



Sophie's Masterpiece: A Spider's Tale

Eileen Spinelli , Jane Dyer (Illustrator)

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Sophie is an artist who wants to spin beautiful creations all day long and, someday, a masterpiece. As a spider, though, Sophie has a hard time finding a welcoming place in which she can be free to live and spin. She's shooed and shuffled all over Beekman's Boardinghouse until one day she finally finds the warm, comfortable, safe home for which she always yearned -- and the inspiration for the masterpiece of her lifetime.

Sophie's Masterpiece: A Spider's Tale Details

Date : Published May 1st 2004 by Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780689866807

Author : Eileen Spinelli , Jane Dyer (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books



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From Reader Review Sophie's Masterpiece: A Spider's Tale for online ebook

Kathryn says

I am in love with this book! So beautiful, so sweet, gently humorous, totally loving--yes, I am talking about the spider, Sophie. Sophie is a very special spider with webs of rare artistry. She wants to make life beautiful for humans but they don't seem to appreciate her or her creations--until one day when she finds someone worthy of her masterpiece.

The ending brought tears to my eyes and I kept thinking about this sweet story on the way to work! Also, it made me feel some compunction for making spiders unwelcome in my home... but, then, they aren't nearly as cute as Sophie! ;->

Kayla Cimburek says

Eileen Spinelli's tale of Sophie's Masterpiece is a heartwarming story about a peculiar spider who loves to spin webs. Through Sophie's life, she encounters many different people that take her talent for granted just because she's a spider. Spinelli creates an amiable tone through her use of imagery and softly spoken words. The illustrations give a peak into Sophie's life by placing a border around them as if they are a window. The best part of the book is how the story encompasses the entire life span of Sophie, so we grow with her as the story takes place. Eileen inserts her own personal life story into Sophie's because long ago Eileen wishes that she could have provided for those who couldn't. Sophie takes on this role within the story, with an ending that Eileen always would have wanted.

Sophie is Eileen's favorite character because she has a good heart and want to make her world a sweeter place. The character development of Sophie is special because it's ironic that she's a spider, but the mood that the reader feels is calming.

The only thing that I wish Eileen included in this book is more symbolism/repetition to the colors being used throughout the book. Each color is depicted once throughout the neutral boardinghouse, and I wish they were used more frequently to help solidify their meaning.

Eileen Spinelli's Website: <http://www.eileenspinelli.com/index.html>

Alix Hawk says

Genre: Fantasy

Grade Level: 1-3

A unique aspect of this book is the way the spider is portrayed in it- instead of the main character looking like a typical spider, she looks like a human with eight legs like a spider. It really humanizes the spider and makes the reader think about the context.

Mary says

Non-Print Review from <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

This reading of "Sophie's Masterpiece" is read by CCH Pounder, a film and TV actress. Her voice brought to life this magical story of Sophie, a beautiful and talented spider. I played this for my students and they were completely enthralled with the story and Sophie. They wondered when she would create her masterpiece and were worried that someone would kill her before she could do so. Beautiful story and a gorgeous reading. Recommended for ages 4-9.

Mely says

Cute. Heartwarming.

Jackie says

Sophie Spider spins artistic works of arts, yet the humans who inhabit the boardingshouse where she lives do not appreciate her talent. They screech when they see her and destroy her works. As Sophie grows old, she nestles herself into a basket full of yarn. This yarn belongs to a young, poor mother who knits booties and sweaters for her baby-to-be. As money is tight, the mother has no more yarn to make a blanket. Sophie creates one last, loving, beautiful masterpiece. A blanket full of wishes and dreams, moonbeams and starlight is *Sophie's Masterpiece*.

A beautifully illustrated gentle story of acceptance and compassion.

Paige Graham says

This book was different than I expected and I would highly recommend to a classroom teacher. Sophie was always determined no matter how many times she got swatted at and did nice things for people!

Claudia says

I used this book for an elementary school reading night. The children would go from class to class and we would share a story with them. The children loved it. Be sure and add this to your personal library. It has a beautiful message. I loved this book!!!

Kimberly says

Lovely <3

Biblio Curious says

I taught this to my ESL students. The photos are exquisite and the story's so moving & cute. It's about a lifespan of a spider who wants to create artistic masterpieces rather than just webs for catching prey. So it has some great themes for discussion that can be modified to be age appropriate for folks between 3-12.

Kaylin Matejek says

Unlike other spiders, Sophie spins the most beautiful creations. She's sweet, passionate, and imaginative with her designs and her mom and friends are so proud of her. One day Sophie moved to the Beekman's Boardinghouse where her webs weren't quiet as appreciated. It isn't until years later that she found the comfort she had been looking for and creates her ultimate masterpiece.

Eileen Spinelli has written such a bitter-sweet, moving story. It was an absolute joy to read and Jane Dyer's illustrations captured the characters and message beautifully. I think this book could be very useful in the classroom. Whether it's by using the themes or emotion provoking words, it could be versatile with children.

Julie says

The cover of this book is a little off-putting. However, I am a spider lover, and I determined to look beyond the cover to the contents inside. In fact, this book teaches us to look beyond outward appearance. The illustrations are most interesting, my favorites being Sophie's colorful socks hanging on the washing line and the exquisite shawl spun from spider silk.

Amy Layton says

I remembered reading this at some point in elementary school, so when I came across it as I was cataloging, I took a moment to sit back and reread this sweet story. And, oh, what a sweet story it was. From the dainty illustrations to Sophie's utter generosity, this story is one that I hope will transcend the ages. Partly, because this story shows just how non-violent most spiders are (and we should like spiders more than we do!), and partly because this story is one that will bring nostalgia and happiness to all those who read it.

Review cross-listed here!

Inge says

This is the most perfect and most beautiful picture book I've read in a long while.

Jaelynn Horton says

Picture Book. I would read this book again just to look at the pictures. This is definitely designed for younger children I think, just because the language isn't extremely captivating. It's got good morals about putting your heart into something and also what to do when you're outcast. Not my fave, but still good.
