

Goat's Boat Won't Float

A Goat and Turkey Story



ABOUT THE BOOK:

What happens when a fainting goat befriends a nervous turkey?
Lots of fainting fun! - CLUNK!

When Goat and Turkey go to buy oats, Goat loads too many oats into his boat, and it begins to sink! When a nearby tugboat tries to help, not even Goat's signature earmuffs can save him from Turkey's nervous antics. Goat's Boat Won't Float celebrates the awkward yet sincere friendship between a fainting goat who topples over when scared—CLUNK!—and an excitable turkey who can't help but cause trouble.

ISBN (hardcover): 978-1956378238

ISBN (ebook): 978-1-956378-26-9

Publisher: The Little Press

Page Count: 36

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kim A. Larson won the Ann Whitford Paul Award for most promising picture book manuscript in 2021. She was a PB Party finalist in 2022 and 2023,, and a finalist in the Great American Think-Off in 2016. Kim is an active member of SCBWI, Julie Hedlund's 12x12 Picture Book Challenge, and two critique groups. Her grandchildren's fainting goats inspired this story.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:

Gozde Eyce is a published illustration artist, based in the Netherlands. She's worked on many children's books, editorial illustrations, kids apparel designs & workshops. Godze launched her first drawing course on Domestika platform about creating fun & versatile children's books characters!



PRE-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Observe the illustration on the front cover.

What do you notice about the cover of this book? What predictions can you make about this book? Have you ever read any other stories about a goat or turkey?

Identifying Feelings

As you read this book, you'll notice that Goat scares easily. To protect himself, he wears his signature earmuffs. Do you have anything special you wear or do when you're feeling frightened or anxious?

POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

When Goat gets scared... Goat faints.

- What happens to Goat when he is afraid? How does this affect his daily life?
- How does the author use repetition in the story to emphasize, while also normalize, Goat's fears?
- Why do you think Goat invited Turkey to the store even after being scared by her knocking on the front door?
- Does Turkey have any strong reactions to Goat's antics? What does this tell you about their relationship?

Goat puts on his earmuffs because... Goat does not like loud noises.

- In what ways does Turkey demonstrate her understanding of Goat's needs and limitations?
- How does the story and illustrations use humor and exaggeration to address real-life issues like fear and problem-solving?

Turkey throws out a cookie. Goat throws out a pumpkin.

- Is there something that scares you or gives you anxiety? What are some routines that provide you comfort to manage your fear or anxieties?
- Goat is afraid of a lot of things, but that doesn't stop him from doing what he needs to do. What does this reveal about him?
- The subject of communication is portrayed throughout the story. How does this subject contribute to different aspects of the plot?

Goat throws out some oats. He throws out more oats. And more oats until.. Goat's boat floats!

- Why do you think Goat continues to faint even after experiencing similar situations multiple times?
- What are some of the themes you notice throughout this story? How does the author reveal them?



EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Boat Making Challenge

- Provide students with materials (paper, straws, tape, foil) to build their own small boats. See who's boat can hold the most paperclips and still float!

Fear and Coping Mechanisms

- Have students create posters with magazine ads that symbolize different ways people cope with fear and anxiety. Hang posters around the room. Allow students to do a gallery walk and then come back together for a whole group discussion.