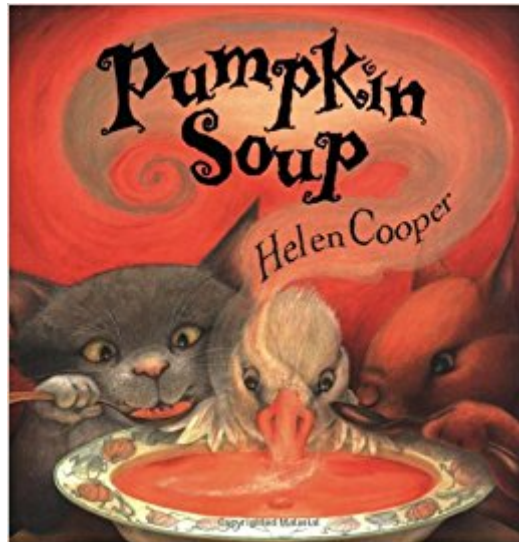




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Pumpkin Soup: A Picture Book



Synopsis

By the Kate Greenaway Medalist Deep in the woods in an old white cabin, three friends make their pumpkin soup the same way every day. The Cat slices up the pumpkin, the Squirrel stirs in the water, and the Duck tips in just enough salt. But one day the Duck wants to stir instead, and then there is a horrible squabble, and he leaves the cabin in a huff. It isn't long before the Cat and the Squirrel start to worry about him and begin a search for their friend. Rendered in pictures richly evoking autumn, Helen Cooper's delightful story will resonate for an child who has known the difficulties that come with friendship. Included at the end is a recipe for delicious pumpkin soup.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 310L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 98 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Ducks & Other Waterfowl #88 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #102 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Halloween

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This enchanting story explores the ups and downs of close-knit camaraderie. Beginning with a peek through a window where Cat, Squirrel and Duck are making music together, Cooper (The Boy Who Wouldn't Go to Bed) invites youngsters into their cozy pumpkin-shaped home. There's a rhythm to their lives: each has his own instrument to play and his own duties when it comes to cooking their famous pumpkin soup ("the best you ever tasted"). But one day, Duck decides to be the stirrer instead of the salt pourer, and an all-out battle ensues. Here the warm golden glow that has permeated their dwelling turns an angry orange-red with paws, wings and "@#\$!"s flying. After Duck

waddles off in a huff, the remaining pair heads out to hunt for him. A to no avail. In a charming time-lapse sequence, vignettes of Cat and Squirrel moping on the steps of their house form an arc along the side of a spread ("So they waited.../ All that long afternoon..."). Mimicking grade-schoolers everywhere, Cat and Squirrel next decide to carry on with the cooking, adopting a we'll-show-him attitude. Of course the soup is too salty and the repentant pals begin to imagine scary scenarios of where Duck might be. But Duck does return, to a warm welcome. Until he suggests a turn on Cat's bagpipes. Thanks to Cooper's uncanny ability to capture the dynamics of friendship, children will be able to laugh at this trio (and themselves) and recognize that true friendship can weather most any storm. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

PreSchool-Grade 2 "Three friends—a squirrel, a cat, and a duck—live happily together in the forest. They make the most delicious pumpkin soup in the world, and each has a specific job in preparing and cooking the soup. Cat slices the pumpkin, Squirrel stirs in the water, and Duck tips in just the right amount of salt. But what happens when Duck decides it would be fun to change jobs? Kathleen McInerney reads Helen Cooper's warm and expressive text (Farrar, Straus, 1999), giving each character a unique voice. No page turn signals are included. Occasional background music and sound effects enhance the production. This would make a good listening center and fit in nicely with autumn storytelling." Teresa Bateman, Brigadoon Elementary School, Federal Way, WA
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Who wouldn't be interested in a bagpiping Cat, a Squirrel with a banjo, and a small singing Duck, especially when they are of Helen Cooper's creation? I have recommended this book to many of my friends and family, and now I will shout it even further: "You MUST read this book!" The illustrations themselves are enough to make this book stand out, so discovering the deliciousness of Cooper's text further solidified this on my list of favorites. After all, this is about "Pumpkin Soup. The best you ever tasted." It is made by these three adorable creatures whose individual tasks are meticulously divided between themselves. All goes smoothly, until Duck decides to break the mold. He thinks stirring the soup would be more interesting than adding his pipkin of salt. It seems a simple enough change, yet leads to quite the kerfuffle! This story is so creatively crafted in both text and illustration that there's abundant enjoyment to be found even on a superficial level. There is a deeper message, however, that is just as beautiful. Though Duck's curious and adventuresome spirit can

grate on his friends' resistance to change, each discovers the value of their friendship and their need to look outside themselves in order to maintain it. Don't we all need that reminder at times? In the end, Duck lives his dream of stirring the soup and even though it is the messiest soup ever made in that quaint home, his friends do not breathe a word of disagreement. All peace is restored . . . until Duck decides that playing bagpipes would be more interesting than singing! Recommended for ages three to eight.

We love looking forward to Halloween to read our Halloween stories and this story is at the top of our list.

little ones in our home love this story and request repeated readings.

Cute little book for the Halloween Season. Disappointed that no Pumpkin Soup Recipe was included...as had been promoted during the purchasing process. I will just have to look up the recipe on-line

I bought this book to throw in our seasonal book bin, and pull it out yearly. It has since because THE book. I read this book to my son every single night. The illustrations are absolutely adorable, and really pull the children in. It's a wonderful book that brings a gentle reminder to everybody, including the parents. Give your children a chance, no matter the mess.

My kid is really into soup right now (I know, toddlers are weird), and we were looking for thanksgiving/fall books that didn't have religious overtones. This book is perfect. It tells the story of three animal friends who live together and how each does a job very well. When the duck tries to change jobs, a fight breaks out and everyone realizes that teamwork and friendship is more important than doing something the way it has always been done. That makes it sound corny, or moralizing, but it's a gentle and fun story told with all sort of big and small pictures, a bit like a graphic novel and picture book combined. My daughter loves to point out the details in the pictures that add to the story (cat's sad! The soup is splashing!) and we have read this every night for 6 weeks, so it's a hit.

My 2.5 Year old twin girls LOVE this book! They think the animals are so silly especially when the duck spills the soup everywhere. The illustrations are adorable and the paperback version is more

durable than your average paperback children's book. All of these things make it a clear winner in our house!

I bought this book because my granddaughter loves cats and there aren't that many cat books for toddlers. This one had a unique story idea, which completed my purchasing decision. My granddaughter and her older brother love the book and talk about it quite often as one of their favorites.

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