



The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything

Linda Williams , Megan Lloyd (Illustrator)

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“A splendiferous Halloween story.” — *The Horn Book*

“A great purchase for Halloween or any time of year.” — *School Library Journal* (starred review)

Once upon a time, there was a little old lady who was not afraid of anything! But one autumn night, while walking in the woods, the little old lady heard...*clomp, clomp, shake, shake, clap, clap.*

And the little old lady who was not afraid of anything had the scare of her life! With bouncy refrains and classic art, this timeless Halloween story is perfect for reading aloud.

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything Details

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Author : Linda Williams , Megan Lloyd (Illustrator)

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Denise says

Text-to- Teaching Connection

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything is a story about an old lady walking through the woods during the fall. As she makes her way home she hears sounds and gradually encounters items of clothing that startle her. With each encounter, the little old lady increases her pace until she safely arrives home. I would use this book to teach my students about sequencing the events of a story. As a whole group activity we would review and discuss the story by arranging flashcards to retell the story. For individual assessments I would separate the class into four different stations. Station one's task would be to create a scarecrow using a variety of art materials consisting of various shapes. Station two's task is to retell the story events by completing a cut and paste worksheet. Station three's task would be to rewrite and illustrate the ending of the story. Station four will work on matching rhyming words that were found in the book. All groups will have approximately 15 minutes at their station and will rotate stations twice. The activities will typically be done for two days to allow all students the opportunity to experience all four stations.

Luann says

My all-time favorite Halloween picture book! I read it every year for my Halloween storytime. Even older kids will participate with the CLOMP, CLOMP, CLAP, CLAP, etc. After reading the story, I like to go back to the beginning and show the picture of the old lady's yard. The kids love seeing what is in her neighbor's yard and hanging on the clothes line.

Lisa Vegan says

I reread this because I'd never written a review for it, even though I used to read it frequently with and to kids, because it's one of 6 books for the October (theme: Autumn/Halloween) Picture Books Club at the Children's Books group.

I was expecting that this would be a book I'd downgrade when reading it on my own, without enthusiastic kids hanging on every word and/or participating.

But, it's a delightful story. I love its cumulative nature, the sound effects, and the clever conclusion. It's a perfect read aloud book, but independent readers will enjoy it too.

The illustrations are terrific also. There's so much to look at, and they reflect both the humorous and frightening aspects of the story.

Beth says

Love, love, love this book! This will be our third fall reading it a billion times. Incorporates sound with the story. Kids will love to clap, stomp and shake as you read. It is scary in a silly way!
Great for Halloween and read-alouds

Abi says

This is a cute book to read in the fall around Halloween. It is easy to get children interacting because there are multiple characters in the book. Children can practice manipulating words orally while the book is read. I can create a lesson where children count the objects in the picture and label each one. This will help the children with writing out numbers and recognizing pictures from the book. Children could also practice sequencing the order of the objects to make up the scarecrow. Many great lessons can be implemented from this book!

Michelle says

This book is a great Halloween read for younger listeners because it is cumulative, super-involved (you get a whole body workout when you read this to your kids- you have to shake, shimmy and clap on every page!) and it sends a message that "scary" things aren't scary when you face them bravely. A must-read for ages 3-8.

Cris Ingram says

This lady lives on the edge of the forest and goes for a walk in the forest. On her walk she is followed by 2 shoes that go Clomp, Clomp!, pants that go Wiggle, Wiggle! a shirt that went Shake, Shake! 2 gloves that go Clap, Clap! and one hat that goes Nod, Nod! and one scary pumpkin head that goes Boo, Boo! and she is not afraid of anything! They come to her door and ...

Fun story to read with kids, they can act out the actions and get silly!

Breon Randon says

This is the best not-so-spooky Halloween book for the littles! Such a fun story to read. and reread. Over and over lol. Nothing is as fun to a toddler as repetitive actions and clapping noises.

Brenda says

A little old lady is walking in the woods and suddenly followed by shoes, shirts, pants and a pumpkin. This is story that would work well for a younger child who likes to act out the parts of a story. There is plenty of clomping, wiggling, shaking, clapping and nodding with one BOO at the end. Nice rhymes for early readers who can easily pick up the repetitive pieces and join in.

