



Oggie Cooder

Sarah Weeks

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From the author of *So B. It*, a super charming middle-grade Napoleon Dynamite with heart - the tale of a very average boy who's put in his school's spotlight when his averageness appeals to a TV show.

Oggie Cooder has a talent -- he can charve better than anyone else in Truman Elementary School. (Charving, for the uninitiated, is the carving of a piece of cheese with one's teeth.) Oggie doesn't think this is anything special -- but his whole school will soon be disagreeing with him. Because after he inadvertently charves during a nationwide hunt for unusual talents, his charving puts him on the path to fame and fortune. Suddenly, he's the star of the school . . . but he's not sure that he wants to shine that way. This is Sarah Weeks at her best -- funny, clever, and kid-friendly.

Oggie Cooder Details

Date : Published February 1st 2008 by Scholastic Press (first published February 29th 2000)

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Author : Sarah Weeks

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From Reader Review Oggie Cooder for online ebook

Jane Andelman says

Sarah Weeks can do no wrong in the eyes of my 9 year old.

Stacey Mulholland says

It has a good message about being your true self but just didn't love the story

Margaret Boling says

11/21/2010 ** I had the pleasure of meeting Sarah Weeks at a book signing on Monday, 11/15 at my FAVORITE independent children's bookstore - Kids Ink in Indianapolis. I was at a bit of a loss because I wasn't familiar with Weeks' work. However, I was really impressed at the ways in which she interacted with kids at the signing. She asked what they were reading and seemed truly interested in their responses. She also kept asking questions, eliciting more info from kids at a variety of ages.

When I told her that I taught 4th grade and asked what she recommended for my students, she suggested Oggie Cooder, and 'odd' kiddo with the unique talent of charving (carving and chewing) American cheese into the shapes of the U.S. states.

I read this book over the weekend with an eye to using it as a read-aloud in the next few weeks before Winter Break. I think it will be a hit. Already, kids are asking me if they can read it, just from seeing it sitting on the chalk tray.

I appreciated the way that Oggie grew over the course of the story, establishing himself as an individual who could make friends with others in his class while maintaining his own sense of style and personality.

12/1/2010 ** I started reading this to my fourth graders today. They seem to enjoy the humor that Weeks incorporates in the story - it's just gross enough. :)

12/17/2010 ** Ugh! I didn't get to finish reading this before winter break. Well, it will be there for us when we return in January.

Lara Samuels says

Oggie Cooder has an unusual talent and a sweet personality. Great book to discuss with kids.

Amy says

A great recommendation for 4th grade readers. My little bookclub really loved it. Celebrate reading it by "charving" some cheese!

Mallory Lyon says

This book is pretty dumb in my opinion. I would recommend it to a second grader.... maybe. It is basically about a kid who charves- carves and chews- cheese. One day a TV show comes looking for people with weird talents. Oggie tries out and well you'll have to read it to find out what happens next.

Scope says

I have not always been a huge fan of the word "silly". I guess it makes me feel kind of silly to say it. Until I started working in elementary schools a few years back, I tried not to use the term. But after working with kids for a while, I now understand silly. I use the word in conversation. I know that sometimes, it's the best way to describe something that is goofy or just plain ridiculous. I also know that silly is not necessarily a bad thing. Lots of kids respond to it. Ever check to see how many circulations the latest Junie B. Jones is getting? Tons. See what I mean? "Oggie Cooder" successfully brings the silly, but it is not fluff. An imaginative story about friendships and the urge to be popular. Oh, and also charving American cheese slices into the shape of states.

Oggie Cooder is an unusual fourth grader. Actually, Oggie is unusual period. Odd clothes, peculiar lingo, unique hobby. All this and the peer disapproval that goes along with it. Donnica Perfecto leads the troops in this category, using every opportunity to show her dislike of our hero. To Oggie's credit, he couldn't care less. When he does get stressed, it's an easy fix: charving. A combination of chewing and carving, Oggie's specialty is crafting American cheese slices into the shapes of the 50 states. His skill with a Kraft single starts drawing some attention from Donnica when the hit tv show "Hidden Talents" comes to town. Miss Perfecto's sudden interest in Oggie and charving turn out to be her most deceptive tricks yet.

