

Petunia

Roger Duvoisin

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When Roger Duvoisin first introduced children to his proud and silly goose, Petunia, in 1950, it was love at first sight. Those children have grown up, but Petunia is every bit as fresh and funny and muddled as the day she was born.

In this, the first of the series of classic books featuring the silly goose, Petunia finds a book—and, deciding that if she owns a book she must be wise, dispenses hilariously mistaken advice to the other animals in the farmyard.

With its gentle lesson and the kind of humor that kids love best, this new edition of a beloved classic will delight and inspire a whole new generation of readers.

Petunia Details

Date : Published April 9th 2002 by Dragonfly Books (first published 1950)

ISBN: 9780440417545 Author: Roger Duvoisin Format: Paperback 32 pages

Genre: Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Animals



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From Reader Review Petunia for online ebook

Ronda says

I needed a filler for today due to some unforeseen scheduling changes and ran across the Scholastic iconographic DVD version of this story read by Peter Gwynne. Had forgotten all about it until seeing the cover and remembered that I had liked it as a child. I showed the book using my ActiveBoard and with subtitles on so that the students could follow along. For my 1st and 2nd graders, I used it as a tie-in to picking out "just right" books to help them grow their reading muscles. Petunia thought that just carrying a book around made her wise, just as many students check out books they aren't ready to read, adding to their frustration and reenforcing their perception that they are simply bad at reading--when it's more that they're trying to bench press 200 lbs. without building up to it. For my 3-5 grades, I wondered if they would just turn off--thinking it was a "baby book" (hate it when they say that!), but even my 5th graders seemed to enjoy the story--with 4th ad 5th really getting the humor that seemed to go over the heads of some of my younglings.

As for library lessons with my older students, Petunia offered a good opportunity to explore the concept of main idea as the lesson a character learns in a story and how main idea can vary with our own unique perspectives. (Yes, I have a problem with the standardized test questions about main idea--all too often--I don't agree with any of the choices offered.) I'm wondering how many of them I may have confused by introducing them to the idea that none of us ever reads the same book. Critical thinking in action!

Ronyell says

"Petunia" is the first book created by Roger Duvoisin from the "Petunia" series. In this adventure, Petunia mistakenly thinks that she is a wise animal when she stumbles upon a book lying on the ground and she how tries to give the other animals uncanny advice about their problems. "Petunia" is an excellent book about the importance of true wisdom that young children will enjoy for many years.

Roger Duvoisin has done an excellent job with both the illustrations and the writing for this story. Roger Duvoisin's illustrations are highly creative as he makes some of the pages in the book colored while other pages are in black and white. Also, I love the way the animals look in this book as they are drawn in a simplistic way since they are drawn in a sort of scratchy way. Roger Duvoisin's writing is hilarious and dramatic at the same time as he details the story of how Petunia tries to help all the farm animals, but ends up making all the other animals miserable as they go through painful trials from Petunia's advice. I love the way that Roger Duvoisin uses the concept of true knowledge by letting the readers know that true knowledge comes from reading the book, not carrying it around with you just to make people think that you are smart.

"Petunia" is a great story for children who want to learn about what true knowledge is all about and also a great tale about how it is important to not jump to conclusions without knowing the full story first. I would recommend this book to children ages six and up since some of the violent scenes might be too much for smaller children to handle.

From my Epinions Review: http://www0.epinions.com/review/Book_...

Shiloah says

"Now I understand. It was not enough to carry wisdom under my wing. I must put it in my mind and in my heart. And to do that I must learn to read." -Petunia (by Roger Duvoisin).

Luisa Knight says

If you have a child who's acting a little hesitant about learning to read, this book might do the trick! As Petunia learns, it's not enough just *having* a book, real knowledge comes from learning to read and discovering what books say. It's also a good lesson about pride and the consequences it can have on you and your friends.

Ages 3+

Cleanliness: a hen says "Good gracious."

Miss Lily says

This is the first children's Christian book I've ever gotten.

In a charming tale set in a farmyard, Petunia the silly goose believes she has become wise just because she finds a book. All farm animals saw her carrying the book believed in her wisdom and seek her advice, and suffered horrible consequences from her unwise counsel, until she told everyone to open a box labeled "Candy" but instead, it was firecrackers and everyone got hurt.

At the end she realized:"Now I understand. It was not enough to carry wisdom under my wing. I must put it in my mind and in my heart. And to do that I must learn to read."

