

Hurty Feelings

Helen Lester

2004

Houghton Mifflin Company

Author:

Helen Lester

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Helen Lester is a full-time author and a former teacher who makes her home in Pawling, New York

Helen Lester’s books deal with children and behavior. They contain realistic characteristics of children and humorously show the many behaviors that are exerted by all children. Helen uses the personalities and behaviors of her own children to help her make up characters for each book. Inspired by her two sons, were the characters of Pinkerton and Tacky, along with others.

After ten years of teaching elementary school, during which time I did become a bride, I took temporary leave of that profession to spend time with our two young sons. It was during this domestic period that several factors came into play which ultimately influenced my writing career. First, in reading bedtime stories to my children I remember being overjoyed every time I came across a story that would make me laugh, for often at 7:30 p.m. not much is funny. I decided the world needed more books that would amuse both adults and children. Second, my old second-graders came back to haunt me — more about them in a moment. And finally, I backed into writing thinking I was an illustrator. I'd always enjoyed drawing, and when a friend saw my work and casually suggested I should write children's books, I thought, "Perhaps. Why not?"

I love to play in the kitchen with Indian Food, Italian Food, French Food, and Any Other Kind of Food. I also enjoy drawing and hike a couple of miles daily.

Other books include:

Tacky the Penguin, Something Might Happen, Tacky and the Emperor, Tacky In Trouble, Listen Buddy, Me First, Pookins Gets Her Way

Illustrator:
Lynn Munsinger



Webpage:

<http://www.harperchildrens.com/authorintro/signup.asp?authorid=12517&nav=xy>

Lynn Munsinger was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She attended Tufts University and graduated in 1974. The following year she enrolled at the Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in illustration. She received her degree in 1977 and continued her studies in London. Since her return to the United States, she has lived in Vermont and Connecticut, devoting her time to freelance illustration. She has illustrated more than a dozen popular books for Houghton Mifflin Company.

Lynn Munsinger and Helen Lester have been together through thick and thin since first publishing *The Wizard, the Fairy, and the Magic Chicken* in 1983 with Houghton Mifflin Company and Walter Lorraine, their editor. They have collaborated on the hilarious Tacky the Penguin series and many other wildly funny and popular titles including the award-winning *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Helen Lester is a full-time author and a former teacher who makes her home in Pawling, New York, and Lynn Munsinger is a full-time illustrator who divides her time between Connecticut and Vermont.

Other Books:

- *A Zooful of Animals* by William R. Cole
- *An Arkful of Animals* by William R. Cole
- *Bedtime Mouse* by Sandol Stoddard
- *Just a Little Bit* by Ann Tompert
- *Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow* by Ann Tompert
- *Turtle Time* by Sandol Stoddard

Award for this book:

Multiculturalism Books from San Francisco Children's Book Press and Candlewick Press

Annotation:

In Hurty Feelings, Fragility gets her feelings hurt any time another animal gives her a compliment. She turns what they say around to mean something not so nice and starts to throw a fit. All of the animals get tired of her fits and they decide to start ignoring her. Fragility is then lonely. The animals decide to have a soccer game. Fragility is a great goalie. Rudy the elephant comes and wants to eat the goal, but Fragility won't let him and in turn she hurts his feelings. He gets upset and she winds up comforting him. She finally doesn't turn things around in the end. This is a cute story to show how things can get turned around. The pictures really add to the story. They help you see what the author is trying to get across.

Book talk:

Do you turn what people say around to mean something else? Fragility, the hippo, does just that. Any time someone gives her a compliment she makes it out to be something bad. You have to decide if everyone is out to be mean to you or if people do mean the nice things they say.

Characters:

Main- Fragility- solid yet gets feelings hurt easily (about 8 years old)
Other animals- give her a compliment then leave her alone
Rudy- a rude elephant

Conflict:

Fragility gets her feelings hurt all the time. This is an internal conflict. Fragility has to struggle with being able to accept compliments.

Conflict Resolution:

She comforts other animals and finally accepts a compliment

Genre:

Animal Fiction

Setting:

Jungle
Present Day

Point of View:

Third Person

Art Medium:

The illustrator uses a cartoon style in her drawings. She does a nice job of keeping the pages balanced. All of the animals have very vivid expressions. You are able to tell what they are thinking about by looking at them.

Theme:

It is alright to accept compliments. You don't need to turn them around to mean something bad. The title lets the reader know that the hippo is sad.

If you like Hurty Feelings, you'll love: Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester, Something Might Happen by Helen Lester, Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard, Walter was worried by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, and My Many Color Days by Dr. Seuss.

Reading Level:
3.1

Interest Level:
P-2

Across the Curriculum Connections

Mathematics K.5.1

Items needed: tape measure, paper, pencil, and soccer field

After reading the story, go out to the soccer field and measure different things on the field and used to play the game. Then compare the different measurements. This would be an activity that could be done in groups.

Social Studies K.5.4

Items need: soccer ball, pictures of people playing soccer, and maps

Talk to the students what we call the game and then talk about what other countries call the game. Talk about how popular the sport is in this country and then talk about how popular it is in other countries.

Reading K.3.3

Items needed: paper, pencil, and crayons

Have the students draw an important event in the story. Then have them share with the class why they think it is an important event in the story.

Writing K.5.1

Items needed: paper, pencils, crayons

Have the students draw a picture of how they feel when someone gives them a compliment. Then they need to write about how they feel. Then they can share with the class how they feel when someone gives them a compliment. This will allow for the class to learn more about each other.

Discussion Questions:

Before-Why do you think the Hippo is crying? What makes you cry? Have you ever hurt some else feelings before?

During- What would you do to try to make Fragility feel better? What would you have said to Rudy?

After- How do you react to a compliment? Do you think that Fragility will cry any more when she receives a compliment?

Language:

Fragile- breakable

Resemble-looks like

Indiana Academic Standards

Kindergarten

Art K.7.1, K.7.2 Social Studies K.5.1 Science K.4.1

Language K.1.22, K.2.1, K.2.2, K.2.5, K.3.1, K.3.3

First Grade

Social Studies 1.2.6, 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.4 Science 1.2.7, 1.4.1, 1.4.4

Language 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.3.1, 1.3.3, 1.3.5, 1.3.4, 1.7.1

Second Grade

Social Studies 2.5.1 Science 2.4.4, 2.6.3

Language 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7

Third Grade

Science 3.4.7

Language 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.8, 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.8

Biography:

Harper Collins

http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/12517/Lynn_Munsinger/index.aspx

Helen Lester

<http://matottma.tripod.com/Lester/>

Helen Lester Teacher Resource File

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/helenlester.htm>

Houghton Mifflin

http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/helen_lester/

Lynn Munsinger

<http://www.harperchildrens.com/authorintro/signup.asp?authorid=12517&nav=xy>

Simon Says

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=22&pid=355054>