

Novel Resource #3

Title: Hurty Feelings
Copyright date: 2004

Author: Helen Lester
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

Annotation

This book shows how our feelings are not dependent on what people say to us, but rather how we respond to them. The pictures in the book do a wonderful job of showing that even someone who looks big and strong can be soft-hearted on the inside.

Booktalk

Do you know someone who has trouble accepting a compliment? You should introduce them to Fragility. The pictures in this book will tickle your funny bone. This hippo also has a lot to teach us about not taking words too seriously.

Characters in the story

Fragility – a hippo who feels injured by the smallest compliment.

Rudy – an elephant who is rude to Fragility.

Assorted African animals – none of them was ever mentioned by name

Conflict: Fragility feels “put down” by everything people say to her. How can she learn to not be so sensitive? She has to cope with both internal and external interpersonal conflicts.

Resolution: Rudy challenges Fragility to listen and respond to words that she hears. Fragility learns how to finally accept a compliment when one is given.

Genre: Friendship **Setting:** outdoors, present day **Point of View:** Third person, dramatic/objective

Theme: It is important to learn how to take a compliment when one is given. We only have “hurty feelings” when we take words too seriously.

Art Medium: The illustrations are predominately watercolor, but could also have colored pencil outlines. The soft colors help accentuate the feelings that “gush out” of Fragility.

About the Author:



Helen Lester began her career as an elementary school teacher. She started writing books after she had children of her own. Helen lives in Pawling, New York with her husband. Her two sons are grown, and living away from home.

Novel Resource #2 (cont.)

Interesting Facts: At first Helen thought she would be an illustrator, but an editor suggested that she was better at writing.

Author's webpage address: <http://www.helenlester.com>

Author's e-mail: unavailable

Home address: unavailable

Other books she wrote: The Wizard, the Fairy, and the Magic Chicken, It Wasn't My Fault; A Porcupine Named Fluffy; Pookins Gets Her Way; Tacky the Penguin; Me First; Three Cheers for Tacky; Listen Buddy; Princess Penelope's Parrot; Tacky in Trouble; Author: A True Story; Hooway for Wodney Wat; Score One for the Sloths; Tacky and the Emporer; Tackylocks and the Three Bears; Something Might Happen; Tacky and the Winter Games; Wuzzy Takes Off

If you liked Hurty Feelings, You'll Also Like: The Loudness of Sam, by James Proimos; What is a Feeling?, by David W. Krueger; I'm Furious, by Elizabeth Crary

Recommended Reads by Helen Lester: Hooway for Wodney Wat; Author: A True Story

Hurty Feelings - Interest Level: P - 2

Reading Level: 3.1

About the Illustrator



Lynn Munsinger has a degree in illustration. She has worked on over a dozen books for Houghton Mifflin. Lynn lives in both Connecticut and Vermont working as a freelance artist.

Interesting Facts: Lynn Munsinger has collaborated with Helen Lester on children's books since 1983.

Illustrator's webpage address:

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/authordetail.cfm?authorID=2784>

Illustrator's e-mail: not available

Illustrator's Address: not available

Other Books Lynn has Illustrated :

A Zooful of Animals; An Arkful of Animals; Dinsaur Forever; What Grandpa's Do Best; Bedtime Mouse; Just a Little Bit; Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow; Turtle Time; The Teeny Tiny

Ghost and the Monster; Hunter and Stripe and the Soccer Showdown; Hunter's Best Friend at School; Whooo's Haunting the Teeny Tiny Ghost; The Teeny Tiny Ghost; Hunter's Big Sister; God Bless America Board Book; Seven Spunky Monkeys; My Mother Never Listens to Me