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Hershel And The Hanukkah Goblins: 25th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

The 25th anniversary edition of this beloved Caldecott Honor-winning classic includes insightful notes from author Eric A. Kimmel and Holiday House publisher John Briggs, who recall both the story and its renowned illustrator, Trina Schart Hyman, with joy and fondness. On the first night of Hanukkah, a weary traveler named Hershel of Ostropol eagerly approaches the next village, where plenty of latkes and merriment should warm him. But when he arrives, not a single candle is lit. The villagers are being tormented by a band of goblins who hate Hanukkah. Brave Hershel leaps to the villagers' rescue. For seven nights he fools and ousts one dim-witted goblin after another. But on the eighth night, a truly awful goblin arrives to put an end to Hershel. What will it take for a lone man to stand up to such a monster, save Hanukkah, and live to tell the tale?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 420 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.2 x 10.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (91 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

I admit that I find it somewhat of a relief to read a children's book about Hanukkah that isn't yet another retelling of the original Hanukkah story of the ancient Jewish military and spiritual victory over Greek and Syrian oppressors. Eric Kimmell's 'Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins' is unusual in that regard, but absolutely true to the spirit of the holiday. Hanukkah is about many things, but perhaps most importantly, about keeping the light of goodness and truth burning despite the darkneses and terrors of life. Few books, especially those written for children, reflect that view as

well as this book does. Tired and hungry, the wandering beggar Hershel of Ostropol arrives in a small village on the first night of Hanukkah and is eager to join the celebrations. But the villagers are terrified of Hanukkah - their synagogue is haunted by goblins who will not let the villagers celebrate the holiday and who make their lives miserable. Hershel, of course, is certain he can help, and volunteers to spend all eight nights of Hanukkah in the haunted synagogue. The task that Hershel must take on is truly daunting. He not only has to light the Hanukkah candles every night despite the goblins' efforts to stop him, but on the last night the King of the Goblins himself must light the candles! ...There is also a brief postscript that talks about the origins of Hanukkah, and the PROPER way to play dreidel! Trina Scharf Hyman has been one of my favorite illustrators since I was a child.... Her cartoon-like style is instantly recognizable, and her illustrations perfectly capture both Hershel's personality and the whimsy and the terror of the situations he gets into.

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