



## Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep

*Eleanor Farjeon*

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**Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep** Eleanor Farjeon

Elsie Piddock is a born skipper. By the time she's seven, the tireless girl can even outskip the fairies and is rewarded with a gift of rare and lasting value. Can she use it many years later to save the children's fabled skipping grounds from a greedy, factory-building lord? Charlotte Voake's exuberant art pairs with Eleanor Farjeon's unforgettable tale for a match made in picture-book heaven.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep Details

Date : Published October 6th 1997 by Candlewick (first published 1937)

ISBN : 9780763601331

Author : Eleanor Farjeon

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy

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# From Reader Review *Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep* for online ebook

## **ThePinkCarrot says**

Fantastical story for children.

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## **Katy Noyes says**

I'd never heard of this book, though I have heard of Farjeon. With a new version coming out, I was happy to expand my knowledge of children's writing. And this is just lovely.

A fairy tale, this is probably going to be picked up more by girls (skipping, fairies), but really, I think boys might enjoy this one too. Elsie is so keen to try skipping like the older children that she makes her own rope - and discovers she's a natural at it. Her brilliance catches the attention of the fairies, who test her skills and are so impressed that they teach her unearthly tricks. Back in the real world, Elei begins to grow up, and puts away her childhood toys... It is many years later when her little village's land is in danger from a greedy Lord that Elsie has a chance to shine.

This is a perfect little bedtime tale (over one or two nights), magical and wistful, with a heroine children will enjoy - a girl and an old woman who defies the rich folk. It isn't too challenging a read for young children to follow, though readers themselves will need to be capable enough (aged around 8).

The Voake illustrations complement it perfectly, a combination of nostalgic and simple used watercolour drawings. The cover (and title) will probably put off most male readers (flowers, a girl skipping), but I would love to see boys listening to this - it would be great for classroom reading in primary schools.

Though this seemed rather quaint to me, the skipping did take my back to my own childhood, and I did feel cheered by the triumphant ending and Elsie's legacy. My son is 5 and I think I'll be able to read this to him before long, and I'm fairly sure he'll enjoy it.

A lovely edition (mine is the little hardback) that will be a treasured gift.

With thanks to Walker Books for the sample copy, sent for review purposes.

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## **Hannah Greendale says**

Farjeon's unassuming little book is a charming tale of community fighting developers that, with its whimsical disregard for physics and its macabre nuances, will likely appeal to fans of Roald Dahl.

Elsie Piddock is a born skipper. With a *swish-swish!* and a *tappity-tap!* she skips rope as never so. Even the fairies, who are fond of skipping themselves, take notice. When a greedy landowner threatens to build factories on the cherished hill where generations of skippers have *swished* and *tapped* beneath the new moon, Elsie puts her skipping skills to work to save the day.

*In the Strong Skip, [Elsie Piddock] went right under the earth, as a diver goes under the sea, and the rabbits, whose burrows she had disturbed, handed her up again.*

*But in the Skip Like a Feather she came down like gossamer, so that she could alight on a spider-thread and never shake the dew-drop off.*

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### **Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says**

A 1001 CBYMRBYGU. Elsie Piddock is the most amazing skipper ever. Elsie can do the Strong Skip. Elsie can do the Long Skip. Elsie can do the Skip All Together. Elsie is so good she gets tutored by the fairies. And these skipping skills can come in handy when a bad guy comes to town....A modern tall tale.

“In the Sly Skip not a fairy could catch her, or know where she would skip to next; so artful was she, that she could skip through the lattice of a skeleton leaf, and never break it.”

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### **Thegirlintheafternoon says**

Task: #49 - A book from someone else's bookshelf - 4/5 stars

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### **Jessica says**

READ THIS BOOK. To your kids, to yourself, to everybody. The original text was published in 1937, and Charlotte Voake brings the story to life with beautiful, delicate illustrations of the families of Mount Caburn, as well as the Trump-like Lord who wishes to build a wall around the footpaths, and erect one of his factories on the sacred hilltop without any real legal precedence so to do. Eerily similar to the political climate of 2017, 80 years later the problem still persists that an obstinate, money-hungry man of immense power bypasses legality and the common good for his own personal material gains. This book is a wonderful rally cry to keep on your shelves and read to your children as the age-old tradition of greed and corruption rears its ugly head on the world stage once more.

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### **Lisa Katcher says**

Wonderful, magical-just as I remembered. Only now, as an older reader, it struck me as chilling, too- the sleeping , dreaming of childhood becomes the sleeping, slipping into old age & death.

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## **Newportjonesy says**

A charming fairy tale.

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## **Michelle says**

This is an interesting little story that probably would not have had the impact on me given a different political/environmental climate. However, this "fairytale" is perfect to read to children about the importance of community and its specific customs and fighting for what is best for our children and future generations.

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## **Cindy Mitchell \*Kiss the Book\* says**

Farjeon, Eleanor Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep, illustrated by Charlotte Voake. CHAPTER BOOK. Candlewick Press, 2017. (Reprint from 1937.) \$12. 9780763690557

Elsie Piddock is a born rope-skipper, and with the local fairies' help she becomes even better. Her legendary skipping starts traditions in her town -- traditions that continue long after she outgrows rope-skipping, moves away, and becomes forgotten. But when a local lord threatens the town, there is only one person who can help: Elsie Piddock, skipping champion.

This is a charming story that grew on me the more I read. With its nostalgic feel and slow-burning plot, I think it would appeal more to adults than to children, and is unlikely to find a huge audience in a school classroom or library. It is, however, a pleasant read.

EL (K-3) -- OPTIONAL. Sydney G., K-6 Library Media Specialist  
<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018...>

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## **Anne says**

I'll round up my 3 1/2 stars to 4 because I love to skip rope with my students, and because I am thinking a snackalong of almond roca is in order. And I can't resist a readaloud that will allow me to use a British accent. This book will immerse the reader in fairy-filled rural England of a century ago. A bit on the longish side, the illustrations update this Eleanor Farjeon tale for today's audience. Written at a 5th grade level with beautiful language and vocabulary, but very appropriate for less mature readers.

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## **Leaflet says**

Wonderful.

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### **Julien says**

This is the sweetest book! I grabbed it just by chance at the library and I'm so happy I did. I read it aloud to my 3.5 year old daughter a little at a time before bed each night this week and we both just fell in love with the story. There's candy, skipping rope, fairies and a triumph of good over greed. Beautiful, delightful book which we plan to add to our personal collection.

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### **Nancy says**

This was a quick and delightful read. I read it in an hour. An older story repackaged with wonderful illustration for a new generation. I loved it. I light sweet magical tale as relevant today as it ever was.

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### **Hilary says**

This is a lovely story well-suited for bedtime storytelling. Elsie is a naturally at skipping rope. She is so proficient at skipping that Elsie draws the attention of the fairies, who teach her incredible tricks. But when Elsie grows up, she puts aside her childhood toys, including her jump rope. When the neighborhood playground is threatened by a greedy developer, Elsie dusts off her special skipping skills and saves the day.

Voake's illustrations are a perfect complement to the magical story. This volume will make a great gift for those readers who enjoy nostalgia, fairies, or Farjeon's other fairy tales.

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