



We Were Tired of Living in a House

Liesel Moak Skorpen , Doris Burn (Illustrator)

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Tired of living in a house, four children, a cat, and a dog pack and move to a tree, a raft, a cave, and finally the seashore, enjoying the advantages of each abode until they discover its disadvantages.

We Were Tired of Living in a House Details

Date : Published by Coward McCann (first published 1969)

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Author : Liesel Moak Skorpen , Doris Burn (Illustrator)

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review We Were Tired of Living in a House for online ebook

Melissa says

ONLY IF YOU HAVE THE 1960s version--the illustrations MAKE the book. If you want to read this one, seek out the old one, that's all black and white drawings though there's a little red on the front cover, so glad I own my old copy! But if you see the old one at a garage sale, snap it up! I spent hours looking at those drawings as do my children now.

Lisa Vegan says

Hip, hip, hooray for free play and imaginative play!!! I just loved this book. I was skeptical, despite two friends each assigning this book 4 stars, because the cover illustration didn't appeal to me.

But, I enjoyed the illustrations, and the story is wonderful. It's a fabulous book for read aloud, just terrific, and independent readers are also likely to enjoy reading it themselves. The cumulative story is amusing and sweet and silly and fun, and great for nature lovers and kids who like to have adventures, or dream or read about them.

Apparently, the edition I read is illustrated by an illustrator who didn't create the original pictures for this book. I cannot find the edition with the original illustrations. While I'd like to read that original edition, I was very pleased to have read this one.

Miriam says

I don't think the person who wrote the blurb used here understood the book. It is not like Goldilocks. The kids are not having scary misadventures. They do not learn a lesson. It is perfectly obvious from the illustrations that the brothers and sister are out having a day of play in nature and their mother knows where they are. This is much more like Swallows and Amazons with younger kids than like Goldilocks. All very peaceful and cheerful.

Katy Branson says

This IS NOT my favorite book ever. The original version, illustrated by Elsie Minarek (sp?) is my favorite. Why mess with perfection? BOO!

Penny Candy Books says

Check out our TinyTakes review on Twitter here:

Pam says

Children decide they want to explore different places to live outside their home. Terrific for talking about imagination. Could be a fun book to introduce environments and habitats.

lola Franco says

I have the original version, it's lovely. One of my favorite books as a child. And each of my children have enjoyed it as well.

Nicole says

This is a book that will appeal to children for years and years! A good read-aloud to youngsters with some repetition, simple descriptions, and fabulous illustrations to help you imagine playing in the great outdoors. A classic I should think.

Silence says

Audience: Preschool / Grade School, but might have to ad-lib for younger groups

Illustrations: A little like Denise Fleming

Plot / Review: Why live at home when you can live in a tree or a cave or the beach! This is a great read-aloud that celebrates both adventure and coming home.

Read Aloud: Yes

Rebecca Light says

Elegant prose, beautiful black and white illustrations, love the cyclical narrative. Great for the family who gets itchy for adventure.

Allen says

This is a book about four young siblings, 2 boys and 2 girls, who are tired of living in their traditional family home. They take their cat and dog and a few other items from home, and embark on an adventure to find a new place in which to live. They stop at a tree, a pond, a cave, and at the shore. They like each of their new homes, but each of them has an issue that causes the kids to move on. As they travel from home to home

they leave a few of the items that they had brought from their house and collect new tokens from each of their new homes. In the end, they return home to their house and parents.

I love the illustrations in this book. Each of the sites where the children live is depicted with many details that made me fall in love with this book as a kid. I wanted to live in each of these places too!

I think that you could use this book to show simple adventures and a longing for change. The book could also be used to show that while sometimes we may long for something new and different, often what we already have is wonderful.

Kathryn says

What a delightful story! It captures the spirit of adventure, the love of outdoors, the bountiful imagination of children. Each home the children discover is delightful in its own way. I enjoyed the cumulative nature of the storytelling, too.

I wish my library had the original edition, with illustrations by Doris Burn. I will have to keep my eye out for an inexpensive used copy because I know I would love those illustrations. The few illustrations I've seen online are wonderful and so well suited to my idea of what this story represents.

There is nothing exactly "wrong" with the newer illustrations but they aren't really my cup of tea. They feel too modern, not detailed enough, too bold, something...

But the story is a gem!

george says

"We were tired of living in a house." So starts the charming picture book of the same title. The three little children set off to find a new place to live--they try a tree, a pond, a cave, and the sea; but there is something not quite right about each place. So every time, they pack up (with just a little more stuff each time), and move on. Finally, the three decide that living in a house might not be so bad after all.

Cute book with bright, bold and colorful illustrations. I didn't love the illustrations--at times they seemed to be too much. But the text is charming and the book overall is adorable.

Annie Dohrman says

This was my all time favorite book when I was a child. If I could give it more stars, I would!!

Jana Eads says

Like being transported back to childhood. Love it!

Jyniffrec says

The older version has much better illustrations and is the one I remember from my childhood. The older illustrations are done by Doris Burn. My children love this book as well. I happened to find it at a used bookstore for fairly cheap but it is quite expensive for a used book online.

Beth Wood says

If I could give this book a split rating, it would be story-5/illustrations-1. I first owned this book through the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club, and the illustrator of that edition was Doris Burn (1969). If you can find this edition, read it!

In this newer release(1999), I find the colors to be lurid and completely overwhelming to the charm and simplicity of the story. The characters are flat, and they and the landscapes are one-dimensional, and the brush techniques make the children look as though they are dirty or scraped-up. The children have no range of expression, even when confronted by bears. I just really loathe these illustrations.

I reiterate that the story is charming, simple, with description blending with the repetitive language that children find so engaging. In all, this picture book is the embodiment of "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence".

Mikaela Fu says

This book follows a family as they go on many wild adventures together where they are creating many memories that will last a lifetime.

Lexile Measure- NP
Guided Reading- K

Six Traits plus one- presentation and sentence fluency

Elizabeth says

I love the original version of this book--from the early seventies--which had much better illustrations. I would have given this 5 stars if it were the original version, but that seems to be out of print. You may be able to find it at the library still. The new text is probably still the same, and it is a wonderful story, but if you can find the original, do so! The illustrations in this newer version are lame. Ugly. A sad change.

Anyway, the great things about the story are...

1. That the kids stick together (though there is a sad moment at the beginning, in the old one at least, in which their parents just get fed up with how messy and rowdy they are and send them out of the room);
 2. That they are apparently fearless about striking out and playing (and living!) in the wilderness, in various contexts;
 3. That they are welcomed home lovingly, like Max in *Where the Wild Things Are*, though with much less psychological drama. No mention is made of anger or resentment or negative parental judgments or punishments...that sort of drama may be a subtext, but the story is told with the cheerful attitude of a kid who just feels like exploring. Nobody is power-hungry, wishing to dominate big monsters. Just, you know... it might be fun to live in a tree for a change!! Or in a cave!! Or at the beach!!
-

Cheryl says

Love the poetic cumulative text. The illustrations by Cepeda are fun, but not as well suited, I'm sure, as the original ones by Doris Burn. Cepeda apparently changed the story, too, dropping two pets and a fourth sibling. And I wonder if the headless parents painting the real house are part of the original.... So, I've requested the original; please add your good wishes that it comes in for me!
