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Desmond and Clayton must work together to win the Biggest Pumpkin competition, in this popular bestselling picture book.

Once there were two mice who fell in love with the same pumpkin....

Desmond the field mouse wants to carve the biggest jack-o'-lantern in the neighborhood with his pumpkin. Clayton the house mouse wants to win the Biggest Pumpkin contest with his. But when they discover that their choice pumpkins are actually the same one, Desmond and Clayton decide to work together to grow the biggest pumpkin ever!

The Biggest Pumpkin Ever Details

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From Reader Review The Biggest Pumpkin Ever for online ebook

Laura Mincey says

I read this book to some students in my second grade class and they really enjoyed it! This story is really funny because it deals with a huge misunderstanding between two mice, who have both fallen in love with the same pumpkin and take care of it. Clayton finds the pumpkin and decides to water it (with sugar water, so it will grow even faster) for the county wide contest of the biggest pumpkin, and Desmond decides to water to the pumpkin, too so he can have a nice Jack-o-Latern for Halloween. Without the two mice knowing, they BOTH are watering the same pumpkin during different times of the day. When both of the boys discover what they've done, they comprimise, showing a great act of friendship. Clayton agrees to let Desmond carve the pumpkin into a Jack-o-Latern as long as he can enter it in the contest first--and the pumpkin wins! This would be a great story to share with young children the meaning of compromise and friendship, as well as math because the pumpkin grows bigger and bigger--they could practice measurement and weight :) Young children will love this book because it is hilarious!

Brenna says

This book is designed for young elementary students. My 3 year old likes it but even he points out in the inaccuracies. The book is about 2 mice caring for a pumpkin, each without the other's knowledge. The pumpkin ends up growing phenomenally large because of the extra care it received. The problem is, too much water, too much fertilizer, etc., would have killed the pumpkin. Then there is the lack of explanation as to why the field mouse would sneak into someone's garden to feed a pumpkin so he could have it as a jack-o-lantern. Its their pumpkin! He has no claim to it, regardless of what whether he has helped it or killed it through over watering and fertilizing. Those complaints aside, however, its a cute book.

Amy "the book-bat" says

A cute story about mice and pumpkins. Cute illustrations

Ellon says

Cute story about two mice that are both taking care of a pumpkin without the knowledge that the other one is helping.

Gerrit Beltman says

This mouse community bonds over big pumpkins 10/10

Malory says

Great book. Good to talk about sharing and working together. Good addition to the Fall/Halloween book list.

Donna Mork says

Another mirror book, two mice doing the same thing to a pumpkin and not realizing it. The pumpkin grows huge. They decide to share so they can get it to the pumpkin contest and win.

Heather says

I requested this book in the spirit of the season. I didn't think it looked great, but I wanted to read this book before the christmas one, The Biggest Snowman Ever, I think it's called. I wasn't crazy to read books where mice are the main characters; I'd prefer it to be about children, so that's why I wasn't so excited to read this. Clayton found the pumpkin first. If this was me and my sister, we'd ask what time you found it, just like we do with books on goodreads!

I'm surprised they mentioned manure in here; it looks too close to crap.

Oh boy, it's getting double the water and fertilizer!

It doesn't have to be so similar. Both shrugged and said "All I do is water it" then Clayton's mom and Desmond's brother whispered "You should try using sugar water."

I don't think the pumpkin would grow that much in a month.

Idk why, but I just couldn't understand what Clayton did to the pumpkin. 'Clayton dug a small hole beside the pumpkin vine. In the he placed a bowl full of sugar water. He cut into the vine a few inches from the pumpkin. In the cut he put one end of a piece of candle wick. Then he put the other end in the bowl of sugar water.'

&just because it was fed sugar water, idt it would double in size in one week.

Also, how did Desmond not see the bowl of sugar water on the other side of the pumpkin?

Pumpkin bigger than a car and house.

-"you've been feeding the pumpkin," said Clayton.

"You've been feeding the pumpkin," said Desmond.

"That's why it got so big," said Clayton.

"That's why it got so big," said Desmond.

They burst out laughing.'

There's a better way of writing this. it sounds so robotic.

I'm surprised they were laughing. I thought they'd be mad, and each claim it was their pumpkin. I'm also very surprised that there was no argument or disagreement. They immediately figured out that they'd take it to the contest and then use it as a jack-o'-lantern.

The pumpkin kept getting bigger and bigger and was still green. We didn't get to see it turn yellow and then orange. It's ridiculous how big it got; it's bigger than the buildings! & ridiculous how 100 mice are pulling it by motorcycles!

I found the last page odd: 'And on Halloween night its wonderful, smiling face could be seen glowing for miles around.' The book didn't have that kind of writing in it before.

I wish it had ended more on Clayton and Desmond than with the pumpkin. There was no lesson or real story here. It needed more. Also, the book could have used more color; the sky was white in here. This book is more one star.

midnightfaerie says

A book my 6 yr old as well as my twin 3 yr olds loved. A solid reading level 2 book, this cute story keeps all ages engaged with the bright colorful pictures and cute story. A great addition to any children's library.

