



The Littlest Owl

Caroline Pitcher, Tina Macnaughton (Illustrator)

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Deep inside a willow tree, three newly hatched owlets curiously examine the fourth, quiet egg. Is there an owl in there, they wonder. When at last the fourth owlet struggles free, he doesn't look much like the others. Dumpy, small, and downy white, he is left behind while his siblings learn to fly. No matter how hard he tries, he can't quite do it. "I will," he says. "Just you wait and see!" Will the littlest owl ever grow big and strong enough to fly from the tree? From the illustrator of five Book Sense Children's Picks comes the perfect story for any child who is a little nervous about venturing too far from home.

The Littlest Owl Details

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From Reader Review The Littlest Owl for online ebook

Tatiana says

This was in the pile I collected from the library shelves this week, but it didn't work for the LP focus skill of the week. It is a prettily illustrated story about the runt of four newborn owls, who learns, with determination, to do all the same things as his brothers, including flying.

Brittany says

This book was just straight up adorable. The illustrations were absolutely lovely. The story was cute. It's totally fluff but still fun if your kiddo likes owls.

Carly S says

I loved this book so much when I was younger! I always felt so bad for the little owl, because he was afraid to fly! To this day I still love owls!

Amy says

Deep inside a willow tree, four white eggs began to hatch. The last white egg was taking its time. Finally, the little owlet struggled free. It was a small, downy, white ball. Owlets One, Two, and Three always gobbled up the food before Four. He was left to scrounge around the nest for a worm. Owlets One, Two, and Three always trampled over Four to see their mother. One, Two, and Three were growing fast and soon began to fly. Four was still trying. "I'll fly too, whoo-whooo, whoo-whooo," he called. But no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't fly. All night long while the others slept, he flapped and flapped but still he couldn't fly. The next day a terrible storm swirled outside. The big willow tree groaned and croaked. Mother Owl told the owlets to fly out before the tree broke. One, Two, and Three leapt from the tree. They worried Four would be blown away. Four stretched and strained, and flapped and cried, "I will do it too, whoo-hoo. Yes, I'm last and very small. But I'll never give up at all!" And he flew, and flew, and flew.

Bridget R. Wilson says

Four owls are born in a willow tree. The fourth is the smallest of all. He doesn't grow as fast as the others or fly as soon. But when he must, he finds that he can, indeed, fly.

What I thought: I can't resist a book about owls and this was a good one. I'm an underdog champion and Four is definitely the underdog in this story. I like his determination despite his handicaps. The illustrations are lovely--the owls look so soft and fluffy that I almost petted the page.

Rachel says

I have been looking for books to use with my owl Toddler storytime and this book was a bit too much for them. But a cute book nonetheless. I just feel like quoting "Despicable Me" and say that that little baby "is so fluffy I'm gonna die!". A mommy barn owl has laid four eggs and three have already hatched. The fourth takes a bit longer and is smaller than the rest. When a storm hits, the four babies and their mother must fly away from the willow tree that is their home. The first three go with no problem, but the fourth hasn't flown before and is hesitant. Eventually he gathers up his courage and flies for the first time. Recommended for ages 3-6, 3 stars.

Amber says

Four owl eggs lay within a willow tree and three of them hatch quickly to reveal three owlets. They wait for the fourth egg to hatch and when it does, they see that their fourth sibling is much smaller than them.

The other three owlets do not seem to pay much attention to the smallest owl. They step on him like he is not there, but he is positive about it all, even as the first three grow faster and learn to fly sooner.

I loved how the owls were somewhat realistic looking with a bit of creative license. The illustrations were pleasing to look at and fit the story well.

The Littlest Owl shows how the youngest sibling or the smallest kid or the one who is most different can feel left out things, but it also displays positiveness and perseverance.

Recommended for children from three- to eight-years-old.

Read this review in its original format [here](#).

Courtney says

Pitcher, C (2008). The Littlest Owl. New York: Scholastic, Inc.

Illustrated by Tina Macnaughton

The Littlest Owl is a story about a family of four owl siblings who are all growing up and learning to fly--all except the smallest owl, who is referred to as Four. He tries very hard to learn how to fly and never gives up even though his siblings can all fly. One night, there is a terrible storm and Four must escape from their nest in the Willow tree before it falls over, and it is then that he can fly!

The pictures in this book are the best part. They are very large and detailed and capture the readers attention.

This book left me with an inspired feeling after the little owl finally is able to fly, and I actually read it three times in a row just because it is such a cute book. This is another book that will absolutely be on a bookshelf in a classroom and at home.

Lily says

3,5

Tellement cute

Julie says

Preschool and kindergarten

This book has the sweetest illustrations, I just love looking at them. I really like how the text rhymes.

The language used is pretty simple, but it's perfect for preschoolers and kindergartners. There are a few words to stretch them in language, such as "hurled" (as in, "he hurled himself high into the air") and fluttered.

I would use this to talk about narrative structure, because it has a very clear plot that would be easy for young children to re-tell. I could also use this to talk about perseverance (because the little owl tries and tries to fly until finally at the end he can fly). There are nice concepts, like the owlets hatching out of eggs at the beginning and the weather at the end being the catalyst for the littlest owl to finally learn to fly.

Linda Branich says

This delightful storybook for young children teaches some valuable lessons. First, it teaches that individuals grow and do things at their own rate, not necessarily when siblings do. Secondly, it teaches to never give up. Thirdly it teaches that even though a sibling may be different or lag behind in development, siblings still care about one another.

The book has a sturdy cover and thick glossy pages, making it easy for little hands to manage. The illustrations are captivating and tell the story well by themselves for non readers.

Tracy says

When my youngest was in Pre-K, he used to bring this book home from the school library every other week or so, so we eventually got him his very own copy.

The Littlest Owl of the title hatched -- just barely! -- from egg number four in the nest deep in an old willow tree. He was small and dumpy and round, and didn't mature the way his bigger siblings did. He was unable to

fly, and had to scrabble for forgotten bits of food. But he was tenacious and practiced and practiced, and when it really counted, he was finally able to fly to safety with his mother and sibs.

Call it 4.5 stars because the Mom in me appreciates the happy ending for my kid, but the realist in me recognizes that sometimes, even if you try your hardest, you're *still* going to fail at the 11th hour. Would be nice to maybe see a book that acknowledges that and shows ways to deal with it (maybe not an option with *this* book, as failure would have meant tiny baby owl smooshed under overturned dead willow tree...) The colors and illustrations are fabulous; I would LOVE to frame them all in a nursery.

Sara says

I did NOT like this book. The older sibling owls are downright mean, even calling the littlest owl "umpy" and physically hurting him. Then, the tree they live in starts to fall down and they all leave him to learn to fly on his own. Then he does. That's it. That's literally the end. It's supposed to be about a little owl being good and nice and capable but that's drowned out by all the negative in the story and/or it seems incomplete. The illustrations were good, but that's really all I can give it.

Kathryn says

The owls are sooo cute! Read this a few days ago and I can't really remember much of the story but, gosh, the owls are CUTE! ;->

KC says

Flowing illustrations with a delightful tale of mamma owl and her babies.