"Oggie Cooder" is a quirky and entertaining story with humor and a dash of real-world interactions. Silly? Yes. But kids will tell you: silly is good.

Jazlynn Alexia says

I chose this book because I enjoy books by the author, Sarah Weeks. This book lost my attention a few times because it had details of a normal school day, which I found a bit boring. I liked that it was relating to a talent show. It was inspiring because the main character and his friend were "charving" cheese at the talent show - this shows me that you can do pretty much anything at a talent show.

Jacobie D says

Oggie is a teenage boy who likes to carve cheese. He is not the best looking one either, but with his hidden talent a girl wants to learn his secret. While he is teaching her his talent he doesn't know why though. She tried to lie about being a substitute performer for her best friend's sister. It turns out that day Oggie found out her friend didn't have a sister. The whole time she was auditioning for a television show. She didn't have any talent so she asked Oggie for his. When Oggie found out he told her mom and they both were furious. They marched down to the auditions and her audition went horrible so Oggie came in to the audition and carved the cheese. The judges were amazed and sent him to Hollywood. Will Oggie become a star?

From this book I learned that you should never judge something by the way they look. Even though Oggie was ugly he was more famous than the pageant girl. All though Oggie is weird, he has more talent than some.

I recommend this book to kids that like a kind of action packed adventure with the amazing path of Oggie becoming a star of a television show. He works at his family's shop and sells worn out clothes. He has a special technique that was stolen from him.

Caroline Chappel says

Oggie Cooder by Sarah Weeks is about a little boy named Oggie in fourth grade. Oggie has a talent. A strange talent, that no one else can do. Oggie likes to charve. Charving is when you carve cheese into shapes with your teeth. Oggie likes to shape cheese into states like Florida and Texas. Jessica Perfecto, Oggie's next door neighbor needs something big to get her to Hollywood. Will Oggie Cooder, Jessica's weird next door neighbor, be the answer?

Personally I read this book a four out of five stars. I love this book but some parts of the book I got a little bit bored. Overall this book was good and I really enjoyed all of the fun. I think this is a good book for young readers that like to read about books they can relate to.

I recommend this book for grades 4 to 7. I think it was perfect for me but it gets a little bit too young for readers over the age of seventh grade. I think this book could even be read by third graders that have a high Lexile. Overall I really enjoyed this book.

Abby Johnson says

*** Oggie Cooder's teachers describe him as "unusual" and "one-of-a-kind". Oggie considers this a compliment. The other kids at his school consider Oggie to be just plain weird. He's always wearing a strange mix of clothes from his parents' secondhand shop. His dog's name is Turk (short for Turkey-on-Rye, Oggie's favorite sandwich). And perhaps strangest of all is Oggie's hidden talent, charving. (That's chewing + carving.) Oggie is an expert at charving cheese into the shapes of the states of America.

His hidden talent might have gone unnoticed if not for Oggie's snobby neighbor Donnica Perfecto. She's determined to be a star and when she sees an ad for auditions for the major TV show Hidden Talents, Donnica jumps at the chance to show everybody up. She knows who's got the most hidden talent of all (Oggie) and she'll stop at nothing until he helps her win a spot on the show. But things don't turn out quite as

Donnica plans...

A funny chapter book for younger middle-grade readers, Oggie Cooder has its fair share of silliness, but a solid story underneath. It looks like we may see more of Oggie and I think that would be a wonderful thing.

Stan says

Some parts of the book were interesting but overall the book is extremely tedious. The plot was alright but still very dull.

Tam Newell says

Read with my fifth graders. They enjoyed reading about quirky Oggie but aren't rushing to read the second book.

Rebekah W. says

Meh. This book isn't bad, but it seems a little contrived.
The book discussion kids will probably like it.

Brianna says

Good for a 4th grade small reading group. Can discuss character analysis amongst other reading skills.
