



# Give and Take

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## **Give and Take** Chris Raschka

A clever story of greed and goodness, and the art of finding the in-between, from two-time Caldecott Medalist Chris Raschka, creator of the *New York Times* bestselling *A Ball for Daisy*.

Watch the farmer's ear.

Now watch the two small, clever fellows in pointy hats whispering into it, first one, then the other.

Give and Take. They cannot agree.

Listen now to the farmer talk back—and, in this story of apples, pumpkins, pigs, and a final surprise, he just might get the better of both of them.

## **Give and Take Details**

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Author : Chris Raschka

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## From Reader Review Give and Take for online ebook

### Thomas says

Woof. This one was torturous to read and my kids were begging we never pick it up again.

Sloppy too-busy illustrations cluttered around a tale that was just too long and drawn out and not very interesting.

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### Paula says

Any book that ends with pie is A-OK with me!

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### Christine Irvin says

Which is better, to give or to take?

A farmer picks apples from one of his trees. In the process, a wee little man, who calls himself Take, lands in the farmer's basket. Take encourages the farmer to take as much as he can. That doesn't sound like a bad thing, but it can be.

The next day, the farmer picks more apples and this time, a little man named Give lands in his basket. You guessed it, Give encourages the farmer to give as much as he can. That doesn't sound like a bad thing, either, but it can be.

What will the farmer do? How can he balance Give and Take?

This is an interesting story. It sounds like a fable. It's also a good life lesson for kids.

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### Poppy says

Meh. This wasn't my book. The illustrations detracted from an already wanting story. I gave it 2 stars because I still see the value in sharing it with children, but I would never use this book as a storytime selection.

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### Vincent Desjardins says

I loved Chris Raschka's Caldecott Award winning, "A Ball for Daisy," so I was really looking forward to "Give and Take," his latest picture book. Unfortunately, as far as the illustrations go in this new book, I have to admit I was disappointed. The design of the farmer, as well as the other characters, is so abstract and

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expressionistic in style, that at first glance it can be hard to make out what the characters are doing. In some of the illustrations, the characters are shoved to the margins and you have to hunt to find them amongst all of the dark line work. There are thick black, painterly outlines around most everything and the color palette Raschka has chosen is so muted and limited, that the illustrations come across as somewhat muddy. Raschka's expressionistic and painterly style worked in "A Ball for Daisy," where brighter colors were used and where each illustration had more room. Here the text takes up a lot of space, making each page look crowded and messy.

The story itself is a lesson in collaboration. A farmer and his dog meet two mischievous little elves, one named Give and the other Take. In turn, each little man promises the farmer that his life will be better if he would only listen to his advice. When the farmer follows their advice separately, it only leads to disappointment. It's not until he puts their advice together as Give AND Take, that things turn out happily. Raschka is a talented author/illustrator but I'm not sure how much appeal this book will have to the target audience of small children, due to the strange illustration style.

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### **Marisa Ewing says**

An apple farmer encounters two little men, one called give and one called take. They both tell the farmer to listen to everything they tell him and his life will be better. However, after each day of following on of them, his life isn't better, it is empty. The farmer then realizes that together Give and Take are the right balance and will lead to good, new things.

I didn't love this book, but I did think that it is a good message and that it explains it in ways that kids can understand and discuss.

This story could be used in therapy especially with predicting, especially after reading the first part the farmer and Take.

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### **Linda says**

I'm planning to read a picture book with a class who is studying world views, point of view, and how people learn to compromise for the good of everyone. This is the book I'll read, a book that will inspire good discussion. What fun Chris Raschka has offered in a good story of a farmer who is persuaded by one side—Give, and the other side—Take, and ends up in quite a muddle of confusion. The ending is a satisfactory surprise, and Raschka's illustrations are lively and entertaining as always.

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### **Lynn says**

I like the use of rule of three as the farmer picks apples first from his oldest tree, then his highest tree, and last, his greenest tree. An important message, but the illustrations are distracting to me. They seem rough and hurried.

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## Andrea Lorenz says

An apple farmer meets two clever little men - one named Take and one named Give. From them he learns that all things need to be held in balance.

I liked the story that Raschka lays out - it's reminiscent of a folktale, with nameless characters, lessons to learn. The problem I had with this is Raschka's illustrations. I like his style, especially in *A Ball for Daisy*, but this work borders on the nearly abstract. I think the coloring and the outlines make the illustrations hard to read - especially for littler kids. This would be a story that I would tell in storytime, but not sure how will the kids will be able to decipher the pictures.

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## Jana says

This is an interesting story about a farmer who learns about decision-making from Give and Take. The apple farmer meets Take on the first day that he goes to pick apples. He listens to Take and follows his advice and winds up exhausted with gallons and gallons of pumpkin soup that nobody likes. The next day he meets Give and takes his advice. That doesn't work out so well either, as he winds up with an empty basket and an empty head. When he listens to both Give and Take, he learns the benefits of balance in his decision-making process.

