



The Spiffiest Giant in Town

Julia Donaldson , Axel Scheffler

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When George the giant spies a shop full of wonderful clothes, he decides to treat himself to a new outfit. He puts on his new shirt, pants, shoes, and tie, and is immediately transformed from the *scruffiest* giant in town to the *spiffiest* giant in town. But on his way home, George runs into various animals who need his help. And little by little, George finds himself giving away all his new purchases.

From the creators of *Room on the Broom*, this is a lively tale that reminds readers that sometimes it's what's inside a person-or a giant-that matters most.

The Spiffiest Giant in Town Details

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From Reader Review The Spiffiest Giant in Town for online ebook

Louise says

A nice story about being kind, the giant wishes to be the smartest in town but as he comes across animals that need his clothes for a scarf, a home and a path. He gives them away and ends up as the kindest giant in town.

Tina Dordevic says

Odlična slikovnica koja uči djecu dijeliti i kako se “dobro dobrim vraća”. Ilustracije su prekrasne, pune živih boja i jako primamljive. Ono što me najviše priviklo jesu stihovi koji se provlače kroz priču što je djeci uvijek zanimljivo i što daje dodatan “začin” cijeloj priči.

Clouds says

Another winner from Donaldson & Scheffler. First we got *Room on the Broom*, then *A Squash and a Squeeze*. Next came *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child*. Then *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book* and ***The Smartest Giant in Town***. Six books in, and Donaldson's yet to drop the ball - she's the most consistently excellent, fun, easy to read aloud, and imaginative picture book author I've found (so far).

The core thread of ***The Smartest Giant*** is a cumulative rhyme. The giant has a heart of gold, but he's very scruffy looking, so he buys some smart new clothes. As he strolls along, he meets various animals in distress and donates his new clothes, one piece at a time, to help them out which builds into a charming little poem...

My tie is a scarf for a cold giraffe,
My shirt's on a boat as a sail for a goat,
My shoe is a house for a little white mouse,
One of my socks is a bed for a fox,
My belt helped a dog who was crossing a bog

Because it dips in and out of the repeating, cumulative poem, it lacks the momentum of some of the other books - like *Room on the Broom* - and as such doesn't hold my little boy's attention quite as well (he's only 19 months old). So a solid three stars, not a million miles shy of four.

After this I read: And Another Thing...

Laura Hickey says

This book portrays a gentle giant who thinks of others first rather than himself. He was known as the ‘scruffiest giant’ in the town. He buys himself some smart new clothes, however, when he meets animals on his way home that are in need of help he gives them one piece of clothing. They are used as a scarf, as a sail,

as a house, and as a sleeping bag. It explains to children the topic of helping others when in need. The book itself is full of illustrations and full of descriptive words, for example, 'a smart stripy tie.' The use of rhyme is evident in the book with repetition along the way. This is excellent to help the children recognise what previously happened while adding to the rhyme making it more exciting. I really enjoyed this book as it is an important topic to teach children but it is explained brilliantly through different characters and brilliant illustrations.

Kathryn says

An adorable cumulative tale of a giant who longs to be the spiffiest giant in town. He leaves his white robe and sandals (coincidence, or meant to evoke images of a certain religious figure?) and buys some spiffy new giant clothes from a shop that just opened. But, he soon meets a giraffe with a very cold neck (and it turns out the giant-tie is a perfect size for a scarf), and a mouse whose house burned down (and a giant's shoe is really just the right size for a mouse-house), etc. Soon, our kind-hearted giant no longer has his spiffy clothes, but perhaps he has something even better... This is a sweet tale about being content with what you have and giving to those who have not. The cast of animal characters is fun, and of course there's that delicious anticipation kids will probably have wondering whether the giant is going to give away his pants and will we see him in his *giggle* underwear!?! ;-)

Suzie says

Another great book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. The boys recognized their work right away and thought it was going to be another Gruffalo story. They were bummed when it wasn't but pleased by the end of the story. A great tale about being kind, thoughtful, selfless, and a good sharer.

Alastair Jamieson says

The Smartest Giant in Town is a fantastic picture book, aimed at Early Years learners, which contains a heart-warming story, excellent visual aids and rhymes that are repeated and added to as the narrative continues.

It tells the story of a Giant named George who, fed up of wearing his scruffy old gown, decides to splash out on a whole new set of clothes. Proud of his new attire, George sets off from the clothes shop on his way home, but is interrupted by a series of animals in distress, for example a giraffe with a cold neck, a family of mice whose house has burnt down or the goat who needs a sail for it's boat. Due to George's huge generosity, he dispenses each of his new items of clothing to solve each of the animal's dilemmas, justifying each donation to himself; in giving his scarf to a the giraffe he notes it was itching his neck. Not only this, but George adds a line to his rhyme that started as he left the shop, and is repeated throughout the story, each time culminating in 'but look me up and down, I'm the smartest giant in the town'.

