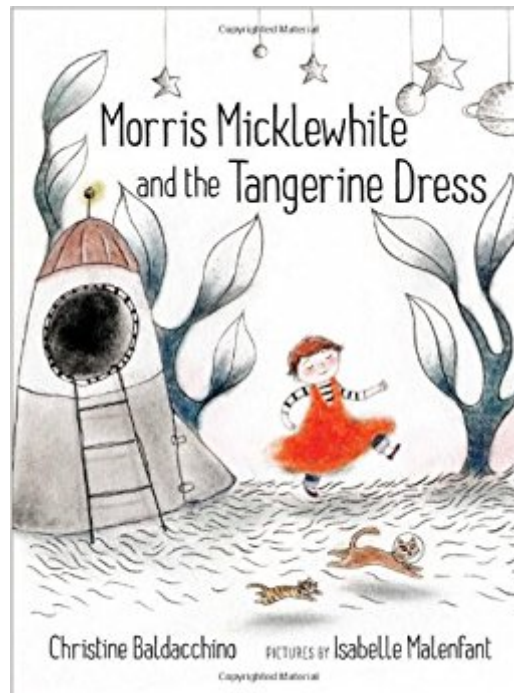




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Morris Micklewhite And The Tangerine Dress



Synopsis

Morris is a little boy who loves using his imagination. But most of all, Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in his classroom's dress-up center. The children in Morris's class don't understand. Dresses, they say, are for girls. And Morris certainly isn't welcome in the spaceship some of his classmates are building. Astronauts, they say, don't wear dresses. One day when Morris feels all alone and sick from their taunts, his mother lets him stay home from school. Morris dreams of a fantastic space adventure with his cat, Moo. Inspired by his dream, Morris paints the incredible scene he saw and brings it with him to school. He builds his own spaceship, hangs his painting on the front of it and takes two of his classmates on an outer space adventure. With warm, dreamy illustrations, Isabelle Malenfant perfectly captures Morris's vulnerability and the vibrancy of his imagination.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 530 (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #46,306 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #121 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #323 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #1022 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1 • Throughout this heartening story, touches of tangerine point to the elements in Morris's world that are important to him: his mother's flaming tresses; his cat, Moo; and a dress from the school dress-up box. When he wears it, he feels wonderful. White is a well-chosen background

foil for Malenfant's watercolors and charcoals; the soft acrylics comprising the vibrant dress "bleed"-a perfect effect for indicating movement. A marvelous spread shows Morris reveling in the color that swirls across the gutter as he thinks about his mother's hair, tigers, and the sun. The text details the fabric's swishes and crinkles and the click of the boy's heels. When the children tease and ostracize him, he pretends not to notice, but by Friday, he stays home with a stomachache. The role of adults is particularly well handled. There is no deus ex machina (teacher intervention), a situation that rings true for many such interactions. His mother does not pass judgment when she notices a boy wearing a dress in her son's painting, and she complies with his desire for nail polish. This support and Morris's irrepressible imagination buoy him as he returns to school, where his creative spaceship is a magnet for the boys; walls begin to crumble. Baldacchino offers an alternative model for families to the one depicted in Marcus Ewert's *10,000 Dresses* (Seven Stories, 2008), and rather than presenting an overt message about gender identity, the book provides a subtle and refreshing glimpse at a boy who simply likes to dress up. —Wendy Lukehart, District of Columbia Public Library

Stonewall Honor Book in Children's and Young Adult Literature
Selected for the American Library Association's Rainbow List
Finalist for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award
Finalist for the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award
Finalist for the Blue Spruce Award
A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year
A Kirkus Reviews selection for Best Picture Book Celebrating Diversity
A Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice
A Huffington Post Best Picture Book of the Year
"Morris is a complex character whose creativity and personality shine. . . . Sensitive and reassuring."
#151; Kirkus Reviews, starred review
"Rather than presenting an overt message about gender identity, the book provides a subtle and refreshing glimpse at a boy who simply likes to dress up."
#151; School Library Journal
"Baldacchino doesn't sugar-coat the teasing and isolation Morris endures. . . . Malenfant showcases Morris's full emotional spectrum."
#151; Publishers Weekly
"Unlike some more messagey titles on the subject, this one provides Morris with a personality beyond his dress-loving nature, making him enjoyable literary company."
#151; The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
"Baldacchino's gentle story sensitively depicts gender nonconforming children, offering them reassurance and, one hopes, acceptance by introducing other children to the concept."
#151; Booklist
#147; Morris likes lots of things about school. He likes to paint. He likes to do puzzles. He likes the apple juice at snack time and singing the loudest during circle time. Most of all, Morris likes the dress-up center. And the tangerine dress. —
#151; from the book

You should not be mean to people, because you could change your mind. That is the theme of "Morris Micklewhite," a realistic fiction story by Christine Baldacchino. Morris Micklewhite wore a tangerine dress. One day he was going to school, and kids started being mean to him because he was wearing a dress. He would pretend he could not hear them but he did. Becky tried to pull off the dress from the back and the boys would not let him on their spaceship. The author wrote this book because she wants to make a point to not bully people. I like this book because it was a good lesson to teach and it talks about judging people. My favorite thing about the book is when Morris drew a picture from his mind. I recommend this book because the book is easy, and you cannot tell what is going to happen next. It is a really good book and you should read it. By: Alyssa

I bought this book as a gift for my 3 year old nephew. He loves dresses and dressing up. My sister (his mom) faces quite a bit of derision from the grandparents and the occasional judgy-playgroup-mom, so I kind of really got this book for her too. It has a great story line.

When I saw this book on a recent news feed, I knew I had to buy it. I have read it to several of my friends' kids. The author did a great job of discussing personal expression and enjoyment in a world of judgement and uniformity.

My three year old son loves to wear dresses. He loves Morris and asks to be read this almost every night.

This book is amazing. It opens up the idea that children should dress how they want to, even if it is not "normal." The illustrations are lovely.

Long live Morris Micklewhite! I loved this character, this book, and the book's message: be yourself! You're okay just the way you are. In fact you're more than okay--you're fabulous! The book is not didactic in any way. The message is contained in the story which is sweet, empowering, and just fantastic.

My boys love this book!

Glad to see kids being introduced to diversity.

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