Matthew Hunter says

Well that was cute. The kids and I are suckers for stories about mice. Throw in a lesson about the power of teamwork and sharing, and you have a pretty darn good children's book. Don't let the smaller, flimsy paperback format fool you. The story outperforms the cover aesthetic.

Andrea says

0.5 I guess, so I don't give it a 0.

I didn't like that the story was about mice. And it was weird how they were talking about the pumpkin contest in town and neighborhoods, like they had their own world. It just doesn't make sense because they're too small to handle the pumpkin anyway. I didn't like their human names either. They needed to have good mouse names. Clayton and Desmond don't fit mice at all. Clayton finds this pumpkin and in his daydream he's standing beside it after it's won the grand prize. Desmond discovers it that day too, except in his daydream it's the biggest jack-o-lantern. I didn't understand why in his daydream, the little cloud above his head, he's wearing blue overalls, except his shirt is plain white instead of pink checkered like he's wearing, and there's a girl mouse in it with him, no idea who she was. His wife, girlfriend, just a random girl mouse admiring his jack-o-lantern? Because Clayton and Desmond were the only two mice introduced so far.

I thought it was a bad choice to have them fertilize the pumpkins, because kids that are young enough to be reading this probably have no idea what fertilize means and could barely say the word. And speaking of manure was a bad idea too. They probably don't know what that is either, and mentioning crap in a book is never good. I think saying they watered the pumpkin would have been enough. Clayton's mom gets in on it, telling him how big it is, and Clayton says all he does is water it, which wasn't true, because he fertilized with manure too. Desmond's brother also gets on it, and Desmond says all he does is water it, which isn't true either. He fertilizes it with manure too, except at night, while Clayton is tending it in the day. Both family members told tell them to use sugar water.

I thought the description of digging a hole, and putting the bowl of sugar water and then cutting the vine a few inches from the pumpkin, and then putting one end of a candle wick into the hole and the other in the bowl was way too involved for kids to understand. It's just too much specific information that they wouldn't understand or care about. It's way over their head. There was too much writing too, and the words were too small.

It was a very stupid moment when they both come to the miraculous conclusion that they've both been feeding the pumpkin. I don't know how they both realized that. They each do exactly the same thing, put blankets over the pumpkin that night so it didn't get cold, they both hum a song, both realize someone else is

humming and covering the pumpkin, so they stop and peer around the pumpkin.

“You’ve been feeding the pumpkin,” said Clayton.

“You’ve been feeding the pumpkin,” said Desmond.

“That’s why it got so big,” said Clayton.

“That’s why it got so big,” said Desmond.

That’s terrible writing, so monotonous to read. And they both anticlimactically come to the conclusion to let Clayton enter the contest and win, and Desmond magnanimously decides to carve it into a jack-o-lantern once the contest is over. Talk about unrealistic. Two young people—even mice—would definitely fight over it. I had been expecting a fight about who’s pumpkin it was, each claiming they found it first and it was theirs, but nope, once “everything had been explained” they each decide to just share it. It was absolutely bizarre that some people were carrying their pumpkins to the contest in trucks and cars, and some rolling them along the ground, and they get their big pumpkin their by 100 field mice on motorcycles. How strange that they have vehicles, and now all of a sudden 100 of them have motorcycles. Just one bad choice after another. It’s too big to go on the streets, and Clayton has to explain why he couldn’t bring it to the square. I think it’s self-explanatory and will this story just continue to go on? Half of it could have been cut out. Most of the sentences are not pertinent to the story and contribute nothing. The judge understands at once, who even cares at this point, it wins first place and, at the same time, Clayton and Desmond say “Who would have believed this?”

I couldn’t wait for it to be over. Bad writing, bad storytelling. It was long-winded and there was a better way of writing all of it. The artwork was terrible. It was sketchy and very simple.

Esther May says

This is a great win/win book that shows different agendas where everyone can have what they want. It is a fun book to read in the fall.

Luisa Knight says

This is a cute tale about two mice and the pumpkin they don't know they're *both* feeding.

Ages: 4 - 8

Cleanliness: there is a jack-o-lantern in the story, mentions Halloween and the last picture shows a few mice in costume (ghost, etc.).

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babyhippoface says

Two mice both find the same little pumpkin growing in a garden and start to nurture it, each without the

other's knowledge. [Whose garden is it? Beats me, it never says, so these mice may be stealing! :)] One wants the pumpkin to grow large for a contest. The other wants to make a fantastic jack-o-lantern with it.

I was pleasantly surprised that when these two mice realize they've both been caring for the same pumpkin, they are not angry, but decide to cooperate. While there's nothing particularly spectacular here, little ones will like the idea of a giant pumpkin as big as a house, and the spirit of cooperation exhibited by both the two mice and their neighbors is kind of refreshing. I'll probably add this to my Halloween read-alouds for 1st grade.

Christina says

I read this book when I was a child, and it was so cute! The drawings and characters are sweet and the storyline memorable.