This continues until George has given away all of his clothes bar his old underpants.

The story finishes when George finds his old gown, as well as a letter from all of the animals he has helped recounting his rhyme and culminating in 'he's the smartest giant in the town'.

This book works on several different levels for children. Firstly, the illustrations are excellent. On each page there is the picture of George with one item less of clothing, as well as several animals. This provides plenty of opportunity to ask children questions to check their understanding. The rhyme that is added to and repeated throughout the book provides rhythm for younger learners who are unable to read, and memory

challenge for elder readers. Finally, there is a moral to the story that is valuable to children; it reinforces the idea of kindness to each other, and kind acts being appreciated.

At a time when my 2.5 year old niece is interested in nothing that cannot be watched on the I Pad, The Smartest Giant in Town had her captivated throughout take off and landing on a transatlantic flight, and there can be no better mark of approval.

Gerry says

The combination of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler work so well together as writer and artist and they do not disappoint in 'The Smartest Giant'. Who could not feel sorry for Scheffler's Giant, named George, when he is 'the scruffiest giant in town' and who could not feel so proud of him when he is kitted out in all new clothes that make him the smartest giant in town?

But ... after he had bought a smart shirt, a smart pair of trousers, a smart belt, a smart stripy tie, some smart socks with diamonds up the sides, and a pair of smart shiny shoes, it all goes downhill!

On his way home from the shop where he had purchased his new outfit he meets various animals, all of whom are in some sort of distress. And, being the big, kindly giant that he is, he offers each of the articles of his new clothes to relieve the hardship of the animals that he meets.

A giraffe, whose neck is very cold, receives his tie to use as a warm scarf; a goat on a boat on a river had lost his sail so George donates his shirt to help get the goat and boat on its way; a family of mice had lost their house in a fire so George donates one of large shoes to make a new home for them; a fox, who was out camping, had dropped his sleeping bag in a puddle and it was soaking so George gives him one of his socks to sleep in; a dog who cannot get across a bog receives George's large belt to make a path across it. After all this George's trousers fall down and he proclaims 'I'm the coldest giant in town!'

So back he goes to the shop where he purchased his new clothes and where he left his old ones. Unfortunately the shop was closed and George was sad. But, out of the corner of his eye he spies a bag with something familiar poking out of the top. It was his old clothes so he puts them on and happily declares, 'I'm the cosiest giant in town.'

He danced back home along the road to find outside his house all the animals he had helped and they were carrying an enormous box. They told George to open it and inside was a gold paper crown and a card. On the card was a verse that was taken from the verses that George had made up as he disposed of each article of his clothes as he returned home.

It ended with the words, 'the KINDEST giant in town' ... and so he was!

A lovely story.

Franci says

Cute children's story about sharing and kindness.

Ruth says

I love this book. It's funny and has a song that you can sing along to, if you feel so inclined (it's online). It shows the great kindness of George the Giant. Am looking forward to reading this to my class.

Selma D says

The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson

Age I would use it for: 5-7

Brief Synopsis:

George the giant goes around town helping all the animals with his new smart clothes; tie for a giraffe, shirt for a goat's boat, shoes for a mouse house. He sing's around town about the clothes he has given "I am the smartest giant in town" whilst his clothing dwindles and he becomes more and more scruffy.

My Opinion:

As a short story I found it quite a tedious read. The repetitive cycle of events; giant giving his clothing, him singing about it, getting more and more scruffy, was too long and repetitive, as a cause I didn't care what was going to happen. However I do think that this is a very sweet story with an important moral of helping others and being kind.

Uses In The Classroom:

I wouldn't read it aloud to a class, but would want it as part of a class library. The language and on-going sentences provide good practice for silent and assessed reading, for children to progress in reading for progression from year 1 to year 2.

I would use certain parts of the book to demonstrate how unconventional material can be used to make resources. In the story, a shirt is used to make a sail; this is a great starting point to start an extended geography and design and technology lesson for 5 – 7 year old's. For example; the concept of renewable materials and recycling, children will make their own items that have a beneficial function to solve a bigger problem. Such as old shoes to plant flowers; recycled bottles to make bird feeders; old clothes to make cushions, stuffed toys, which can then be donated to a charity of the class's choice. The last idea can be extended to teaching the class about the moral of the story, to give to those that need help.

Kurtlu says

julia donaldson ve axel scheffler çocuk kitab? söz konusuysa muhte'em 2liye oynarlar. donaldson'un scheffler'siz kitaplar? ayn? tad? vermiyor.

Jessica says

I found this book while searching the shelves at the local library for another title by this author. It sounded fun. AND IT WAS! My girls and I had so much fun reading this book and the theme through it all was

kindness. Sigh. It was delightful.

Now I must find all the books by her...

Sanja_Sanjalisa says

Predivna.

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

Another book I enjoyed reading from the writer of "The Gruffalo", with good story and illustrations.
