



The Principal's New Clothes

By *Stephanie Calmenson*

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In this updated version of the famous fairy tale, a school principal is tricked into wearing his T-shirt and shorts to school.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Mr. Bundy is the principal of P.S. 88. He is also the sharpest dresser in town." So begins this marvelous update of Andersen's The Emperor's New Clothes. The deliciously evil Moe and Ivy approach Mr. Bundy about a new suit made of cloth invisible to those who are stupid or unfit for their jobs. Lie upon lie builds up because no one (including Mr. Bundy) dares to admit to not seeing the fabric. On the day Mr. Bundy plans to show off his new duds, he arrives at school in his very chic underwear. A kindergartner finally calls out the truth, much to everybody's relief. Mr. Bundy is inundated with clothes to wear and, even in his hodge-podge of garments, he still looks sharp. Calmenson's rendition of this beloved tale of self-aggrandizement is particularly fun because of its contemporary setting. The ending is a kinder one since the principal joins in the fun of his predicament. In her appealing watercolors, Brunkus gives the bad guys wicked eyebrows and nearly everyone wears outrageous clothing. A lighthearted poke at authority and vanity. Ages 3-8.

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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-- An updated version of Andersen's classic story, with a snappily dressed elementary-school principal cast in the role of the emperor. Mr. Bundy wears a different suit each day of the month. Moe and Ivy, two trickster tailors, arrive and offer to make an amazing suit invisible to anyone who is either incompetent or stupid. Duped by them, Mr. Bundy wears his invisible new clothes to the school assembly. At this point the story deviates from Andersen's wonderfully ambiguous final scene of the emperor acknowledging reality but choosing to maintain pride and illusion. Calmenson's principal enters the auditorium clad in his underwear, and one kindergartner blurts out the truth. All the kids and teachers pass clothes up to the stage, and, finally, a sportily attired Mr. Bundy gives the kindergarten child a gold star for her honesty. The story concludes with the entire school agreeing that their principal is smart, competent, and "still the sharpest dresser." The cartoonlike watercolor illustrations reinforce the literal quality of the story, caricature the tricksters as Disneyesque villains, and stereotype the school genius as the quintessential "nerd." In this too-literal retelling and illustrating of a timeless tale, children are deprived of the necessity and pleasure of actively participating, imagining, and drawing inferences. Andersen said it better 150 years ago, and his version still speaks today.

-Pamela Miller Ness, *The Fenn School, Concord, MA*

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About the Author

Stephanie Calmenson is the author of over a hundred books for children. Her books have been called "marvelous" (Publishers Weekly), "lyrical" (School Library Journal), "sweet, funny, and right on the mark" (Booklist). Among her most popular titles are Dinner at the Panda Palace, a PBS StoryTime Book, The Principal's New Clothes, The Teeny Tiny Teacher, and Rosie, A Visiting Dog's Story, which Smithsonian Magazine called "one of the outstanding nonfiction titles of the year." She has also collaborated with Joanna Cole, author of the Magic School Bus series, on many best-selling anthologies including Ready, Set, Read! and Ready, Set, Read and Laugh! Before turning to writing, Stephanie was an elementary school teacher, and a children's book editor. She lives in new York City and considers herself very lucky to have found work that brings together her love of children, language, and laughter.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Adam Allen:

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Elsie Wallace:

Some individuals said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt that when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose often the book The Principal's New Clothes to make your own reading is interesting. Your skill of reading expertise is developing when you like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the idea about book and reading especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the reserve The Principal's New Clothes can to be your brand-new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of the time.

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