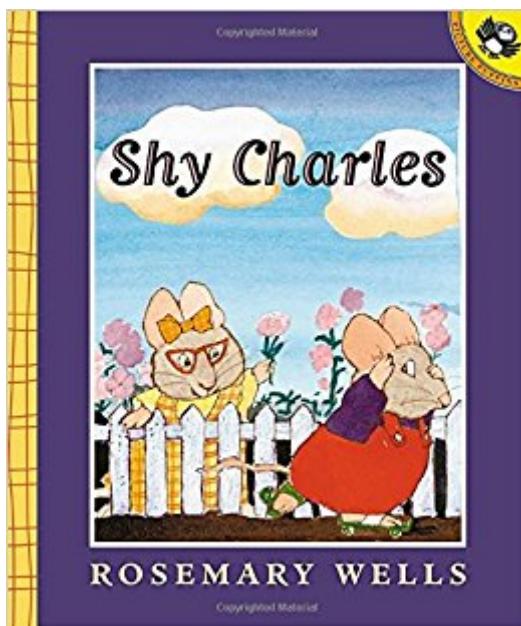


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# Shy Charles



## Synopsis

Charles is a mouse of few words. He doesn't like to talk, and he's perfectly happy playing by himself. But his parents are not happy. "It's time he played football or joined the ballet," says Charles's father. So off Charles goes to ballet class, where he curls up and pretends to be asleep. Football proves even less successful. Will anything bring Charles out of his shell? "A nicely told fable as helpful for their parents as for shy children in need of respect," says *The New York Times Book Review*. "Wells has a time-tested talent for taking a keenly felt emotion—in this case shyness—and exploring it in a manner that is reassuring to young listeners." Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0500 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reissue edition (June 25, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140568433

ISBN-13: 978-0140568431

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #144,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Babysitting #405 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #685 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Leading a quartet of reissues is *Shy Charles* by Rosemary Wells. "Readers will find this quiet hero and his winsome smile beguiling proof that shyness does not preclude competence," said PW of the book first published in 1988. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreSchool-Grade 2 Charles is as quiet as a mouse and it doesn't bother him one bit. His rodent parents try everything from bribery to scolding, from ballet to football, but Charles resists all of their efforts to make him become more outgoing. It isn't until he is faced with the emergency of an injured babysitter that he springs into action and saves the day, only to revert to his shyness when his parents return. Wells' illustrations, in the familiar style of her *Stanley and Rhoda* (1978) and *Hazel's Amazing Mother* (1985, both Dial) show the plump, large-eared cast to be full of charm and cleverness. Facial expressions, posture, and background details substantially extend the humor of the story. The simple rhythm of the rhyming text is subtle and playful. It is refreshing that Wells offers no sudden transformation of Charles, nor does she propose any easy solution to his situation. Instead, she present a welcome portrayal of a common trait in young children with empathy and respect. Starr LaTronica, North Berkeley Library, Calif. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The story is not quite what I was expecting - spoiler alert - Charles does not get over his shyness, but he does show that it doesn't stop him from doing the right thing. My 4 year old and 5 year old love the story and the illustrations. I wasn't sure they would since they enjoyed the *Max & Ruby* cartoon, but didn't clamor to watch it or become big fans or anything. All in all I think it's a good book and 3-6 year olds would probably enjoy it.

I have to write in defense of "Shy Charles"! We love Rosemary Wells at our house and all her wonderful stories, illustrations and characters -- Charles, Nora, Yoko, the original *Max & Ruby* stories, etc. My children love the rhyming story of "Shy Charles" and laugh their heads off at the voices I do for all the characters. Sure, Charles' parents were hard on him at first because of his shyness, but if you look at when Charles cried on the football field, his dad realized they were pushing him too much and comforted him and told him "everything will be all right" -- i.e. they would let Charles be Charles. The book has a good lesson in that when it was important, Charles did what needed to be done and called "the emergency service" when Mrs. Block got hurt. But in the end, Charles' natural temperament is that of an introvert, and everyone accepts that. As an introvert myself, I love the book. And children know humor -- at least mine do -- when Charles' mother says, "you never say good-bye or thank you/lucky for you I'm so nice, another mother would spank you!" my children giggle themselves silly--no one seriously thinks this condones violence. :)

This is not the sort of book that you're supposed to read and over-analyze! It is a funny exploration

of life with a shy kiddo whose parents, trying to help him and getting frustrated along the way, say and do silly things that my two and four year old ( one of whom is named Charles which is how we found this book in the first place) find hilarious. Ultimately, shy Charles saves the day and does exactly what you'd expect..he doesn't say anything when everyone around him praises his outgoing actions, which my kids also think is so silly, and I think is so true to life that it is funny. This isn't a parenting book, and not everything has to be so politically correct...some of the other reviewers need to relax a little....

I bought this for my 3 year old who is very shy. In the book, Charles' parents get angry at him for being shy, threaten him, and try to "toughen" him up. As you can imagine, his parents approach doesn't help and his anxiety / shyness remains at the end of the book. It has a very negative message. Better books for shy children include: Shy Guy & Maya's Voice.

If I could leave worse feedback, I would. The story does not flow. The story encourages spankings and does not encourage children to achieve their best. I would NEVER buy nor read this to my kids again. I threw the book away.

Charles is not just a little shy, he is EXTREMELY shy, so shy he really doesn't seem to talk at all. As usual, Rosemary Wells is not afraid to have a hero who is quite out of the mainstream. Unlike in most of her books, Charles' parents are not very understanding of him, and seem to be at the point of being quite fed up with his shyness, which can make him seem impolite. However, people in the community seem to understand he's a special little mouse who will come out of his shell when he's ready. An unusual picture book which makes you think about how children who are not outgoing are treated.

Nice book- but I presumed from the description it was to support students that had trouble speaking - not that they were just shy - it is a nice story but shouldn't be advertised as an aid.

I felt odd reading a book to my child, where the "parents" in the book get angry at "Charles" for not talking. I feel my money would have been better spent on a different book.

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