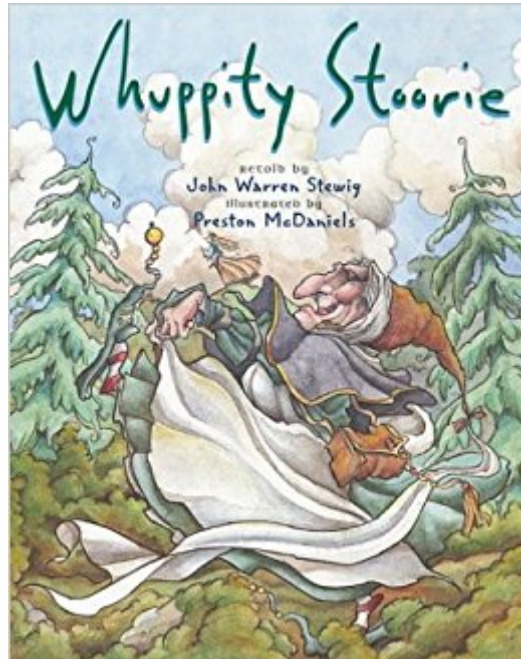




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Whuppity Stoorie



Synopsis

In order to cure her ailing pig, an Irish widow agrees to give a strange woman whatever she wants and then the widow must guess the woman's name or give up her baby.

Book Information

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1 edition (March 1, 2004)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,783,842 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship](#) #3433 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3--A poor "goodwife," deserted by her husband and left with a baby to care for, hopes for a good litter of piglets. When her sow becomes deathly ill, she foolishly promises "anything your ladyship likes" to an old woman who says she can cure the animal. After the healing is complete, the stranger reveals that she is a fairy, and insists on taking young Robert unless his mother can guess her name before three days pass. At first distraught, the goodwife overhears the fairy's name while walking through the woods and sends her packing when she comes to claim the child. Stewig includes extensive notes on the history of this Scottish variant of "Rumpelstiltskin" and the ways in which he has adapted it. Unfortunately, the book is marred by the choice of an archaic-style font that may add atmosphere but would be difficult if not impossible for emergent readers to decipher, particularly as many of the words (dinna, ahind, etc.) will also be unfamiliar. McDaniels's watercolor illustrations, with their pale colors and humorous cartoon scenes, are at odds with the predominately darker aspects of the story. Carolyn White's *Whuppity Stoorie* (Putnam, 1997; o.p.) is a more readable and visually appealing version of this tale.--Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier

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Gr. 2-4. Rendered in a Scottish lilt that's enjoyable to read out loud (once one has mastered the old-style font), this Rumpelstiltskin-like picture book for older readers is set in the town of Kittlerumpit. A young widow asks an old woman for help with the ailing sow that's her only means of support. She promises "anything your ladyship likes," not suspecting she's dealing with a fairy who covets her sweet son. The mother is told to guess the fairy's name or lose her son forever. To ease her mind, the mother takes a walk and happens to overhear the fairy crowing over her certain victory. Enjoying her secret knowledge, the young widow later guesses a few names, which are sure to amuse young listeners, and then declares she's "not fit to tie the shoestring o' the high and mighty princess Whuppity Stoorie!" Whuppity runs away, "like an owl chasing with the witches." McDaniels' flowing, earth-toned illustrations nicely complement the playful turns of the language, which includes Scottish words and phrases that are usually accessible even if children aren't familiar with them. Stewig discusses his use and alterations of earlier versions of the Whuppity Stoorie tale in an author's note. Abby NolanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Preston McDaniels has illustrated many other children's books, and kids with good reading skills will appreciate John Stewig's retelling of the classic Whuppity Stoorie, paired with McDaniels' fine drawings. A poor goodwife trusts a mysterious witch to cure her ailing sow and finds herself in a struggle for her greatest treasure in this classic folk story of trust and courage.

One of the reasons Scots is dying as a language is because of reviews like the one above. While no doubt Scots words will be difficult for young readers who are just learning to read English, they should not be dissuaded from tasting the vocabulary of another culture. I recommend this book both for its use of rich language and its well-documented retelling of a classic Scottish story.

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Whuppity Stoorie

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