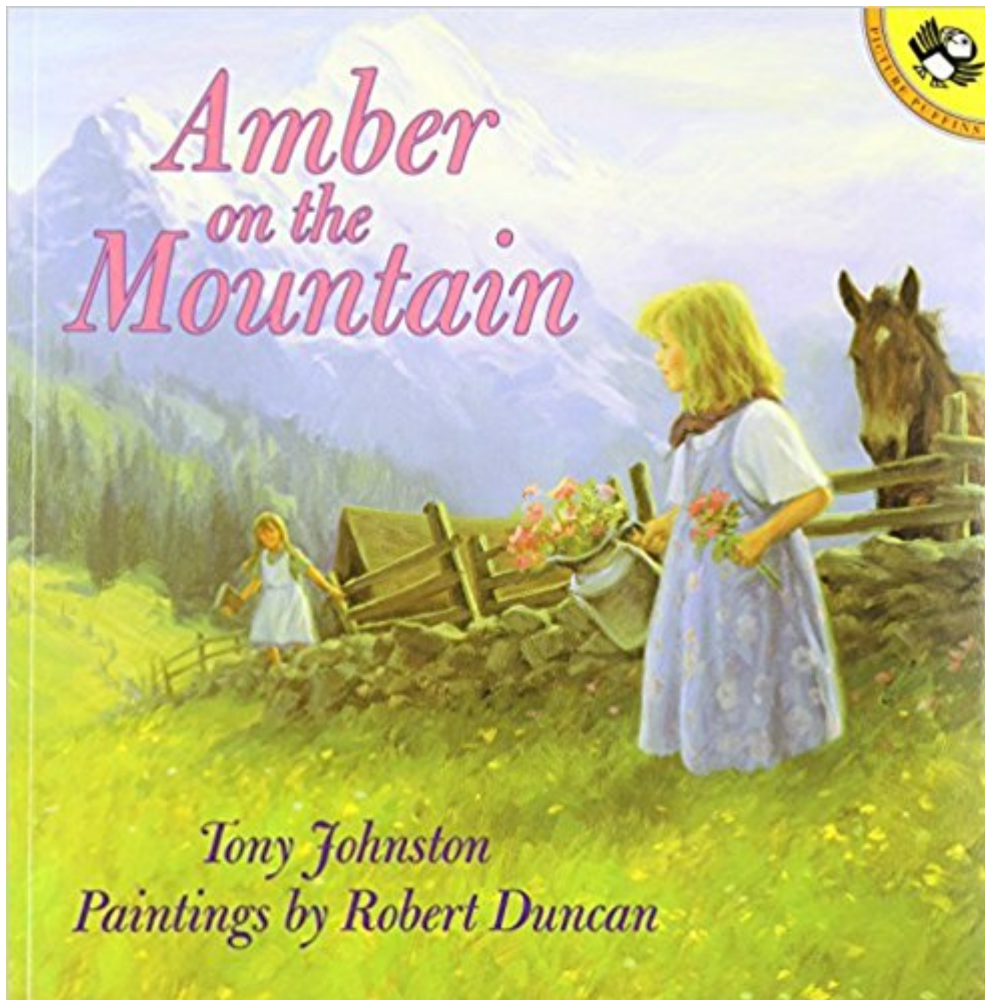




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Amber On The Mountain (Picture Puffin Books)



Synopsis

Amber's mountain is beautiful, but it is a lonely place?until the day Anna arrives, bringing both her friendship and the will to teach Amber how to read. Suddenly, Amber's world is filled with a new magic?and new challenges. But when Anna returns to the city, will Amber be able to keep reading on her own??Heartwarming.? -- Publishers Weekly, starred reviewTony Johnston's previous books include Grandpa's Song and Yonder (both Dial and Puffin). She lives in San Marino, California. Robert Duncan is a fine artist whose paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States. He lives in Midway, Utah.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0600 (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffin Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014056408X

