



Oh Dear Geoffrey!

Gemma O'Neill

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Join accident-prone Geoffrey giraffe as he tries to make friends at the waterhole, on the plains and up in the trees in this funny debut from exciting new talent Gemma O'Neill.

Oh Dear Geoffrey! Details

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Author : Gemma O'Neill

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From Reader Review Oh Dear Geoffrey! for online ebook

Lorie says

Geoffrey Giraffe wants to make friends with the other animals, but his long legs are keeping him from connecting. Every time he bends down his awkward pose has him landing on the ground. Geoffrey finally realizes that he can be friends with the animals that live in the trees.

The charming mixed media illustrations make the images come alive. We can see those awkward legs of the giraffe up close as he tries to talk to the animals on the ground. The story has a repeatable refrain of "Oh, Dear, Geoffrey!" that kids will love to say right along with their adult reader.

I would recommend this book for purchase by school and public libraries. It would make an excellent read aloud for any class from Preschool through grade 1.

This book was provided by the publisher for review by SWON Libraries.

Viviane Elbee says

I love the artwork in this book - especially the last spread - wow!

Cute but clumsy young giraffe struggles to make friends.

Kids enjoyed it.

Caryn Caldwell says

Geoffrey has trouble making friends because he's so clumsy, but when he sulks off to his favorite tree, he discovers there are some animals he can't fall on, splash, or smash: birds and monkeys. Geoffrey finally fits in.

The story is fun to read aloud, with its use of onomatopoeia and exclamations, but it's the illustrations that make it. They are gorgeous, so rich and interesting, full of color and texture, perfectly capturing each animal's characteristics and emotions.

Kelsey says

Oh Dear, Geoffrey! by Gemma O'Neill features the awkward and gangling Geoffrey the giraffe. Geoffrey tries to play with the other animals, but always creates a mess with his uncoordinated body. Finally, some monkeys and birds befriend him because he can reach the tops of the trees like they can. He can even see the stars.

O'Neill's watercolor illustrations make the book pop. The plot can seem a little simple and fabricated, but the

illustrations are worth looking at alone. The text features a variety of nonsense words to describe Geoffrey's falls that could be used to promote phonemic awareness. The movement of the text on each page could be used to develop print awareness. The book would be appropriate for children between two and five years of age.

Julee says

I saw Oh Dear Geoffrey! up high out of my reach at Barnes and Noble but I certainly didn't let it stop me from scaling the shelves to pull it off the shelf. The cover illustrations caught my eye and I knew immediately that it would be worth getting in trouble with store staff.

Geoffrey is a very tall, clumsy yet adorable giraffe who stumbles and bumbles his way through the day attempting to make friends. Although a bit on the long side for a read aloud, I think Geoffrey makes for a pretty decent read aloud for story-time. Lots of kids are going through clumsy stages and know the difficulties of trying to make friends while feeling a bit awkward themselves. It would be easy to come up with a good story craft activity and finger-play or poem for this story.

Torrie says

The story's cute on this one, but what I REALLY love are the illustrations! I want to frame some of them, I love them so much!

Samantha says

GREAT art, okay story. Geoffrey the giraffe is clumsy, but eager to make a friend.

The mixed media artwork is breathtaking, especially the final two page spread (talk about frameworthy!) The story is a bit too long for a read aloud, but is overall positive and incorporates a lot of different animals whcih holds a certain appeal.

This is the author's debut and I think we'll see other great books to follow; she's just getting warmed up. PreK-2.

Danielle Mootz says

I loved the illustrations in this book. Geoffery is a bit of a mess but so easy to love.

Cemeread says

Geoffrey isn't as adorable as Abigal, the giraffe in Catherine Rayner's illustrations, but his story is better and

since he is a male giraffe being just good looking is enough I suppose. He does have more of a story then Abigal. This is a great story for sound play from wibbly-wobbly , slip and slide to trips, skips, and flips and more. Poor Geoffrey is just so clumsy when he tries to get lower. I love the splashing, mud, and star effects in the mixed media illustrations. Geoffrey does meet and make friends with some animals who don't mind his height at all.

story 4.0

illustrations 4.0

Kelly says

Bright, colorful illustrations capture all the movement in this book. Wonderful story.

Mary says

For the elegant illustrations and the well-made construction of the book, I was expecting a more profound story than the one presented in these pages. It is a good story about being who you are and friends will find you, but it's a message that isn't clear right away. Of everything, the illustrations are phenomenal!!

Olivia Slykhuis says

Geoffrey has really good intentions, but he's just so tall and gangly and clumsy. Finally, he finds friends up high in the trees who appreciate his height. Cute story, nothing awesome, great illustrations though. Kids would enjoy the repeated refrain of "Oh dear Geoffrey!" Would work with a friends, jungle animals, or body types storytime. 3+

Paula says

"Geoffrey is a very tall, very clumsy giraffe. He tries to make friends with the animals down on the ground, but he just trips, slips, and falls ... usually flat on his face. Poor old Geoffrey tries everything to fit in, but it's only when he realizes that his height can be an advantage that he stretches out his long neck and finds a host of friends in the trees. Soon he discovers he can find friends just by being himself."--Publisher.

Anthony says

Geoffrey ,a young, tall, and somewhat clumsy giraffe who tries to make friends, but has a hard time of getting down to their level to do so. But when he finds the tallest tree on the African savanna things begin to happen as he finds new friends at the highest of heights.

Taarna says

Let me just start by saying that I love the illustrations. They are so creative and colorful and vibrant. With that said, I found the story to be disappointing.

It was cute and silly with Geoffrey's clumsiness causing him all sorts of difficulty. Then it just seemed as if the author was unsure of how to end the story and it just fell flat.

Maybe that's just my own personal prejudice because it ended on a vaguely sentimental note, but even the tone change felt disjointed to me. I might be over analyzing, but darn it, I know when a book jives and I just didn't feel it with this one.
