



My Apron

Eric Carle

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When an eight-year-old boy helps his uncle at his job as a plasterer, he takes a fancy to his workman's apron with a pocket. As a result of his fascination, his aunt makes him an apron of his own and he spends a few days as his Uncle Adam's assistant. The text is brief and simple but clearly conveys the warmth between the man and his nephew and the child's satisfaction in a job well done. The line/tissue paper illustrations are colorful and somewhat geometric, reminiscent of French Cubist Leger's work featuring laborers. An added bonus is the child-size apron that comes with the book, but the story will be enjoyed with or without the tangible item.

- *SLJ*

My Apron Details

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From Reader Review My Apron for online ebook

Claudia Rodriguez says

This book was based on a memory of Eric Carle's childhood. When he was eight years-old , he visited his Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Adam. He remembers wanting a white apron just like his Uncle's. So his Aunt made one for him. During his visit, Carle helped his uncle at work, plastering a chimney.

I like that the story reflects on simple memories we encounter in our adulthood and gives life to a short period in time.

The Art work (which I love) is on the pages is black line art done on transparent polyester that is superimposed with colored tissue paper, much like French Cubist painter, Fernand Leger.

Emma says

A true story about Eric Carle as a child. the story is simple, with nice illustrations. This is a good story to teach young children about working hard and being proud of what you do.

Laneika Cason says

PB24. The pictures in this book are brilliant. As a mother of children who likes to draw pictures from books, Eric Carle's drawings are quite easy for them to reproduce. A good book that many "Little Helpers" would enjoy.

Mallori Allphin says

This story tells of a young boy helping his uncle plaster a chimney. As the young boy works with his uncle, he realizes what he wants to do as a “grown up”. Most students have an idol that they look up to. This young boy used his uncle as his own idol. He chose to mock his actions in hopes of getting his attention and one day have the same skill as him when it comes to cleaning a chimney. His sense of determination and drive could make for a great lesson plan within the classroom. Every student has different traits and this book could be used to find the different words that represent each unique student’s traits. Each student could choose an occupation that they want to do as an adult and note why they chose this. Once they have chosen, they will draw a picture with bright and fun colors, just as Carle did, of them completing their dream job.

Monika says

Semi-autobiographical this picture book tells the story of the day Carle visited his uncle at work.

Weijia Ren says

This is a true story of Eric Carle when he was 8 years old. First of all I would appreciate the artwork in this picture book. The medium of the illustration is complicated. Illustrator first draw pictures on a thin sheet of transparent polyester and then is superimposed onto the colored tissue-paper collage. This is a really unique way to illustrate. Eric was inspired by a french cubist painter called Fernand Leger. This story book is counterpoint so that we need to read the text while reading the story. But there are only few text on each page so that this is a good book for younger readers to read. The typography is formal so we could tell this is a true story. The end covers are all hot bring orange lines which I think could refer the passion that Eric wanted a white apron and wanted to help his uncle.

The story is about when Eric was a kid and he came over to his aunt and uncles' house. His uncle is a plasterer and he has a white apron with a big pocket in front. Eric always want have a white apron as his uncle and he wanted to help his uncle to paint the house. His aunt Elizabeth then made Eric a apron--just like uncle Adam. Little Eric helped uncle Adam carry plaster upstairs few times. Uncle Adam said Eric is a good helper. Eric was a good helper! He decided he will help uncle Adam one more time. Next time he wants a hat, just like uncle Adam. There is a handwriting letter by Eric at the last page. Eric briefly introduced Uncle Adam and aunt Elizabeth.

Overall it is a good story for whole family to read.

Rosa Cline says

This is a true to life story of a time in the authors life when he was a little boy. How he looked up to his uncle and loved his apron, his aunt made him one and he felt so proud that he could help his uncle with his job. A nice retelling of his childhood story. Also at the end of the book it explains how he drew the illustrations.