Silly goose! She had thought that merely holding a book provides wisdom. Silly animals! They thought that she had become wise because she had the appearance of wisdom. Silly us! How often do we make the same mistakes? We assume that those in academia, government, medicine, and the press have wisdom that we do not possess. Much like the goose and animals assumed that holding the book gave the goose wisdom, many assume that holding a position or a credential is the same as wisdom.

Kathryn says

3.5 STARS Petunia is always known as a silly goose, but one day she finds a book and remembers that she has seen the children of the farm with them under their arms on their way to and from school. She knows that books hold wisdom and so she decides to carry around the book under her wing so she can become wise. Of course, she doesn't gain a single bit of wisdom in that way, just a lot of pomposity, but the other animals are very impressed--until she starts to give them horrible advice. Of course, it all works out in the end and I kind of loved the beginning and end of this book, but I really wish that situations involving the other farm animals weren't so painful and, in some cases, a bit violent (such as Petunia saying she will need to pull out all the horses' teeth to fix his toothache since she doesn't have any teeth and never gets a toothache--it's all quite

droll but when the poor horse runs off in terror and keeps his teeth, and his toothache, I just felt sorry instead of amused.) Otherwise, though, it's a wonderful cautionary tale and full of "wisdom" for its readers.

Dolly says

Petunia finds a book and carries it around with her, thinking that she is suddenly wiser than everyone else in the farmyard, with disastrous results. She discovers that "It was not enough to carry wisdom under my wing. I must put it in my mind and in my heart. And to do that I must learn to read."

Nice story and a good encouragement for children to learn to read.

Sonia says

Petunia is wise because she found a book.

So her smugness makes her grow.

All the animals think she is wise.

She starts giving the animals the wrong advice.

At one point, a box of TNT is involved.

All the animals get hurt.

Petunia opens the book and reads it, It is an ABC book.

THE END.

Yeah, I don't even know what to say about this one.

karen says

so i am just finding out now that there are about a million other books about petunia, the silly goose!!

i must must must have them. this was one of my first books, and remains one of my favorites.

basically, there's this goose and she figures that if she waddles around with a book under her wing, then all the other animals will assume she is smart, even though she doesn't really know what books are *for*, just that they are associated with wisdom. she's just using it as a smart-prop. deceitful goose!

and the other barnyard animals fall for it, the dummies!! they ask her advice and her opinions and every single time she gives her answers, someone gets hurt, either physically or emotionally, because she really has no idea what she's doing, the goose is just winging it.

but the unread book gives her confidence; she doesn't even realize the horror she leaves behind in her wake, and she becomes more and more proud. her errors in judgment escalate until kaboom!! i've made a huge mistake!! dogs with singed noses! terrified horses!

this is a terrifically scarring and violent book, one which made me everything i am today.

so come on, geese! read your books! and watch out for "candy!!" because i can always tell which of you people are just walking around with your books, and i am taking notes...

Mekeisha says

Excellent book written in 1950 for children. You could use this to teach so many things! Petunia is a duck who thinks she is wise because she found a book and carries it everywhere. She does not know how to read, but a friend once told her "He who owns books and loves them is wise." Other barn friends begin seeking her advice, until one day Petunia's pride puts her friends in danger.... great read, with lots of truths to be extracted!

Judy says

This little book provides perfect opportunities to interact with a child while reading. Every time Petunia encounters a problem, the kids suggest possible solutions and then we read what Petunia has to say. Before seeing the result, the kids choose which solution they think would work the best.

And, of course, I love the reference to 'wisdom.' I wish that wisdom would once again be something we, as a society, value.

Shelle Perry says

My earliest childhood memories center around two books that my mother would read to me. Petunia with head in the clouds and her foot in her mouth was always a favorite story to hear. Even a three old knew that it couldn't turn out well. Such joyous memories!

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Silly Petunia the goose thinks that simply owning a book will make her wise. This book, written 51 years ago, still amuses young readers--and me! A great story about reading.

Kara says

The overall concept of this book is that books equal knowledge, and not understanding a book can lead to catastrophe. This is a little extreme for children books I feel and might even scare young readers. Since the pictures are still from the 1950's, they are simple and cartoon like, which might not be appealing to all kids as the backgrounds are covered in pure whiteness. The advice Petunia gives is creative, but when the animals start getting injured and the truth is not being told, the book becomes a turn off to the readers, and the resolution comes too late to rectify or save the book.

Brandon says

Best book for preachers I've ever read.