illustrated by Jose Aruego, and the author and illustrator of dozens of books for children. Jose Aruego's books for young readers have earned the applause of critics, teachers, librarians, and parents as well as the affection of children everywhere. Mr. Aruego's comic animals are immediately recognizable as they cavort through clear, vibrant landscapes, carrying out the action that the simple text has set in motion. It is a style one reviewer has termed

“illustrative mime.” Jose Aruego was born in the Philippines, where he studied law. But after practicing briefly, he decided to come to the United States to study graphic arts and advertising at Parsons School of Design in New York City. After graduation, he worked in advertising before taking up the demanding job of cartooning for The Saturday Evening Post, The New Yorker, Look, and other magazines. Mr. Aruego said: “Every Wednesday I would go to the cartoon editor with fifteen or sixteen drawings in hand, from which he might select one for publication. The tension was terrible, because selling cartoons was how I made my living. But I learned a lot from the rejected work, so it wasn’t a waste. The sink-or-swim experience of drawing cartoons was how I learned to make the most of a small amount of space.” Both abilities have helped him in his career as a children’s book author and illustrator, which he began with the publication of *The King and His Friends* in 1969. Although he is known for his amusing characters, Jose Aruego takes writing and drawing for children very seriously. After more than three dozen books he feels he is still learning his craft and getting to know his audience. From the popularity and appeal of Jose Aruego’s books, it is obvious that he has both the artistic skill and the imagination to reach the world of children. His work has a distinctive rhythm, and his humorous animal characters have a gaiety and playfulness that children adore. “Each project teaches me something new and makes me a better artist. Each book brings me closer to children,” he said. “I have found from making appearances at schools that when kids draw for themselves, most of them like to make funny pictures. So I show them how to draw an alligator. It’s a simple drawing and the teachers tell me that after my visit, Aruego alligators show up all over the school.”

I have loved this book since I bought it back in the early 1980's for my very sweet third son. He had two older brothers and didn't speak as soon or as articulately as they did. He also had learning disabilities and other issues that I know some parents would consider serious developmental problems -- but my viewpoint was that he was perfect just the way he was, and would grow out of anything that seemed to be a "challenge" at that point in his young life. So, when I found this book it touched my heart because it mirrored exactly how I felt about my son! I highly recommend this book for everyone!

I grew up with this book and rediscovered it as a parent. Leo the tiger is having trouble doing all the normal things that his peers can do- eat neatly, play with flowers, make snowmen, write, read, etc. In his own good time he "blooms" and is able to do everything the others were doing, only better.

While this is a nice sentiment, as a special needs parent I do have some criticisms. Not all children "bloom" as well as Leo. They may bloom late or not at all. Or when they do bloom it may be in their own way, but not necessarily exceptional compared with their peers, and that's okay too. It's still a good book, and a lesson all parents should take to heart about letting their children develop at their own pace, but the end is not as great as I once thought.

In a world in which every middle class parent worries if their child isn't top notch in everything, this book is a beautiful classic to remind us all to relax. I collect children's books, and my husband suggested this one, as he loved it as a child. When I got it, I loved it immediately. It assures children and parents that people progress at different levels, but everybody blooms. My husband was a very small child, shorter than everyone in his class, and this book brought him comfort and encouraged him in what he was good at. About 20 or 25 years later, he's a self-confident, very socially adept doctor! I remember struggling very much in kindergarten and first grade with everything from cutting to skipping to math to reading. Everything clicked for me around 2nd or 3rd grade, and school became a breeze after that. I became self-assured, and successful. I wish I'd had this book when I was struggling with those things... I might have been more confident from the start! For the reviewer concerned that parents would delay help for their children, I doubt a kid's book would have that effect. Parents can tell when something is wrong, and one children's book is going to sway them from taking action! Oh, and the big bonus... the illustrations are darling, and classic 1970's renderings. The words are absolutely heartwarming!

My daughters preK teacher had this on her wish list for the book fair, but they didn't have it so ordered it here it came the next day.

One of the all-time great stories for pre-K - Gr. 2. I use it as the source storytelling with puppets with students. It is very successful for theater-in-the classroom.

Great for teaching little ones about how we are all learning at different paces.

I bought this book for my grown daughter who is going through a time of transition. She absolutely loved it. It let her know that it is okay to start over and that for some of us blooming later in life is just the right time.

Another great children's book three kids love it

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