



The Littlest Pilgrim

Brandi Dougherty, Kirsten Richards (Illustrator)

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A Thanksgiving story celebrating the gift of friendship!

Mini is the littlest Pilgrim in her village.

Too little to sew.

Too little to bake.

Too little to fish.

But she's not too little to make a friend.

Kirsten Richards' adorable art brings to life this Pilgrim friendship tale; perfect for Thanksgiving, or anytime!

The Littlest Pilgrim Details

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Author : Brandi Dougherty , Kirsten Richards (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Littlest Pilgrim for online ebook

Katie Plumley says

Mini is the littlest of all the Pilgrims. She's too little to help out with anything in her village, but she's not too little to make a friend. She meets a little native American girl in the forest and becomes her friend.

* Making friends, building community, everyone pitching in, working together, being kind to friends

Kelci Cox-Griswold says

Mini is the littlest pilgrim in her village. Everyone thinks that she is too little to help them. However, she is not too small to make a friend. This book would be a good book to show kids that you are never too small to make a friend.

Vivian says

Our final story is about a little girl who wanted to help but was told by everyone she is too small. Finally she picks some berries and meets a woodland girl with whom to share them. She found she was not too little to make a friend.

Being kind is a friendly way to behave.

Kimberlydaniels says

Genre: Historical Fiction Copyright: 2008

As I continue my Kindergarten theme, I really enjoyed reading this book! I love the idea that we can tell the story of thanksgiving from the littlest pilgrims point of view! Little Mini just wanted to help so bad and was so sad that she was pushed aside (as so many of my students can relate to). It has a happy ending though when she finds a confidant in the littlest indian (native american)

Ashley Jacobson says

Cute story of a pilgrim girl wanting to help, but being too small. While she is out gathering berries, she meets a little Indian/Native American girl and realizes she's not too little to make a friend.

Andrea says

The artwork is adorable. That's the #1 selling point for this book. The figures are ones you want to look at because they're been illustrated to look so cute. The colors are all nice and everything done very well.

I was shocked when I read that her name was Mini. I couldn't understand that decision, because not only is that not an historically accurate name, it's not a name at all. It's such a modern idea. Just because someone is small doesn't mean they're named a synonym for small. It's actually insulting. That's like being called Tiny or Small; do you want to be named for the size you are?

One page showed her standing among these tall legs and coming below the waist of what are clearly adults. She looks like she's like 5, so of course she's going to be small compared to adults...I kept waiting for her to be compared to the other kids, you know, those actually in her age group, but she never was. For a long time I thought she was the only young kid in the village because she kept going around to those older than her.

Also, knowing how hard that historical children and specifically the colonists had to work to even survive in that harsh, unknown climate, I know for a fact that Mini wouldn't have gotten away with doing nothing. This she "tried to help with the village chores" thing just would not cut it.

She tried to make a woodpile like her brother was doing, but she could only gather sticks. He was too busy to notice. She tried to help her older sister sew but was told she was too little. She tried to help her mom while she baked bread, by washing dishes, but her mom was so busy she didn't even hear her. She wanted to help her dad hunt (who was dressed like someone in an African safari--he had on a green button-up shirt, brown trousers and green leggings and boots, and a safari hat--Pilgrims didn't wear that! What are you thinking?!) but he told her she was too little. She offered to help her neighbor fix the door on his house, but he told her she's too little.

That wasn't what I thought would happen. It's not that she couldn't do it, it's that everyone was too busy to show her how to do it. Or she was told flat-out that she was too small to begin with. The summary made me think that she was physically too small to accomplish the task, not that she never even got the chance to try.

And then after she thought how unfair it was that everyone told her she was too small or were too busy to notice her, she went and tried one more task. It was a bit redundant at that point as she asked the boys if she could help and one said she was too little. I wish the author had gotten that out of the way, and then had Mini reflect on all that had happen, not stop and think and then dig up another task for her to be let down on.

She sat down and asked why they wouldn't let her help. They already told you you're too small! She knew there was something special she could do, and I waited, wondering what task she could finally handle. And then she randomly saw some berries on the way home (it was a bit clunky and unnatural to have placed Mini so far away from the village just to put her in the proximity of the woods to meet the Indian girl). She picked them and then noticed the girl, who weirdly had this choppy hair pulled down into pigtails..It didn't look right or accurate. Of course the girl was little, just like her. Well if they're the same age, they're probably going to be around the same size! It's not that unheard of.

Mini tried to converse with the girl, asking what her name was. And this might have been the worst part of the book for me. "The girl stood still and looked at Mini. She didn't say a word." She was portrayed like a dumb person or a mute! HELLO, she doesn't speak English! I waited for it to be explained that the girl speaks another language and doesn't understand Mini, but no. It never was.

Mini asked if she wanted berries. "At first, the girl stared at Mini. But soon she began to smile a very big

smile." She was written like an idiot! It's your job as an author to portray your characters in a fair way, not to make them look like morons who can't speak. It was virtually a crime not to say that the girl can't understand and doesn't speak English. Kids would probably be wondering why in the heck the girl didn't say anything.

