



# Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook

*Michael Garland*

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## **Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook** Michael Garland

When Zack meets his second-grade teacher, Miss Smith, he can tell right away that her class will be different. However, he has no idea just how different it will be.

Zack can't wait for Mrs. Smith to read out loud again from her incredible book. The first story fills the classroom with dueling pirates and the sound of their clashing swords. The second story transports Zack's class to the shady forest of the Big Bad Wolf. At the end of each spellbinding tale the characters slip quietly back into the book. But one day Mrs. Smith is late for school, and the principal takes charge. When he runs away in terror from a fire-breathing dragon, Zack and his classmates set free the rest of the story-book characters and have a morning of high-spirited fun... until they notice that the pirates have hoisted their Jolly Roger on the roof of the school.

## **Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook Details**

Date : Published July 21st 2005 by Puffin Books (first published 2003)

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Author : Michael Garland

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## **From Reader Review Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook for online ebook**

### **Brenda says**

Second grader Zack has a wonderful teacher who loves to read stories from her special book. As she reads these stories the characters seem to come flying off the pages. When Miss Smith is delayed coming to school one day, the principal tries to take over and inadvertently lets loose way to many storybook characters. In the vein of another book that I love (Read All About It!) that encourages a passion in reading and has a wonderful message of you never know what you will find inside a book. Wonderful illustrations as well.

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### **Kathryn says**

Zack thinks that the new school year will be just like all the others: B-o-r-i-n-g! Until he meets his new teacher, Miss Smith. There is something very, different, about her. The school day is much the same until she starts to read...

I really enjoyed some aspects of this book. The fun and magic of imagination and storytelling really shine and I like how Miss Smith doesn't look like the stereotypical school teacher. I was a little confused, though, as to how the magic of the stories happened. I thought at first that Miss Smith must just be very good at reading aloud. But, then, it seemed that everyone who read from her book (even the principal) could make the characters "come alive" and I wondered if it was her book, or just her own spunk that rubbed off on everyone else? Surely the kids had stories read to them before, so what was different this year? But, these are minor snags in an otherwise very fun story.

My expectations were maybe a bit high going into this given all the high ratings here (and the fact that the librarian practically cooed when she checked this out for me!) so I felt a little underwhelmed, especially considering a few other books about the joys of reading that I have loved more. But, I do appreciate the message here and think it would be just the thing for audiences wanting a bit more fun and boisterous read.

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### **Gabriela Cabello says**

#### Summary:

Zack was not looking forward to school, until a new teacher named Miss Smith walks into the room carrying a magical story book. When she reads the characters come to life, but one day she is late and all of the characters are read out of the book and do not want to return. Miss Smith finally returns, and all of the characters must go back into the book.

#### Review:

I love how this book tells the story about how magical reading can be, and how the teacher can use the magic of reading to inspire students to love school. The vibrant and colorful illustrations really capture the readers attention making their experience just like the characters in the story, magical.

#### Other books:

## Magic School Bus Series

This series is another way learning is made fun for students in a magical, or scientific way. Students can use this understand that there are many different ways learning can be made fun.

"Zack grinned when a princess leaped out of the book, followed closely by a fire breathing dragon and a brave knight on his horse."

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## Allie Pitcher says

This book was a great read. I liked how the author used characters from classic fairytales but added a twist to the plot. While I was reading this book, I could pick out characters from other books that I had read from my childhood ( the three little pigs, the big bad wolf, the wicked witch, humpty dumpty, goldie locks and the three bears, etc). I also liked how the author changed the setting throughout the book. I would use this book for a fairytale unit for younger grades.

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## Brittney Lara says

Oh this is one book I never want to let go for the beginning of the year purposes! So as a new teacher I was on the hunt for books during the first week of school to set the tone in our classroom. That is when I was introduced this book by a colleague and told that students would be so entranced by this story they won't want you to put it down. Well, it did just that. My kids were hooked and so was I. I immediately ordered my own copy since the book I had was a lender from the library. This book is focused on a classroom where the teacher has a book she reads aloud that makes the stories come to life. The imagery this book has describing how one specific character could "feel the breeze in his hair and hear the waves pounding in the side of the ship," help this story come to life in the classroom. Many times I am asking my students to find things in their own books that you can picture this happening to yourself or make a movie with just based off the way the author portrayed the text. I also like how it establishes for our beginning readers a true love for reading. These students were so grateful for their teacher to read to them and she created an environment to make characters come to life. I found this to be an important reason I picked this book because I strive to help my students see beyond "Oh, another read aloud" and to become captivated in the text. I think this book can be used for a beginning of the year mentor text, a writing exercise, or a way to help children pick good fit books. I like how the principal was involved in this reading process in the story but found it to be scary and ran off. I loved that part because so often we becomes actresses to our stories that it may seem scary to an outsider. I think it is a great read to check out and see if this is something you can use to spark an interest or just have a conversation about why reading aloud everyday is essential in Elementary schools!