Tukunjl Nayeera says

Such an adorable tiny story of Halloween!!

Brianna Mendenhall says

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid Of Anything

Once upon a time, there was a little old lady who was not afraid of anything! But one autumn night, while walking in the woods, the little old lady heard . . . clomp, clomp, shake, shake, clap, clap. And the little old lady who was not afraid of anything had the scare of her life!

I gave this story 5 stars!

This is a must read every year around Halloween time for me and my family. As a child I loved the vivid illustrations, and I've continued to find more reasons to adore the book each time I pick it up. It's a great example that no matter how brave you are, there will be times you're not the bravest, and that's okay! Definitely a fun read for kiddos and adults alike.

Miriam says

This is a slightly watered down version of a story which I've heard or read before -- an old woman is followed home by one animated garment after another. In the tale I'm familiar with they gradually assemble into a full, presumably ghostly, figure; here they just sort of hang out together and wiggle. In the illustrations they are clearly disparate. Maybe this was intended to make the story less scary. If so it was successful. Possibly a nice Halloween read for less bold children who need a not-too-tense tale with an unfazed protagonist.

The illustrations are pleasant and colorful, although not particularly memorable.

Laura says

My almost 3 yr old grandson loves this story! He remembers all the sounds the garments etc. make so I leave that reading up to him.

C. says

Impressive and enthralling at numerous levels, **Linda Williams & Megan Lloyd** created “**The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid Of Anything**” in 1986. I am elated to have discovered it! It’s brevity does not diminish one iota of its layered, tickling impact. At first, one is tempted to attest **Megan’s** tremendously

attractive illustrations to this book's spark but **Linda's** storytelling thrills me just as much.

A nature woman like me, gathers herbs on foot at a distance from home. She has a contented life but knows her woods can be spooky, so she hastens to avoid traversing them by night. This story is about a walk extending to nightfall. It is inanimate characters, as frightening in their aliveness as they are goofy in of themselves, that pop out to scare her. Boots, a shirt, pants, and even a jack-o-lantern should not be floating after her. The impossibility of these items giving chase to the woman has a built-in terror but of course, readers know their worst won't become too scary. These goofy items manage to be one-hundred percent startling, on a night walk that she has to finish but she is bravely determined to shoo them away.

I cannot adequately express how hilariously her utterances struck me! Likely, **Linda's** easy words are built to teach vocabulary simultaneously. For adults, their effect is the funniest, most zany dialogue we have ever heard. I laughed joyfully upon every page! If there appeared two shoes, she specified verbatim: "Get out of my way, you two shoes"! **Megan's** art is a marvel: exquisitely detailed with hearthrugs, clothes flapping on a line, face expressions, and vibrantly bright environs. She also succeeds superbly and emotively at exuding soft, rich, spooky darkness in fulfillment of a majestic, atmospheric ambiance. I love and savour each lush page!

midnightfaerie says

A fun read for my 5 yr old as well as my preschoolers, this book had something for everyone. Being a big fan of Halloween myself, I love anything that's even remotely scary or has pumpkins and this had both. Although one of my 3 yr olds covered his face when the scary pumpkin face showed up, he still asked to read it even though we had read it the day before. In fact it was he that requested it, knowing he was scared of it. So, not overly scary but it might be a consideration if you have sensitive kids. Overall an engaging story for all.

Ronyell says

I have read this book for the Children's Book Club and it was alright. "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything" is a Halloween children's book by Linda Williams along with illustrations by Megan Lloyd and it is about how a brave old lady goes out of her cottage to get some herbs, spices, nuts and seeds when she started to walk home, she meets a spooky set of clothes that follow her along the way! "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything" may have a brave protagonist and cute illustrations, but the story might not be creative enough for some children.

Even though I gave this book a rating of three stars, there were some elements that I liked about the book. Linda Williams has done a great job at providing us a protagonist (an old lady) that does not fear anything no matter how scary the situation is and that was a trait that I really liked about the character since most children might actually learn how to be brave in scary situations from the old lady. Another aspect that I loved about this book was Megan Lloyd's cute illustrations, especially of the image of the old lady herself. I loved the way that Megan Lloyd illustrated the old lady wearing a red dress with a white apron and a straw hat and black stockings with black shoes. I also loved the images of the clothes which include two brown shoes, one pair of green pants, one white shirt, two white gloves, one black hat and an orange pumpkin, chasing the old lady through the spooky forest. Another image that I really enjoyed was the way that the forest looked as it truly looks extremely spooky and the tree branches look like they are twisting themselves to grab the old lady.