When it was written that Mini wasn't too little to make a friend, and showed her with her arm around the girl, and I flipped the page and that was the end of the book, I was like what? I couldn't believe that was the task she finally was able to do. That is not a chore, or a special task. What kind of an idea was that?! Anyone can make friends, it has nothing to do with size. She was supposed to be useful to the village and accomplish something, not make a friend by weirdly offering berries to a stranger. They were cute though, standing together with berry stains on their faces.

The illustrations outdid the writing here and it wasn't that good of a story or idea. It wasn't the inspirational tale I expected. As someone who was usually the smallest in my class, this didn't have the ending I expected or wanted.

Mandy says

Mini is a little pilgrim with a big heart set on helping others. But sadly, she is always told she is too little to help. Will she find anything she is not too little to do?

Alyce Dougan says

This story could be used for Pre-K or Kindergarten. The story is easy to follow and could be used for a theme on Pilgrims. The Littlest Pilgrim also teaches a lesson to children.

April Palmer says

I could easily relate to this character. I always want to help my parents but a lot of the time I am too small to help.

Alice says

For my review I am stealing form another page. My review is that the story is cute and the pictures are nice! You are never to small to make a friend...

"Mini is the littlest Pilgrim in her village.
Too little to sew.
Too little to bake.
Too little to fish.

But she's not too little to make a friend."

Kate Sanders says

This book is written in very simple terms. It's about a young girl who just wants to help out with thanksgiving preparations but everyone keeps telling her she is too small. By the end of the book she makes a new friend who is also small.

Heather says

I saved this for Thanksgiving day, because it looked so cute.

The name wasn't historically accurate at all. Just because she's small doesn't mean she has to be named Mini. She could have had a historical name and then said had her nickname be mini. That would have been more believable.

The book was a bit repetitive; her sister and dad tell her she's too small to help with mending clothes and hunting, and her brother and mom don't even hear her when she asks to help them gather wood and bake bread.

She also asks a neighbor to help fix his door, and is turned down.

She asks the village boys if she can fish, and they turn her down.

Some of those chores she could have done, like mending clothes and baking bread.

Mini wanted to help, but everyone was too busy to notice, or they thought she was too little to help. She didn't think it was fair. After being turned down by everyone, she became very sad and wondered why no one would let her help. They had all told her she was too small, so you know why they're not letting you. She knows there has to be something special she can do, even though she's little.

She sees a Wampanoag girl who, of course, is the same size as Mini. When Mini asks her her name, she stands still and doesn't say a word. When Mini asks if she wants some berries, she just stares at Mini, making her sound like a robot. She could have spoken in her language at least. Or the author could have said she spoke in a language Mini didn't understand. This wouldn't be an accurate encounter with someone from another race that you're just meeting. I doubt you'd just stand there and stare.

Then she smiles, and they're hugging each other with berry stains on their mouths.

I couldn't believe the last line of the book, the way it ended. She shares her berries with a Native American girl. And it says she wasn't too little to make a friend.

I thought this would have her find a task she could do even though she's small, and everyone would see her worth.

Her family and everyone had to realize she was good for chores even though she's little. But it ended up confirming that she couldn't do anything, but make friends.

The Wampanoag girl doesn't even speak, and we don't even know her name. She just eats berries. The end. I guess the message was on friendship, but it was barely there, and hardly realized. The story needed more of a message, and definitely more on thanksgiving. It said nothing of thanksgiving at all. There was no feast, no preparing for a feast, nothing.

The illustrations were adorable. But there were some issues. Her dad's beard looked painted on.

It didn't look real at all. The texture was more like a cloud than hair.

One house looked like a bottle. You couldn't tell what the houses were made of. Instead of thatch, it looked more like clay. There were nails in the house where there wouldn't be nails at. On the neighbor's house, there's nails going down the middle of boards on the side of his house. Nails would be in the corner, because what would you be nailing in the middle?

On the page with the boys fishing, the river looked like it ran over a cliff, which is impossible. Rivers wouldn't be running on a hill like that.

Some of the hairstyles weren't accurate, particularly the choppy hairstyles of the girls, and the Wampanoag girl at the end.

This was more about the unfairness little kids have to go through, just set in the pilgrim days.

I was really disappointed with this. This looked so cute. It didn't have anything to do with thanksgiving.

This was just lacking for me.

Lyndsey Hurm says

This is a really cute story about a little Pilgrim named Mini. She wants to help the adults out so bad but she keeps getting told that she is too little to help and becomes sad. Eventually she realizes that she is not too little to make a new friend when she meets one while picking berries. This is a great book to use during Thanksgiving time because young children can probably relate to this story. It can be used to teach the lesson that we should be thankful for friends and that we can always go out and make a new friend.

Donna Mork says

Little pilgrim tries to help out. Everyone either doesn't hear her or says she is too little. But then she picks some berries, shares them with a stranger, and makes a friend. You're never too little to do that.

Angela says

I really enjoyed this story and would use it for a read aloud around Thanksgiving. What I really admired was how the reader finds out that young people have special skills and are important in society too. This little pilgrim was too young to do many of the things other pilgrims were doing, but she wasn't too young to make a friend.

Reading level: K-2

interest level: PreK-1