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## Dolly says

This is a wonderful tale - we have read three Miss Smith books and our girls just love them!

We love that the class becomes so engrossed in the stories she reads that the book becomes alive to them. It's hilarious to see that the class gets into trouble when they get ahold of the "Incredible Storybook" and neglect to finish reading various stories. We also like that the author highlights different literary classics in this series, like The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-

Glass.

We really enjoyed reading this story and we are looking forward to reading Miss Smith Under the Ocean next.

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### **Caroline Petty says**

I like this book because it teaches children that characters really can come alive in great books with the help of an inspiring teacher. We should always make children feel as though they can't get rid of characters and reoccurring themes in their lives because the books are so enthralling and students are so wrapped up in them. It's really a story about what a good story should be about and can even be used to teach children how to write in such a way that were hanging on their every word when their reading.

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### **Delali says**

Super fun book about how books can free your imagination and take you places! Also about how one teacher can open that gate for you. After finishing the last page, my daughter promptly said "I want a teacher like that!"

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### **Chloe Kim says**

It was funny when the principal just walked in and I liked the description of his shiny bald head!

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

What a hoot! I love books about books. I've read ones that seem very similar to this one, some done better, I think. But I did really enjoy this story too.

It's a great book showing how inspirational teachers, books, anyone who helps others love reading and being read to can be.

I'd always loved reading but went to school with kids who didn't enjoy it and with kids whose parents/others never read to them. I had a couple Miss Smiths. My fourth and fifth grade teachers, both men, read to my classes, and we were all rapt, even the kids "who didn't like to read" loved that part of our school day. Some of my fondest memories of elementary school involve being read too. One memorable day, as our fifth grade teacher was reading *A Wrinkle in Time* to us (my fourth grade teacher had read it to us when it was brand new but some of my fifth grade classmates had been in the other fourth grade classroom), he read his somewhat typical lunch time to afternoon recess, but then he continued from recess until the end of the school day. All afternoon. One of my favorite ever school days. The experience of having books "come to life" is one most readers will appreciate and recognize.

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### **Sharla Bazen says**

Genre: Children's Picture Book

Unique feature: The story came alive because the other teachers never read books, nor did they read them in such a way that it feels real. This story wants you to believe that characters actually came to life but really it is a metaphor about the impact that stories have and reading (aloud) has on students.

Grades suggested 1-3

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### **Lindsey says**

A fun story reminiscent of “Inkheart” or other books where story characters come to life, but great for younger kids.

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### **Francesca Bertucci says**

I really enjoyed reading this book. I found it really interesting and it gives hope to students who do not like to read. The way the book characters came to life was making school and reading fun for the students. It had a good overall meaning with a great ending. Miss Smith put the life back into reading for Zach and made him look forward to school more! I think this would be a great book for students to read who are uninterested in school. The pictures were fascinating and I would recommend this book to many children!

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### **Gerrit Beltman says**

Characters from a Jumanji-style book escape and terrorize a local school. Students have to finish the character's stories to return them to the book. Nobody questions the gypsy of a teacher who unleashed the fury of this wretched, possessed tome. Unrealistic, 5/5.

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### **Mikayla Brown says**

I love this book, it's a very interesting story about a teacher who has a special story book that whenever she reads the stories literally come to life. After an unfortunate accident where all the story book characters come out of the book and don't want to leave the real world till finally the teacher finishes all of the stories sending the characters back into the book. This book's genre would be fantasy and the theme is that books come to life when you read them. I would recommend this book to someone as young as 1st grade to someone as old as 4th grade because all of the pictures and colors would draw in the attention of 1st graders, but for 4th graders the larger passages and theme of this book would really catch their attention. I gave this book 5 stars because I love the illustrations, there is so much detail, and the way the book presents books as a way to

transport you to another world is so true and something that would inspire children to read.

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