



Baabwaa and Wooliam: A Tale of Literacy, Dental Hygiene, and Friendship

David Elliott , Melissa Sweet (Illustrations)

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A hilarious and satisfying tale of literacy, dental hygiene, and friendship from David Elliott and Melissa Sweet that is sure to have readers in stitches from start to finish.

Baabwaa is a sheep who loves to knit. Wooliam is a sheep who loves to read. It sounds a bit boring, but they like it. Then, quite unexpectedly, a third sheep shows up. A funny-looking sheep who wears a tattered wool coat and has long, dreadfully decaying teeth. Wooliam, being well-read, recognizes their new acquaintance: the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing! The wolf is so flattered to discover his literary reputation precedes him that he stops trying to eat Baabwaa and Wooliam. And a discovery by the sheep turns the encounter into an unexpected friendship.

Baabwaa and Wooliam: A Tale of Literacy, Dental Hygiene, and Friendship Details

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From Reader Review Baabwaa and Wooliam: A Tale of Literacy, Dental Hygiene, and Friendship for online ebook

Vanessa says

Cute. I loved that reading was of such importance!

But was the bit about the sheep loosing weight needed? Or the one off hand comment about the wolf's poor dental hygiene? These elements were specifically mentioned in the write up I found elsewhere for this book, which given that they aren't really plot points, was particularly odd.

Erin says

Baabwaa & Wooliam are sheep who like to knit and read. One day, they decide to have an adventure of their own instead of just reading about them. They walk around and around their fenced in field until they meet a wolf in sheep's clothing. Wooliam said he had read about a wolf like that, so they ran away from him. The wolf loved chasing the sheep around and around. Then he stopped and contemplated what Wooliam had said about reading about him. Wooliam got out his book and showed the wolf. The wolf looked anywhere except at the pages of words. The wolf didn't know how to read. Baabwaa volunteered Wooliam to teach the wolf how to read while she knitted him a nice new sweater. Reluctantly, Wooliam agreed. Sometimes while they were in a lesson, the wolf would jump up randomly and chase the sheep around the field. Wooliam was annoyed by this at first, but they realized it was just his nature. There were lots of quiet moments, too. The three animals became good friends.

Good for preschool storytimes.

Stephanie Croaning says

Baabwaa and Wooliam are two sheep who like their rather boring life, where Baabwaa knits and Wooliam reads. One day, after reading a pirate book, Wooliam proposes they go on an adventure. The two friends set off to find explore their walled-in pasture. The only thing they find however, is that they are now hungry.

While munching on some grass, they are approached by another strange looking sheep, with a long tail, sharp snout, a filthy wool coat, and poor dental hygiene. Wooliam, who had read a book about a wolf in sheep's clothing, recognizes the wolf and tells Baabwaa to run. The wolf gives up the chase as he ponders that Wooliam has read a book about him.

Wooliam realizes the wolf does not know how to read, and offers to teach him. Baabwaa is going to knit him a new coat to replace the ugly one he is wearing. Thus begins a new friendship.

What makes this friendship story different from others is that the wolf never fully gives up his natural tendency to chase sheep. In the middle of reading lessons, he would suddenly chase the two sheep around the field. Wooliam was annoyed by the behavior, but Baabwaa understood that "he is just following his nature. Besides, all that reading and knitting has taken its toll. We can use the exercise." Sure enough, if you

examine Melissa Sweet's illustrations, the once very fluffy sheep are now much more svelte!

The book ends with Baabwaa and Wooliam discussing how they did indeed find a wonderful adventure, and the wolf asks them to keep it down because he is trying to read. Altogether a very smile-inducing twist on wolf in sheep clothing stories.

Melissa Sweet's watercolor, gouache, and mixed media illustrations are a perfect fit for the whimsical tone of the story, and Baabwaa and Wooliam are absolutely adorable. This would make a fun read-aloud, or could be used in a lesson that examines different versions of the big bad wolf story.

Melki says

Baabwaa loves to knit. Her pal, Wooliam loves to read. They're a couple of content sheep, though they both agree a little adventure might not be a baad thing. But they get more than they bargained for when they run into a big bad wolf.

