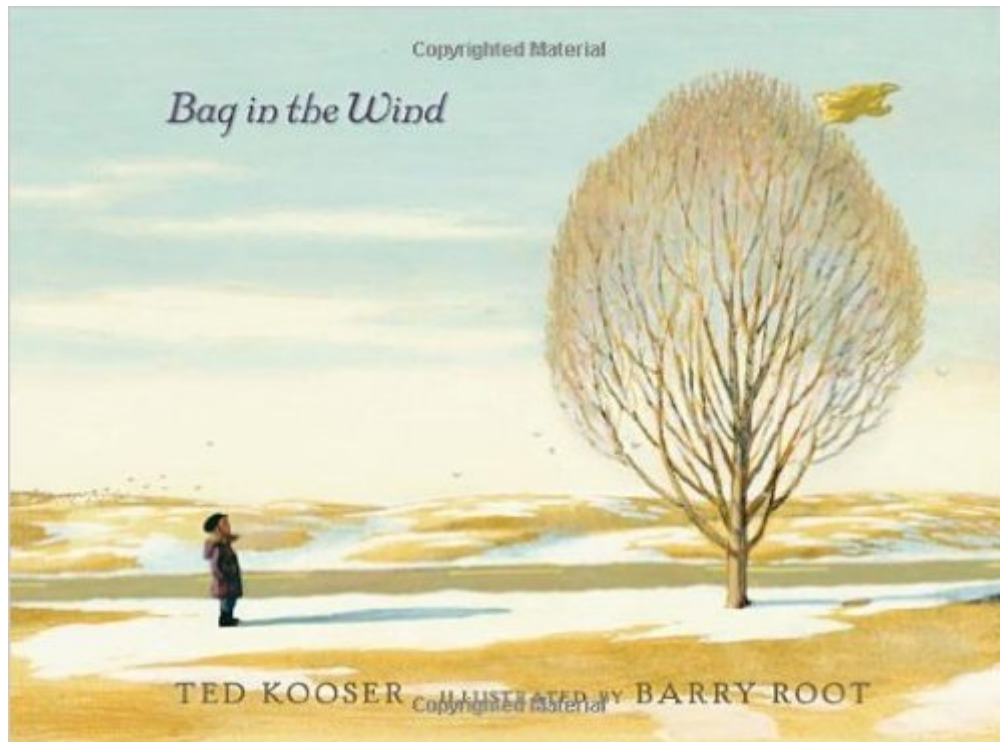


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Bag In The Wind



Synopsis

In a singular first children's book, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ted Kooser follows a plastic bag on its capricious journey from a landfill into a series of townspeople's lives. One cold morning in early spring, a bulldozer pushes a pile of garbage around a landfill and uncovers an empty plastic bag — a perfectly good bag, the color of the skin of a yellow onion, with two holes for handles — that someone has thrown away. Just then, a puff of wind lifts the rolling, flapping bag over a chain-link fence and into the lives of several townsfolk — a can-collecting girl, a homeless man, a store owner — not that all of them notice. Renowned poet Ted Kooser fashions an understated yet compassionate world full of happenstance and connection, neglect and care, all perfectly expressed in Barry Root's tender illustrations. True to the book's earth-friendly spirit, it is printed on paper containing 100 percent recycled post-consumer waste and includes an author's note on recycling plastic bags.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1st Printing edition (February 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763630012

ISBN-13: 978-0763630010

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #851,808 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #209 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #346 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #663 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

We live in a throwaway society. The amount of waste is overwhelming our landfills and straining our resources to the breaking point. What we need is a different way of looking at the world. Most of what we carelessly throw away could be recycled and put to different use again and again. All it takes is a little effort our part to make a world of difference for tomorrow. In his first children's book,

Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Ted Kooser addresses these issues and offers an obvious solution. The story is a simple one. Following a supermarket plastic bag that someone discarded. The reader sees how trash, like plastic bags, can effect the environment and everyone in it. But, on the other hand, if reused those same items, like a plastic bag, could make a real difference for anyone in need that just happens to find it. Surely this is an important message for our children to learn and the younger they get the "recycling" habit the better. It's not just our trash that's the problem, it's anything that can be used again-- like unwanted clothing and household items that could be donated to thrift-shops. Autumn leaves too have a use, don't just bag them and trash them, think of how they could be used. This is another book that would be perfect for parents, teachers and librarians, to read with children. Perhaps a class project, listing all the ways we can think of, that would help the environment and help make our world a little cleaner too. Kooser's writing is clear, thoughtful and entertaining, and should hold any child's interest as they follow the plastic bag, the little girl, and the other characters throughout the story. The book is illustrated with Barry Root's lovely watercolors that evoke strong emotions and add real depth to the story.

Piles and piles of garbage lay on the ground of the landfill. A woman sitting on the bulldozer pushed around the mounds, but when a little yellow plastic bag was uncovered she didn't seem to notice. There are many uses for "a perfectly good bag, but someone had thrown it away." The bag began to move as the wind picked up and sent it flying through the air only to meet up with other bits of paper and Styrofoam pressed against the landfill's chain-linked fence. Seagulls swirled over the landfill each day as trucks continued to roll in with their never-ending loads of garbage. Of course some of it was like that bag . . . perfectly good, but discarded material. During the night the bag was picked up by the wind and began its journey. It landed in a tree and flapped to the skies until it was noticed by a blackbird the next morning. It frightened and threatened the bird. The yellow plastic bag was only released when the "bird got hold of the bag with its beak and gave it a sharp tug." A little girl spotted it hooked to a barbed wire fence and decided it would be perfect to carry her crushed cans in. The once useless yellow bag now had a job to do. Once she redeemed the cans for a few pennies, the old woman at the gas station who paid her for them, tucked the bag underneath the door to prevent a draft. Soon the little yellow plastic bag would fly in the wind again, but where would it go to? Would it be a useless blight on the earth or would it have a job to do again? This poignant tale of a wandering little yellow plastic bag has a serious conservation message to impart to us. Many children realize the value of conservation and in some instances know more about it than their parents.

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