Now here is the reason why I gave this book a rating of three stars. I thought that the concept of a pack of magical clothes following an old lady was cute and not too scary for smaller children, however, the idea of just ordinary magical clothes following a little old lady seems to be lacking creativity and not creepy enough, but that's just me.

All in all, "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything" does have cute illustrations and a brave protagonist that everyone will adore a lot, however they bland storyline might not be every child's cup of tea to read.

Kathryn says

I would have LOVED this story when I was little!!! All the sounds and the cumulative nature of the tale... it'd make a great read-aloud. (Plus, my favorite story when I was little was Dr. Seuss' tale of "The Pale Green Pants With Nobody Inside Them" and this features a pair of pants with nobody inside them!!!) I also like how the Little Old Lady solves her "problem" of the frightening things following her in a thoughtful, kindhearted and proactive way. A great Halloween read!

Storywraps says

One dark and windy autumn night a brave little old lady was walking back to her house when she heard a clomping noise behind her. What could possibly be making that sound? She discovers an old pair of shoes has been following her, "Clomp, clomp." She turns to them and says, "I'm not afraid of you, " but she walks a little faster. As her journey continues she is confronted by other spooky things: a pair of pants, (wiggle, wiggle), a floating shirt (shake, shake), a top hat (nod, nod), a pair of white gloves (clap, clap), and finally a pumpkin head (boo, boo). She turns to each one and loudly declares she is not afraid but each time she steps up her pace to get back to her home little faster. Once inside she closes the door and collapses in her rocking chair and rocks and rocks so thankful to have made it home and to safety. The next morning she wakes up to a great surprise outside her window.

I loved this book. This little old woman inspires you to face your fears, to keep on trucking and never, ever give up. I love how the suspense builds up on each page and invites the reader to accompany her on her frightening walk home. The illustrations are colourful, expressive and detailed, which I liked a lot. I highly recommend this book to be added to your Hallowe'en collection.

Emily says

My favorite Halloween book (not that it's about Halloween per se). Genuinely creepy, but won't freak out 3-year-olds, and a perfect ending. Sadly, this year T didn't want me to read it to him "because I can read it to myself". Still, it will be a good place holder while we head to RI for the weekend for some suburban trick-or-treating!

Alfred Haplo says

There is something to be said about being in touch with our inner child. We grow up, we experience the world, we toughen up, we become adults. Along the way, we outgrow our fears or we suppress them, but once in awhile, that fear we think is gone rears its ugly head and manifests in ways that scare us still. On those days, wouldn't it be fun if we dug out our copy of *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, and be reminded that **Boo!** Goes both ways.

In this classic tale, a little old lady resolved not to be afraid of *anything*. As she walked deeper into the woods to collect herbs and whatnot that little old ladies collect while alone in a spooky forest full of shadowy apparitions that lurk at night, of course, she meets with stranger things. I shan't tell you what they are except to whisper that they are discombobulating, spectral and you will most certainly quake in your boots. At once brave and terror-stricken, but never afraid, the little old lady confronted the moon lit visage and tell it to "F___ off". Well, some polite form of that. She faced her fear straight-on and put it in its place, quite literally, where it is always within sight but never within reach.

For some of us, that's how it'll always be. Call this fear anything - insecurity, anxiety, depression, despondence, anger, inertia or debilitation by any name. A fear we cannot vanquish entirely, but with resolution, can be kept at bay if we find within ourselves our own Little-Old-Lady-Who-Is-Not-Afraid-Of-Anything.

Ah, yes, and also very suitable for children 1 year and up. Life's lessons must be instilled from young! A ~~lesson~~ story presented in decent illustrations with cutesy graphics and catchy words that one can sing and boogie to (or less embarrassingly, played with a youtube video as accompaniment). A sure-fire hit for the uncle or aunt relegated to entertaining young relatives during the family Halloween (oh, let's call it *Harvest* festival, for you non-pagans!) shindig.