Ireadkidsbooks says

David Elliott is having quite the year! This clever picture book showcases the author's ability to write for smart young readers without infantilizing them. Melissa Sweet's illustration are perfect in palette, tone, perspective, and variety. Kudos to Candlewick for the excellent design as the text and illustration layout flow wonderfully from page to page with a pleasant array of framed, single, and double-page spreads. BAABWAA AND WOOLIAM may be laugh-out-loud funny but includes a sly moral narrative; this tale of two sheep, their adventure, and an unexpected new friend is a perfect read for fans of Mac Barnett, Adam Rex, Peter Brown, and Jon Klassen.

Ina says

The watercolor/mixed media illustrations are soft and brightly colored and the text is filled with humor and adult pleasing irony and wit. Baabwaa is a sheep who likes to knit and she if best friends with, Wooliam, a sheep who likes to read. One day, Wooliam announces he has been thinking that they should have an adventure (Baabwaa's response? "Thinking is good...or so I've heard"). They meet a third sheep on their adventure (The wolf in sheep's clothing that Wooliam has read about) and an hilarious friendship begins when it is discovered that their new friend can't read. Lessons, fighting stereotypes and some chasing fill out the story. Laugh-out-loud funny. My Storytime audience loved it.

Anmiryam says

I knit. I read. There is no way I would find this book less than perfect. Frankly even children who don't yet read or knit but are old enough to have a few key tales (Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pia, etc.) under their belts will laugh with this as well.

Juliana Lee says

Baabwaa and Wooliam are sheep (who woulda thunk) who enjoy reading and knitting. One day they decide to go out for an adventure, but they live in an enclosed field so it was kind of boring and all that walking made them tired. Eventually they ran into a wolf in sheep's clothing. Just when the wolf was about to eat them, Wooliam showed the wolf a book about wolves, but the wolf couldn't read. Baabwaa insisted the the wolf go home with them and learn how to read. She knit him new clothes and Wooliam taught him how to read. And the wolf continued to chase them around the field now and then, because that was his nature after all. In the end, the wolf learned how to read and Baabwaa and Wooliam trimmed down considerably. Overall, they were quite happy.

Tasha says

Wooliam and Baabwaa are sheep who spend their time together reading books and knitting. When they decide to head out on an adventure together, they find a distinct lack of adventure in the sheep pasture. Then a stranger appears and suddenly they are on an adventure. The stranger turns out to be a wolf! When the sheep discover that the wolf needs their skilled help, they band together to teach him to read and knit him something better to wear. This picture book celebrates the mix of quiet life and excitement that makes life an adventure. The writing by Elliott has a strong narrative voice that adds a dash of humor to the tale. Sweet is an exceptional illustrator and it's great to see her doing a lighthearted picture book filled with her watercolors and collage. A great pick for fans of books, knitting or sheepish wolves. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Bethe says

Winter break bookaday #4. Funtastic story! Adore Melissa Sweet's illustrations!!!

Aliza Werner says

Clever jokes and word play showcase a love of adventure, reading, and growth mindsets.

Arminzerella says

Baabwaa and Wooliam are sheep who decide to have an adventure one day. While they're out and about they run into a wolf who objects to the description of wolves in a book that Wooliam is reading (Wooliam calls him a "wolf in sheep's clothing"). The sheep offer to knit the wolf a sweater and teach him how to read. In exchange, he chases them around occasionally and keeps them fit. Entertaining! Adults will probably appreciate the humor more than kids.

Excerpt:

This is Baabwaa, also a sheep. In this picture, Baabwaa is knitting. Knitting is a very practical hobby for a sheep. It's surprising not more of them do it. Oh well.

Danette says

Reading brings an unlikely group of friends together.

11/29/18 Read with Naomi & Simon

J. Bryce says

This short book gave me a happy.

And it's indicative of why there shouldn't be genres or embarrassment about "reading below your reading level": Obviously intended for kids, this picture book will be much more appreciated by the adults who read it to kids, grandkids, etc etc.

Very funny and clever; recommended!

Jana says

This is a clever picture book about unlikely friends helping each other out and the gift of learning to read. Two sheep, one is a reader and the other is a knitter, become friends with a wolf who is unable to read. Young readers will enjoy finding out if Wooliam will be able to teach the wolf to read in spite of the wolf's dangerous and rambunctious behavior. The illustrations are very cute.