ISBN-13: 978-0140564082

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #171,348 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #355 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #2895 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

An illiterate child in a mountain community learns to read and write. "Johnston knits this story together with recurring themes, lyrical images and picturesque and convincing dialogue," said PW in a starred review. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-3-A story about learning to read and write that doesn't quite work. Amber lives a solitary life high in the mountains. Then one day a man comes with a crew to build a road, bringing along his

wife and daughter, Anna. She teaches Amber to read before the road is completed; Amber learns to write on her own so she can keep in touch after Anna's family leaves. The process of mastering these skills, while shown to be a slow one, seems to be one in which, as Anna says, you just, "Set your whole self to the task." Johnston, who has used poetic language to great effect in previous books, seems to be straining to be descriptive here. One brief page of text, for example, is crammed with figurative language, some of which is clichéd. She uses expressions that seem to evoke an Appalachian setting, a place where "folks" might "roll clean off" of a road; where people say "hey" to one another. Duncan's large, lush oil paintings unfortunately confuse the issues of time and place. While the frontispiece painting and the details of housing have an Appalachian look, the mountains have the sharp ridges of the Rockies. (The cover painting of the girls on a grassy hillside in front of imposing peaks even evokes strong images of Heidi.) While the setting includes no modern touches, the two children's wardrobes seem to be directly out of the current L.L. Bean catalog. Eve Bunting's *The Wednesday Surprise* (Clarion, 1989) and Florence Heide's *The Day of Ahmed's Secret* (Lothrop, 1990) do a better job of telling the literacy story. Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A family favorite for 2 generations! We all love the sweet story of friendship with fun similes.

As described. Lovely Book.

As a teacher I use this book to teach that children can make a positive difference and can accomplish much if they keep on trying. The illustrations are beautiful, but so are the words that describe them. So someone can read a page aloud, and then the listeners can explain what they visualize or draw what they visualize. The author uses excellent word choice and figurative language; the story can be used as an example for the writing trait "Word Choice" or for examples of figurative language and understanding of that idea. There are many good pieces written with realistic male heroic characters. The characters in this book are two determined girls and Amber's grandma. All three characters are strongly developed by the author. Amber lives with her grandma, and that is the only "family" mentioned. The setting is the back hills, probably in the late 20th century. If you are looking for any of those features in a book: strong and able women, nontraditional family, or set in a remote rural area, then this is a great book. I was given this book as a way to teach the importance of transportation and road building to provide advantages to those who live in under developed

areas of the U.S. I am a public school teacher teaching third grade. I'd rate the book appropriate for grades 2-5, depending on your purposes. I would also recommend this for a book to read at home with a parent, grandparent, or other important adult because it is enjoyable and can emphasize positive character traits such as persistence, being a friend, and working together as a family. The illustrations are just gorgeous.

We used this book for homeschooling using the Before Five in a Row and Five in a Row curriculum. I was very pleased to find this book as some of the books used are hard to find. The book is colorful and fits nicely in with the curriculum. This is one of my favorites to use from the recommended book list.

Lovely story with beautiful vocabulary and imagery. We bought this for our favorite elementary school teacher for her retirement. Delightful message of reading and writing. Beautiful illustrations, as well.

I wanted to love this book, but it was just okay. The illustrations are great, but I agree with other reviewers that the language is a little stilted.

Everything was great

This is a beautifully written picture book -- one of my very favorites ever. The language is so very rich, and the girls' personality and emotions come through so clearly in just a few lines. For younger children, it gives a glimpse of what independence and hard work can do. For older children, there's the whole world of rural Appalachia in the not-too-distant past -- a place that was so cut off from the technological advances of the rest of the world. I love the turns of phrase that are so evocative of the lyrical way of speaking that you can still hear from some of the older people from this area... Holding a book "like a fine and breakable cup", being "drenched" with a child's words that "come down like spring rain"...

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