Lucero Hernandez says

A little boy helps his uncle who is a plasterer. The little boy wears an apron, which has a pocket. Soon, his aunt gives the little boy an apron of his own, and it is through with this apron that the little boy works and enjoys laboring alongside his uncle. This book would come in handy when discussing with kids different jobs and responsibilities and how they will one day grow up and have a job.

Lindsey says

My apron by Eric Carle tells the story of a young boy helping his uncle plaster a chimney. The little boy is wearing an apron so he doesn't get any plaster on his clothes, and it makes him feel more official. As the young boy works with his uncle, he realizes what he wants to do as a grown up, he wants to be a plasterer just like his uncle. The little boy becomes fascinated with the apron he is wearing while he is helping his uncle with the plastering job. The family can tell how much the little boy loves the apron, so the aunt makes the little boy his own apron. The little boy is given the title as Uncle Adam's assistant, and the little boy continues to help his uncle with all of his plastering jobs. Eric Carle portrays the lovely relationship of the

little boy and the Uncle through pictures where Eric combines geometric lines with colorful tissue paper pieces to create beautiful illustrations. I would use this book in an elementary school classroom. I would first read this book to my students and then proceed to ask my students what they would like to be when they grow up. Students then can participate in all sorts of activities based on their answers.

Shawn Deal says

Here is a story about a boy spending time with his Uncle and Aunt. Uncle Adam works as a plasterer and always wears apron for his tools, the nephew gets his own apron and gets to help his Uncle. A story many kids can relate to.

KidLit Motivates says

The subtitle on this book is “A Story from My Childhood.” It tells the first-person account of a young Eric helping his uncle, a house-plasterer. Eric’s aunt fashions an apron for him, just like his uncle, and he assists in the work all day. “I am a good helper,” he repeats, and looks forward to carrying plaster and climbing ladders the following year. Adorably familiar.

Upsides: It is the style of illustration (line drawing superimposed with tissue paper) and writing you have come to expect from Author Carle, only with a young boy at the forefront. It is a basic story of “task accomplished” and there is comfort, as always, in the simplicity. Any kid who enjoys following mom or dad (or uncle or aunt) around in household chores will relate to the young Eric and his can-do attitude.

Downsides: There are no surprises or hidden messages here. Boy visits Aunt and Uncle. Aunt sews apron. Boy wears apron. Boy helps Uncle plaster. Boy and Uncle bond. The end.

Claudia Bell says

What a great book to read to a pre-schooler or to have a lower elementary child read themselves. The text is fairly easy but tells a wonderful true story how young Eric Carle helped his Uncle Adam who was a brick mason. This shows the pride, the author must have felt when he was allowed to help his uncle do his important work. The illustrations are enhancing the story well in a mixture of collage and simple pencil lines. I highly recommend this book for young readers.

Kristen says

First grade +.

A true story from Eric Carle's childhood. Because he wanted to be like his uncle, a plasterer, his aunt made him an apron.

A wonderful story. Good for learning what a "plasterer" is. Includes a description of how Carle creates his pictures, as well as a note from Carle about the story.

Rebecca says

This book is good to read about different people in the community. Afterwards, the students should make a booklet about their community. The students can create their person by using different shapes of geometry. For example, a police would symbolize the color of blue and will wear a uniform. The students would have to go outside of the box to create their person.

Madison Godfrey says

My Apron tells the story of a young boy helping his uncle plaster a chimney. As the young boy works with his uncle, he realizes what he wants to do as a "grown up". His sense of determination and drive could make for a great lesson plan within the classroom. Each student could choose an occupation that they want to do as an adult. Once they have chosen, they will draw a picture with bright and fun colors, just as Carle did, of them completing their dream job. The illustrations in this are great because although they are drawings they bring some sort of reality to the page or real life aspect. These types of books about kids doing jobs or things that aren't the typical job like a lawyer or doctor gives readers and young students the great message that it's okay to be whatever you want to be when you grow up. Nothing is stopping you.
