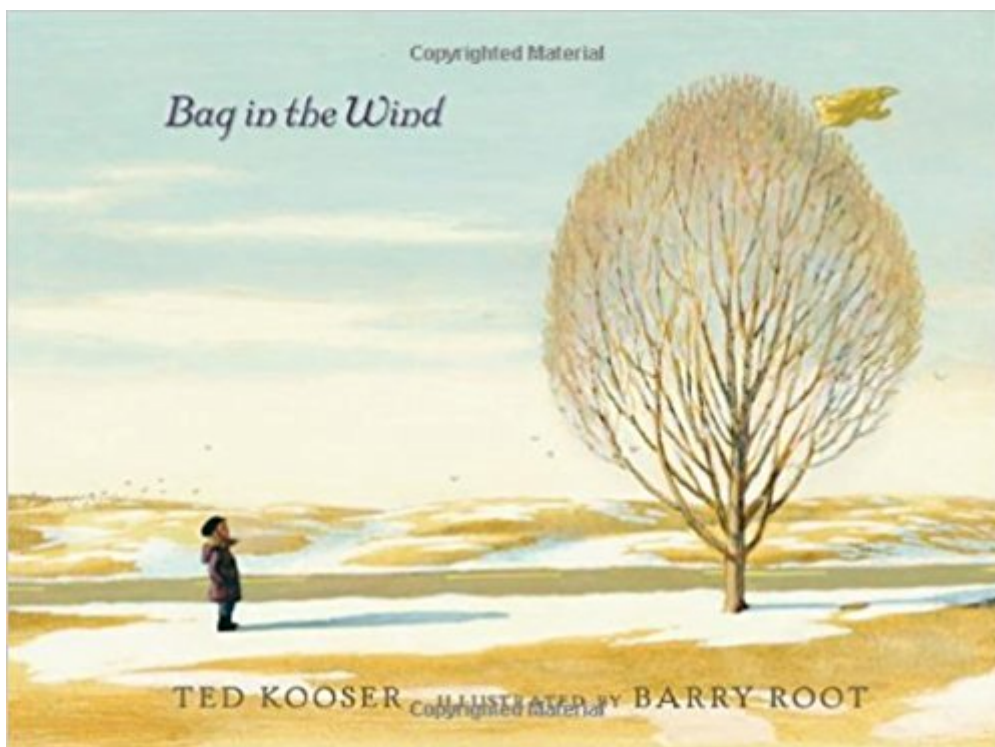


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Bag In The Wind



Synopsis

In a singular first children's book, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ted Kooser follows a plastic bag on its capricious journey from a landfill into a series of townspeople's lives. One cold morning in early spring, a bulldozer pushes a pile of garbage around a landfill and uncovers an empty plastic bag — a perfectly good bag, the color of the skin of a yellow onion, with two holes for handles — that someone has thrown away. Just then, a puff of wind lifts the rolling, flapping bag over a chain-link fence and into the lives of several townsfolk — a can-collecting girl, a homeless man, a store owner — not that all of them notice. Renowned poet Ted Kooser fashions an understated yet compassionate world full of happenstance and connection, neglect and care, all perfectly expressed in Barry Root's tender illustrations. True to the book's earth-friendly spirit, it is printed on paper containing 100 percent recycled post-consumer waste and includes an author's note on recycling plastic bags.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1st Printing edition (February 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763630012

ISBN-13: 978-0763630010

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #430,008 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living #139 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #217 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 4 "6" In his first children's book, the former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner tells an environmental story about a plastic grocery bag as it is blown out of a landfill, over a considerable distance, and eventually into the hands of some people who reuse it. Young Margaret picks it up to carry discarded cans she sells for scrap metal. A woman uses it to block a draft under

her door. Two street people pick it up but eventually drop it. A man bundles it with other bags and sells them to a woman who runs a secondhand store. The story comes full circle when Margaret buys a baseball glove and ball there and carries her purchases home in the very bag she had initially found. Root's watercolor and gouache paintings, often golden-hued landscape spreads, follow the bag from its bright early-morning wanderings, through the day and shadowy night, and into the daylight once again. Long, compound sentences flow smoothly as they describe the bag's protracted journey, offering poetic images such as "clouds like enormous black leaf bags" that race across the moon. Older children who can listen to the lengthy text will benefit from hearing the beauty of the language and, in addition, will learn about recycling plastic bags from the informative author's note. © Marianne Saccardi, formerly at Norwalk Community College, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The life of a plastic bag in a landfill is extraordinarily uneventful and long—15,000 years, give or take a few millennia—but in this former U.S. poet laureate's first picture book, a beige grocery bag serves an array of inventive uses in but a tiny sliver of that life span. Set against a barren plains landscape, Kooser's circular story follows a plastic bag, the color of the skin of a yellow onion, as it travels in a chain of happenstance from landfill, to tree, to stream, and among the various citizens of a nearby town, including a young girl, a homeless man, and a shopkeeper. The muted, dappled colors of Root's gouache and watercolor illustrations are a perfect complement to Kooser's lengthy, meditative passages, which celebrate not only the virtues of economy and ecology but, moreover, the interconnectedness of all things. An excellent opener for discussions about creative reuse and recycling, the book concludes with an informational author's note. Grades 1-3. --Kristen McKulski

ok...but better for older kids...or adults...

I am 64 years old. Though "Bag in the Wind" would be clear reading for a child, the words make poetry itself. The story goes from one high point to another interesting high point, a fine plot that carried me merrily along like a...bag in the wind. The book's message is simple, but profound. The illustrations? I enjoy them so much that I can't place the book on my shelf in the conventional manner, but prop the pages open on an easel, changing the display every few days. Young or old, this book will delight you and perhaps, if you're like me, turn you into a kid again.

This is a very cute book about a empty bag being flown around and the travels it takes. My grandson is almost 7 years old and loved this book. It helps the kids to think about recycling. Highly recommend this book. It gives great details in the story.

This a lovely story for children (big ones too) but I thought it was a book of poetry and was my first attempt at Ted Kooser

This is a lovely little book, not only for children but for those who enjoy teaching children. Highly recommended, both for it's literary quality but also for the fine illustrations.

Kooser's books are great. Almost as good as hearing him in person.

Class loved this one!

Ted Kooser creates a plausible yarn of the journey of a plastic shopping bag to bring the child into the subject of recycling and avoiding plastic. Kooser is better in giving life to things than he is to giving life to people.

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