



Odd Velvet

By Mary Whitcomb

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Velvet is odd. Instead of dolls that talk and cry, Velvet brings a milkweed pod for show and tell. She wins the class art contest using only an eight-pack of crayons. She likes to collect rocks. Even her name is strange-Velvet! But as the school year unfolds, the things Velvet does and the things that Velvet says slowly begin to make sense. And, in the end, Velvet's classmates discover that being different is what makes Velvet so much fun.

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Odd Velvet By Mary Whitcomb Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This inaugural picture book for both author and artist features an oddball girl whose differences teach her classmates to appreciate their own unique qualities. On the first day of school, while the other children bring the teacher cinnamon tea and potpourri, Velvet offers "an egg carton filled with seven rocks, her favorite red shoelaces, and a half a sparrow's egg." Velvet sports long red braids, enormous round glasses and candy-striped stockings, and when the children notice that she is not wearing a new dress, they point and laugh: "Where did she come from?" But the taunting never gets out of hand, thanks to the author's restraint and pictures that exaggerate the features of all the schoolchildren. King's double spreads play with shifts in proportion, conveying a sense of Velvet's isolation. In an especially effective spread of a field trip, Velvet sits alone on the bus explaining how she got her name as the scene outside emulates her description of the day she was born: "The sun was just rising over the mountains, and outside it looked as though the world had been covered with a blanket of smooth, soft, lavender velvet." Her classmates' attitude toward Velvet changes when she wins a school drawing contest, and her "oddness" is finally appreciated. This one's for anyone who feels different or who knows someone who's different; everyone will recognize Velvet. Ages 3-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2-From the first day of school, Velvet's classmates think that she is strange. When the other girls bring their dolls for show-and-tell, she brings a milkweed pod. With her purple dress, huge glasses, and peppermint-stick tights, this girl is clearly too odd to be picked as a play partner-or a friend. But slowly, her unique characteristics-her rock collection, her ability to draw lovely pictures with only the eight basic crayons-seem more interesting than strange, and a wonderful birthday party at her house cements the other children's acceptance of this imaginative child. Though the moral is pretty obvious, it doesn't detract from this lighthearted story about a youngster who is different. Color-pencil-and-pastel illustrations show the winsome Velvet and her classmates with exaggerated expressions and from a variety of perspectives. Both the artwork and the writing save the story from becoming too saccharine. A promising debut for both author and illustrator, and a commendable addition to libraries.

Tana Elias, Meadowridge Branch Library, Madison, WI

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From Booklist

Velvet takes things in stride, but other children find her strange, with her Pippi-Longstocking pigtails, candy-cane stockings, purple velvet dress, and huge wire-rim glasses. On the first day of school she brings the teacher seven rocks, red shoelaces, and a broken bird egg; and she carries her lunch in a used paper bag. She isn't picked for partner play, and no one will walk home with her. Even so, she endures, always with a winning smile, until things gradually begin to change for the better. King's vivid, charmingly distorted illustrations portray each child as singular--a boy with a mouth full of braces, a prim girl with an attitude problem, a child with Coke-bottle glasses--with Velvet the most distinctive of all. The lively art combines with the old-fashioned theme of accepting differences to give this book undeniable appeal. *Shelley Townsend-Hudson*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Wright:

The book Odd Velvet will bring you to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very ideal to you. The book Odd Velvet is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Velma Stuart:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you will get it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. That Odd Velvet can give you a lot of close friends because by you looking at this one book you have point that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This book offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't learn, by knowing more than some other make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? Let me have Odd Velvet.

Stacy Perry:

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Irene Hoyt:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got pupils? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you know that little person such as reading or as looking at become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update regarding something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is Odd Velvet.

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