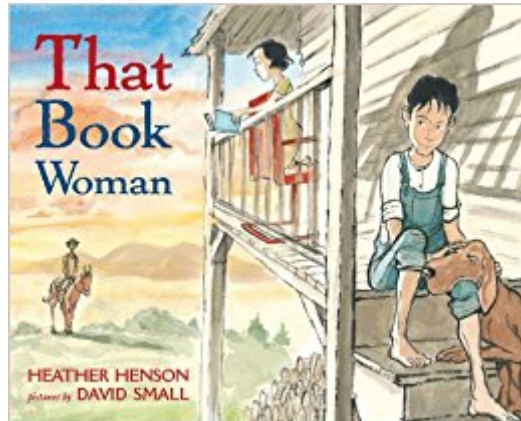




The book was found

That Book Woman



Synopsis

Cal is not the readin' type. Living way high up in the Appalachian Mountains, he'd rather help Pap plow or go out after wandering sheep than try some book learning. Nope. Cal does not want to sit stoney-still reading some chicken scratch. But that Book Woman keeps coming just the same. She comes in the rain. She comes in the snow. She comes right up the side of the mountain, and Cal knows that's not easy riding. And all just to lend his sister some books. Why, that woman must be plain foolish -- or is she braver than he ever thought? That Book Woman is a rare and moving tale that honors a special part of American history -- the Pack Horse Librarians, who helped untold numbers of children see the stories amid the chicken scratch, and thus made them into lifetime readers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (October 7, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416908129

ISBN-13: 978-1416908128

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life](#) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-3 — A simple and heartfelt paean to the Pack Horse Librarians of the 1930s who were part of a WPA program founded to take books to remote areas. Cal and his family live high in the Appalachian hills. He's proud to be a hard worker and scorns his sister, who'd read all day if allowed. When a stranger appears on horseback to deliver books, Cal wants nothing to do with her until one winter evening when she braves the snowy mountain to deliver her goods. Her

courage and strong will make him realize that her job must be very important, so he asks his sister to teach him to read. Henson's free-verse narrative is peppered with colloquialisms and authentic-sounding language that might be tricky for some readers, but lend immediacy and atmosphere to the story. Done in pale browns and greens, Small's signature ink-and-watercolor illustrations depict an austere mountain home and the hardscrabble lives of family members who have little to spare. Cal's expressions of resentment and anger, and then his acceptance and enjoyment of reading, are shown with simple yet effective lines. Pair this poignant book with Kathi Appelt and Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer's *Down Cut Shin Creek* (HarperCollins, 2001) for an excellent unit on these dedicated women and for a great discussion starter on the importance of books.

—Angela J. Reynolds, Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Bridgetown, NS, Canada

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Cal describes his way-up mountain home — “So high / we hardly sight / a soul — but that changes when the Book Woman, a traveling librarian, rides up to the house. The Book Woman is a boon for Cal — his sister, Lark, — “the readenest child you ever did see, — but no use to Cal, who is not — “born / to sit so stoney-still / a-starin at some chicken scratch. — However, he — is impressed by the librarian, who rides in all weather; finally, — he asks Lark to teach him to read. This tribute to the Pack Horse Librarians of Appalachia has a lyric, simple style that lends itself to reading aloud. Henson, a Kentucky native, creates a reliable narrator in Cal, whose — journey to reading — is gentle and believable. There are a couple of stereotypes here (Mother is pregnant and barefoot), but overall, the — mixed-media illustrations — (ink, watercolor, pastel) support the text — his genial flow. Mountains and sky achieve a lofty spaciousness that makes the Book Woman — his ride even more impressive. An author — note gives background on the WPA — Pack Horse Librarian program. Grades 2-4. --Janice Del Negro

Cal is not a kid that likes to read. In fact, he's a kid who lives in the remote Appalachian Mountains where there are no libraries. The only books he and his sister have available to them are the ones brought by horseback every few weeks by the Book Woman. Cal's sister, Lark, is a bookworm who loves reading more than anything. She could sit all day with a book. Cal just doesn't understand why she likes to read so much, until one day he begins to wonder what makes the Book Woman ride through rain, wind, and snow to deliver the books. When he finally understands her dedication, it changes Cal's life forever. Written as poetry, this book not only will inspire children to read, but it also

gives a small glimpse into the courageous Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky. The Pack Horse Project was created in the 1930s by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in order to bring books to the young people of the Appalachian Mountains. I give it 5 stars for being unforgettable.

As described -- fast shipping -- thank you!!

That Book Woman, by Heather Henson I discovered this book during teacher professional development, and I love it! As a fifth grade teacher, I can see several times of the year that I will use it and integrate with my Reading and Social Studies curriculum. The pictures depict the emotions of the characters and enhance the Appalachian dialect of the poetic text. Any librarian who reads this book is bound to love it because it features the pack-horse librarians of The New Deal during the Depression. As the story unfolds, the reader cannot help but find a new appreciation for books and reading!

Great book, great read. I gave it to my sister, a librarian at a local school..she loved it.

A beautiful bookI learned a lot through reading this. I love it.

I read it at the library and liked it so much that I bought my own copy.

Very inspiration story. My third grade students enjoyed this book. Heartwarming.

My students really enjoyed this book and were interested in researching the librarians using the websites suggested at the end of the book.

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