The illustrations are interesting, but rough. It makes the story interesting, but for younger readers it might be a bit confusing. This book could lead to interesting discussions about greed, generosity, making good judgments and decision-making.

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## Margaux Brink says

Summary: There was an apple farmer who lived alone with his dog. One day while going outside to pick apples, a little man by the name of "Take" jumps out of his tree. This man then says that if the farmer follows his advice, his life will be fine. "Take" then tells the farmer throughout the day to take as much as he can which includes many pumpkins and advice to make pumpkin soup. After the farmer is exhausted from trying to take as much stuff as he can and made gallons of pumpkin soup, he realizes he doesn't even like pumpkin soup. The next morning when he is going to pick apples again, he tells "Take" to leave because he is found sleeping in the farmer's basket. Once again, another little man falls out of the apple tree and tells the farmer his name is "Give". This man tells the farmer to give away everything throughout the day and his life will be sweet, including all of his apples and his ideas. The farmer then goes to bed hungry and very bored because he has nothing. The next morning "Give" is found sleeping in the farmer's basket so he is told to leave by the farmer. As the farmer is picking apples again, both "Give" and "Take" fall out of the tree and are fighting over what the farmer should do. As the farmer goes throughout the day, he gives his apples and ideas, and then takes ideas and other supplies from others. The farmer then gets home and bakes an apple pie with the flour he gets and the apples he gives to make a fine pie that is sweet.

Theme: The theme of this book is to learn how to give and to take. When you can give away knowledge or things that you have but take advice from others, life is so much better.

Personal Response: The message to learn how to give and take is something that I feel every single child should learn, no matter what age. Life goes so poorly for me when I am trying to please others and giving my

time, energy, and resources to others because I am left with nothing to myself. I notice when I only take advice from others or let others do everything for me I end up not even having any control over my life. I believe that it is so important to balance giving and taking and everyone, even adults need to be reminded of this.

Recommendation: I think this book would be perfect to read to an early elementary classroom to teach them a lesson about giving to others but also being willing to take advice as well as help from others. This book would also be good for a child who struggles with trying to please others as well as a child who refuses to share.

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### **Mary says**

This is a picture book fable about an apple farmer and two elves named Give and Take. It's a simple story with bold illustrations and a common sense message that will be easily understood by young readers. However, the farmer has an odd shape that may be distracting and is a bit out of sync with the other drawings.

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### **Tasha says**

A farmer who grows apples discovers a strange little man out in his orchard just as his apples are ready to pick. The little man is named Take and he encourages the farmer to listen to him so that he can have a fine life. Though the farmer already has a fine life, Take promises to make it better. So the farmer goes through his day taking everything. He takes all of his neighbors pumpkins when she offers him some. He takes her advice to make pumpkin soup, and he takes a long hike. Left wishing he had some apples to eat, he kicks out Take the next morning. Then when he visits his orchard that morning, he meets another little man named Give. Give promises to make his life sweeter, so once again the farmer tries. He gives everything away, including his apples and all of his opinions. He is left hungry another night and kicks Give out. But in the morning, he discovers the two little men fighting with one another. Can a farmer outwit these two battling forces?

Raschka has written this picture book with the tone of a fable. Readers will immediately see Take as a selfish force and then think that Give is the angelic voice. But Raschka's take is more nuanced than that, showing the harm in being too giving with everything in your life and how it can turn toxic and harmful too. He then goes about having his farmer propose a balance of giving and taking in life. The result is a book that has balance, a folkloric rhythm and tone, and is a great read aloud and opportunity for discussion.

Raschka's illustrations are his trademark flowing and free style. He uses watercolors contained with thick black lines. The bright red of the farmer's nose and the apples pop on the page along with the pink pig and the orange pumpkins. As always, his book is art, changing with each turn of the page as the story is told.

Perfect for discussions about balance, generosity and greed, this picture book is a great balance of art and folklore itself. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

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## **Margie says**

Reminiscent of a classic folktale, Give and Take written and illustrated by Chris Raschka is a charming story of finding middle ground; to do so might supply a fine and sweet conclusion. Listeners will be eager to join in when phrases are repeated. I think this would be a great book to use for reader's theater. It's as fresh, fun and delicious as a newly picked apple.

My full recommendation: <http://bit.ly/1xieFtr>

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## **Sara Grochowski says**

This newest offering from Raschka hit shelves in this August, so I can't believe I've just now read it for the first time. What a wonderful story, perfect for at reading at home or lessons in the classroom. I could see this one being a great fit for a lesson on writing parables and fables. Also, this apple-picking farmer's story has a very autumnal feel and focuses on the balance between give and take, which fits well with Thanksgiving and thankfulness. The illustrations might be overwhelming for some, but, if your able to take the time to slow down and explore, I think most will enjoy!

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